

Feng Zhixuan: The One

Artist	Feng Zhixuan
Opening	March 4, 2023 16:00 – 19:00
Exhibition Period	March 4 – April 28, 2023
Venue	MadeIn Gallery, No.1, -1F Sunken Garden, Lane 9 Qufu Road, Jing'an District, Shanghai

MadeIn Gallery is pleased to present artist Feng Zhixuan's solo exhibition "The One" on March 4, 2023, featuring three groups of exclusively created sculptures. Unlike sculptors who have dedicated their work to celebrating the achievements of humankind, Feng's practice accomplishes a deconstructive tribute to human activity.

Feng's trajectory starts in Wenzhou, expands to the Amazon jungle of South America after living in London and Beijing, and lingers in Shanghai as the pandemic rages. Constituting the artist's hybrid subjectivity, this global movement has become his powerful deconstructive tool to confirm the polyphony of Chinese contemporary art as well as the narrative of Chinese civilization.

The nomadic rather than sedentary way of working and living urges Feng to form mutual understanding and interact with the unfamiliar reality of his environment. He refuses to offer a universal art view or commodity that is equally valid in any time and place within the art context; instead, his sculptures are an absolute commitment to the geological ecosystem, politics, society, and ethics of the present, an unduplicated empirical experience. In this sense, sculpture is seen by Feng as a by-product of his engagement with the field, the process of reflection and practice, thus enabling the artist to choose the site of practice within the site of experience.

Being on site in the post-epidemic era, in this solo exhibition, the artist extracts three experiences of human activity that involve confrontation with nature: whaling, water management, and global trade, which emerge repeatedly upon the end of tribal civilization. Human beings tend to establish genealogies, histories and legacies for the causes and lives to which they are committed. The narrative of their confrontation with the nature are continually mythologized as a collective expedition, followed by new expeditions after weakening, over and over again. Feng attempts to portray the contingency of these experiences, as well as certain momentary facts constructed based on power, thereby rendering a monument that does not exist for the sake

of commemoration.

About Feng Zhixuan

Feng Zhixuan (b.1993, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province, China) lives and works in Shanghai and Beijing. A member of the Royal Society of Sculpture, he graduated from the Public Art Department of China Academy of Art in 2015 and the Sculpture Department of the Royal Academy of Arts in 2018. Feng Zhixuan is constantly inspired by multiple life and artistic experiences. His work causes cultural resonance through non-fictional material levels, using rare materials in daily life for producing historical action. The cultural elements in his works are revealed from highly personalized material forms, transformed into historical and improvisational narratives which create nomadic island civilizations that transcend a single period and location. His sculptural installations always encompass a tension that dynamically fuses elements of mythology, decoration, adventure and space imagination. Materials serve as the binder of culture and the result of confrontation in Feng's work, each of which is full of traces of "resistance" to the contemporary urban environment and dehumanizing production. In virtue of a nomadic process of creation and exhibition, Feng seeks to establish autonomous structures of vertical experience, cultivating an ecosystem of Anthropocene imagination while scavenging from the ruins of thermal industry.

Feng's recent exhibitions include: Solo exhibitions: "Parallel Soul: The Ultimate Guide to the Natural History", Gene Gallery, Shanghai, 2022; "Conjure a Compo Site", Gene Gallery, Shanghai, 2019; "Northern Scenery", Plate Space, Beijing, 2019. Group Exhibitions: "Unknown Pleasures", Soulart, Beijing, 2023; "We Borrow Dreams from Others, Like Debt", Madeln Art Museum, Shanghai, 2022; "Spring Rhapsody", KWM Art Center, Beijing, 2022; "Spicy Gluten and Youth Power: A Generational Insight", Epoch Art Museum, Wenzhou, 2022; "Emotion and Universe", HMAC, Chengdu, 2022; "USB", Madeln Gallery, Gallery Func, Qiao Space, in the Park, Shanghai, 2021; "Hereditary Territory", Powerlong Museum, Shanghai, 2021; "A truck is parked in the grass near a tree in doubt", Erlangen Confucius Institute Art Space, Nuremberg, Germany, 2020; "Pull Up the Stake", Qi Mu Space, Beijing, 2019; "Global Living Room", dePot, Shanghai, 2019; "Violence in Silence", Spectrum Art Space, Shanghai, 2018; "Too Much Information", Seventeen Gallery, London, Britain, 2018; "The\Rehab\Lab", Hackney Gallery, London, Britain, 2018; "THE COMING COMMUNITY", The Crypt Gallery, London, Britain, 2017; etc.