

Zhang Xiaotao – Artist Biography

Zhang Xiaotao was born in Hechuan District, Chongqing, China in 1970 and graduated from the Oil Painting Department of Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in 1996. In 2002, he established a contemporary art studio in the 798 Art District of Beijing. In 2010, he founded the New Media Art Department at Sichuan Fine Arts Institute and took on positions as the Director of the Department, vice professor and masters' supervisor. He became a member of the Council of Experimental Art of China Artists Association in 2012. He began his PhD study under the guidance of Xu Bing at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2013 and graduated in 2016. He lives and works in Beijing.

Zhang Xiaotao has held many solo and group exhibitions in the world's top biennales, art museums, art centers and foundations, such as the 55th Venice Biennale, Asia Pacific Triennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow Biennale, Prague Biennale, Guangzhou Triennale, Shanghai Biennale, Chengdu Biennale, Shenzhen & HongKong Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture, Shenzhen Independent Animation Biennale, Holland Film Festival, Tokyo International Animation Fair, Asia Animation Contest, London Saatchi Gallery, Roman Museum of Art for the XXI Century, New York Albright Knox Art Gallery, Queensland Art Gallery, White Rabbit Gallery, RMIR Gallery, Luzern Art Museum, Mitterrand National Cultural Center, Wilfrid Israel Asian Art Museum, Sao Paulo OCA, Brussels CIVA, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Florida, Valencia Museum of Modern Art, Francisco Tomás y Valient Art Center, Bologna Museum of Modern Arts, Manchester CAC, Turin Palazzo Bricherasio Museum, London Louise Blouin Foundation, Vienna Essl Museum, Vitra Design Museum, Centre d'Art Santa Mònica, Arhus Kunstmuseum, Holland Modern Art Museum, Norway 3.14 Foundation, National Museum of Contemporary Art Korea, Seoul Museum of Art, St. Petersburg Museum, The National Art Museum of China, Arthur M.Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology at Peking University, CAFA Art Museum, Shanghai Art Museum, YUZ Museum, Chengdu Contemporary Art Museum, Guangdong Art Museum, He Xiangning Art Museum, Shanghai Long Museum, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum and Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum.

Manfred Schneckenburger, Director of the 7th and 8th Kassel Documenta, considered Zhang Xiaotao to be “a marvelous artist” and held a solo exhibition for him at Kunst Akademie Muenster, in addition to authoring an article titled *Materialistic Decay* on the artist in 2002. A feature documentary was recorded by NHK Japan in 2004. In 2005 he attended the 2nd Prague Biennale in Czech. In 2007, he held a solo exhibition

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on *Rebirth* which is an Interdisciplinary experiment report of contemporary art and archaeology in Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology of Peking University. In 2008, Professor Wu Hung of the University of Chicago planned a solo exhibition *Microscopic Narration* for Zhang Xiaotao at Beijing Iberia Center for Contemporary Art and published an album of painting with the same name. Zhang was awarded of the Prize of Young Artist 2008. In 2008, he exhibited *The Revolution Continues* in London Saatchi Gallery. In 2009, the Italian Magazine Flash Art had an exclusive interview with him on the animation film *Mist. PEOPLE*, a program of CCTV had an exclusive interview with Zhang Xiaotao on his artistic achievements in 2010. In 2011 and 2012, he was consecutively awarded of the Best Technique Award in Asia. Between 2011 and 2015, he planed and held the International New Media BBS in Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. There is no doubt that He has promoted the development of international communication and localization practice of new media arts by holding forums and exhibitions, publishing monographs and motivating social engagement. In 2012, he became a curator of the 1st Shenzhen Independent Animation Biennale and attended the Chinese Animation Since 1930 Section of the 7th Asia Pacific Triennale of Contemporary Art. In 2013, he attended China Pavillion at the 55th Venice Biennale with his animation *Sakya* covered by New York Times. In 2014, he was invited to be an international judge of CUBE Global Digital Award in Paris. In 2015, he participated in Drama Life exhibition which is the first to comprehensively comb and summarize the field of experimental animation worldwide at Albright Knox Gallery, New York. In the same year, he attended the 6th Moscow Biennale. In 2015 and 2016, he held an international animation exhibition and forum on *From Painting to Animation* at the University of Derby and Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum respectively. In 2016, he received an exclusive interview by New York Times on *Nostalgia and Surrealism: The Modern China of Animation Artist Zhang Xiaotao*. In 2017, he sponsored the first China International New Media Art Festival of Diaoyu Town, Hechuan District, which combined international contemporary art with China's rural society and let contemporary art interact with social practice. Besides, both his animated feature film *The Spring on Huangjueping* and animated short film *The Adventure of Liangliang* have been selected into the main competition of Holland Animation Film Festival. In 2018, his "The Adventures of Liangliang " won the gold medal of the China Libo International Animation Festival. His works have been collected by museums, foundations, art centers, and collectors.

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