

# ZHANG DING

# 张鼎

ShanghART

香格纳画廊

**Zhang Ding** was born in 1980 in Gansu. He resides and works in Shanghai. He graduated from North West Minority University, Oil Painting Department in 2003. He studied at China Academy of Fine Arts, New Media Art from 2003 to 2004. Recent solo-exhibitions include Zhang Ding, Krinzinger Projecte, (Vienna, 2008), TOOLS, A-Bldg.18, 50 Moganshan Rd (Shanghai, 2007), My Photographs Exhibition, 2577 Longhua Road, Xuhui district (Shanghai, 2006), Big City, BizArt Art Center (Shanghai, 2005). Recent group-exhibitions include Insomnia Photographs Exhibition, Bizart Art Center (Shanghai, 2008), Young Artists Group Exhibition (2008), Building Code Violations, Long March Space (Beijing, 2008), China Power Station: Part II, Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, (Oslo, 2007)

Zhang Ding, *The Dream of Yabulai* (2008),  
wood construction, 9-channel video installation,  
3 x 3 x 9.7 m

Measurement, theorem, focus, resources, energy,  
poem, worship, rivalry, these are all the great elements  
of the construction of History.

Yabulai is the name of a place in Inner Mongolia, in the  
Gobi desert.

This work is composed of a wood structure and nine  
videos.

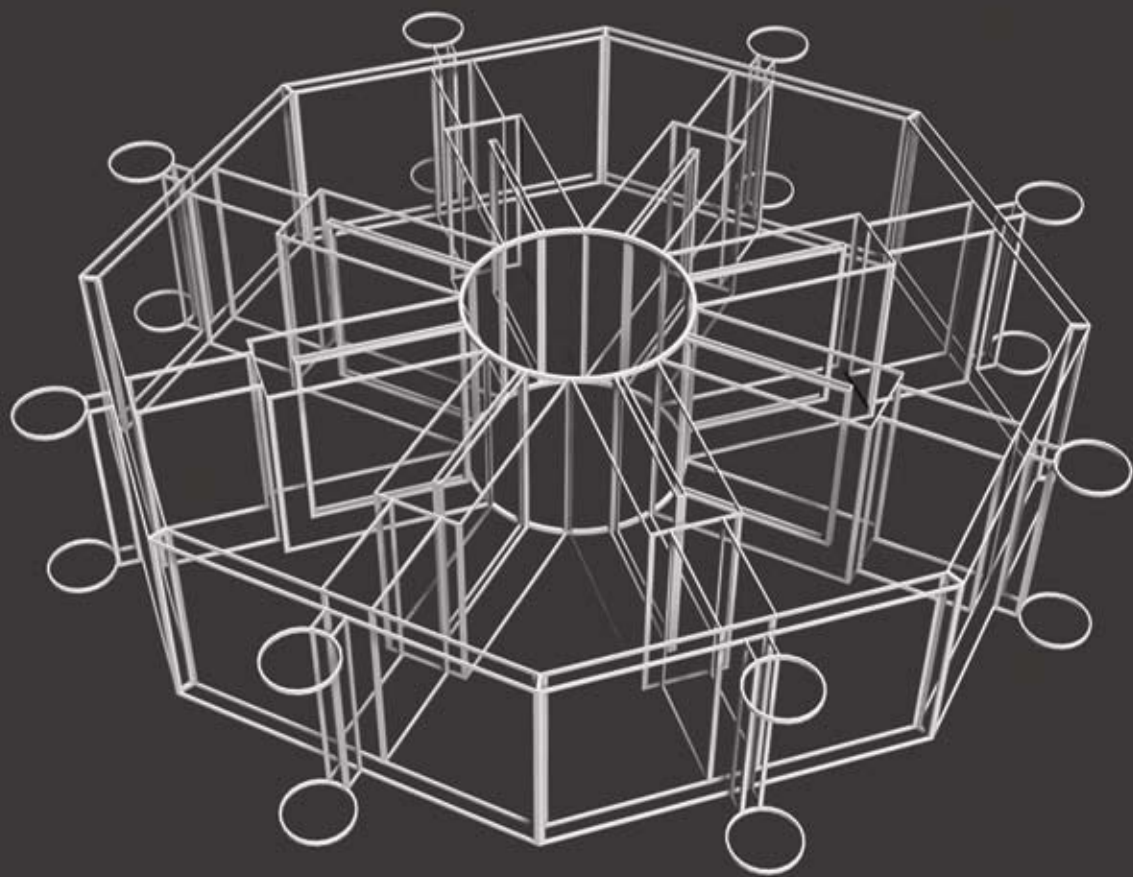
The installation is an individual understanding of the  
society's system and History. Seen from the top, the  
structure depict 8 people holding each other's hands.  
8 of the videos feature various characters while the 9th  
video present the same eight characters and a mon-  
key, assigning tasks to each of them.

4 of the videos have sounds which come out from 4  
containers.

Black boards with physics formulas are displayed in  
the installation. These formulas are a written form of  
the space.









Video 1, 14'20"



Video II, 7'20"



Video III, 7'30"



Video III, 7'30"





Video IV, 11'



Video V, 5'



Video VI, 14'



Video VII, 9'



Video VIII, 22'

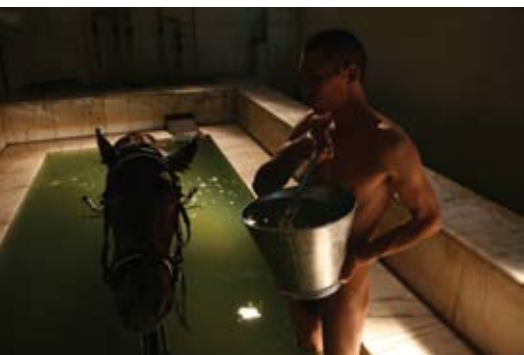


Video IX, 7'



Zhang Ding, *Great Era* (2007), video, 14', ed. of 10

Zhang Dings's most recent film "Great Era" (2007) is a surrealistic Fellini-inspired voyage using Shanghai as its theatrical backdrop. The protagonist rides along staged tableaux with his bike (disguised as a horse) in scenes perfectly synchronized with the film's sound score.





## Zhang Ding, *TOOLS* (2007), installation

"Tools" is an allegorical fairyland created by Zhang Ding to respond to this marginal world. Cactus here become the main props/tools, metaphor of a nidering and doggedly resistant life. We can see this plant anywhere, but their multiple thorns don't allow us to approach them. Zhang Ding fights against that, trying to find the possible ways of communication with this life, using violence or dialog? Cruel beating and frozen cutting don't destroy cactus as much as water, even though gentle and beautiful. Water pours from ten watering pots, lining out parabolas and hosing a cactus. Mud splatters around while the liquid spreads all over the floor. Beside this series of cactus is displayed a group of unnatural industrial products: 24 olive green refrigerators filled with loud-hailers, and an old style detonator which can trigger a deafening explosion noise, giving you a sudden feeling that you are in the world of the "Flowers of Evil".



Zhang Ding, *TOOLS-2*(2007), mixed-media installation-12 Watering Cans, 1 Cactus, 410.0 x 246.0 x 246.0 cm





Zhang Ding, *TOOLS-1(2007)*, mixed-media installation, 24 Fridges





Zhang Ding, *Boxing I & II* (2007), video, 3', ed. of 5

*Boxing I & II* (2007) is a beautifully cruel experience to endure. The two films depict a young man dressed in a lucid T-shirt – the artist himself – in a dark space, confronted only by a punching bag composed of three round cacti with sharp spiky thorns. Violent and vehement, the boxer fights in vain against an otherwise fragile species - it's a contest he can never overcome.



Zhang Ding, *TOOLS-3(2007)*, mixed-media installation, Mixed-media installation, 96 Cactus, Enlarged Scalpels, Flower Soil Box of Steel Structure, 410.0 x 246.0 x 246.0 cm

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