

Artist Statement

Shen Qin

In nature, the basic organizational pattern of living organisms involves constant movement between self-replication and self-expansion, which are linear and irreducible. The inherent potential energy of nature produces a world of change, and its extension creates the beauty of life. There were no seedlings in the past; the new seedlings are called “birth.” The term “Seedling Birth” refers to the transformation from “seed” to “seedling.” “Birth” is both the beginning and the transition, and it unfolds in the temporality involved in the “moment” and the nourishment of soil, sunlight, and rain.

Becoming has its own history [1]. Life constitutes a complicated overall dynamic through the act of generation. It is open firstly and expands in the natural sequence. My work of art takes the forms of overlapping, folding, and multiplying that arise in natural objects to embody their self-relation and intense connection to linearity. Nature is a world of power; forces join together and become plural, as they come from multiple directions. I have titled, repeated, and interlaced the petals of flowers, with their inextricably tangled tendencies, as well as ancient Chinese calligraphy strokes. This force is unified and opening.

My work demonstrates the connections and relationship between natural life and cultural life. The continuity, interlocking, and intersections of natural life show the dynamics of action, presenting intensity and vitality and constituting a whole trend. In this process, there will be highlighting, value-addition, and mutation, which may be upwardly ascending, or may be poured out or enveloped by another external force. However, the forces are always seeking to consolidate and act. In this aspect, it seems that cultural lives have certain similarities and feed off each other with natural life.

W.MING 蓮藝

“Without a living subject, time cannot exist.” [2] Life is changed from a static protoplasm into a dynamic process. Being and generation, essence and survival, past and present are covered and written for the future. These various and diverse biological traits unfold in time and take on the role of growth and branching out for preservation. Although the natural world is in crisis, the natural group are under control and under attack, and the trajectory of biological and cultural action is limited by historicity (temporal and systematic); we cannot lose the possibility of future germination and “seedling birth.”

Notes:

[1] Brian Massumi, *Parables for the Virtual*, trans. Yan Peiwen (Henan: Henan University Press, 2012), 12.

[2] Giorgio Agamben, *The Open: Man and Animal*, trans. Lan Jiang (Nanjing: Nanjing University Press, 2019), 56.