

Zhang Xiaotao – An Entropic Vision



Zhang Xiaotao: Gift from Heaven series, 2006

Opening Reception:

Saturday 27th January, 6pm

Duration:

23rd January – 25th February

Venue:

SHiNE Art Space

(Block 9, No. 50 Moganshan Lu,
Shanghai)

Opening Hours:

10am-6pm (Tuesday to Sunday)

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Zhang Xiaotao depicts a festering world where rats, ants and waste thrive in polluted urban landscapes; an entropic world where the artist transforms conventionally aesthetically pleasing forms such as strawberries or birthday cakes into a still life of putrefying pulp. In presenting these objects in their utmost repugnancy Zhang demonstrates his belief that all things, in their existence possess a darker side, an ugly truth that he takes to represent the state of society's disorder and decline. In his depiction of discarded condoms and medical equipment, waste heaps and symbolic armies of ants, we are poignantly reminded of the destructive path that we are following; one which can only end in a final downfall. Despite this apparently apocalyptic vision however, the artist argues that his works are ultimately positive. In Zhang's new video pieces this becomes clearer as we see the ruins that society has become starting to produce new life; flowers that are symbols of hope amongst the chaotic destruction.

Zhang Xiaotao was born in 1970 in Hechuan, Chongqing province and graduated in 1996 from the Oil Painting Department of Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. He has been extensively exhibited internationally being shown in the U.S.A, Australia and Europe. Most recently he has had solo shows in Norway and Lithuania (Dreamscapes, 2005) with his most recent solo exhibition being Dream Factory-Rubbish Heap, shown in Tokyo and Shenzhen this year. The artist has produced extensive writings about his work and inspirations and currently divides his time between Beijing and Chengdu.