# Interview: View of Art

## Cheng Zuo □□

### Biography

Cheng ZUO, an artist mainly focus on oil painting. He is a member of Henan Artists Association and director of Oil Painting Research Association. He has repeatedly won national oil painting awards.

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**ZUO:** Okay, let’s start with the first question, the impact of the pandemic on my life and art creation. In fact, the pandemic hasn’t affected my life that much. Art creation is a very private thing to me, so I usually stay in the studio alone, regardless of the outbreak. However, some things during this period, such as seeing people wear masks, the temperature checks before entering public places, etc had an impact. These things always reminded me of its cruelty, that is, facing the nature of it, like these sudden public health incidents, human beings are really fragile and insignificant in the grand scheme of things.

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too much from other beings, we should always be grateful, and we can’t get something for nothing.

The virus is merciless, it treats everyone equally, regardless of whether they are rich or poor. Therefore, I have always hoped that everyone could understand a point, that is, human beings are a community with a shared future on earth, and our destinies are connected together, so no matter what kind of discrimination, it should be cast aside.

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witnessed the development of science and technology to this advanced state, and sometimes we are still unable to cope. This always makes me aware of the struggles of mankind. Therefore, as an artist, I always want to record these things. If possible in the future, use some form of images or videos, audio, etc., to leave some hints and warnings for future generations.

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can indirectly prove that the artwork cannot be replaced but, using new media as a means could make it spread farther, including the values and concepts of the work itself, and even the story of the work, and so on.

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perspective, it seems to have some artistry that we will pass on.

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**困境中的Z--12** 21x27cm 左程 2020.7.17

The Z in trouble-12 Cheng ZUO

**困境中的Z--8** 21x27cm 左程 2020.7.15

The Z in Trouble Cheng ZUO

**困境中的Z--13** 21x27cm 左程 2020.7.17

The Z in trouble-13 Cheng ZUO

**大地--202019** 21x27cm 左程 2020.7.16

The Ground202019 Cheng ZUO

**大地--202015** 21x27cm 左程 2020.7.12

The Ground202015 Cheng ZUO

无尽江山--1　　21x27cm　左程 2020.7.17

The Endless Landscape Cheng ZUO

Everything about the X
Cheng ZUO

Honestly, the happiness of artists lies in here. During the lockdown, I can integrate myself into my works like an actor,

and I could be in a variety of environments, such as spaces that we couldn’t go to, this is interesting. Just like we are reading a novel, 1,000 people have 1,000 Hamlets in their minds. As a result, I hope I could turn thousands of small people into paintings, going to different places and trying different lives instead of only having a single life track stuck in reality.

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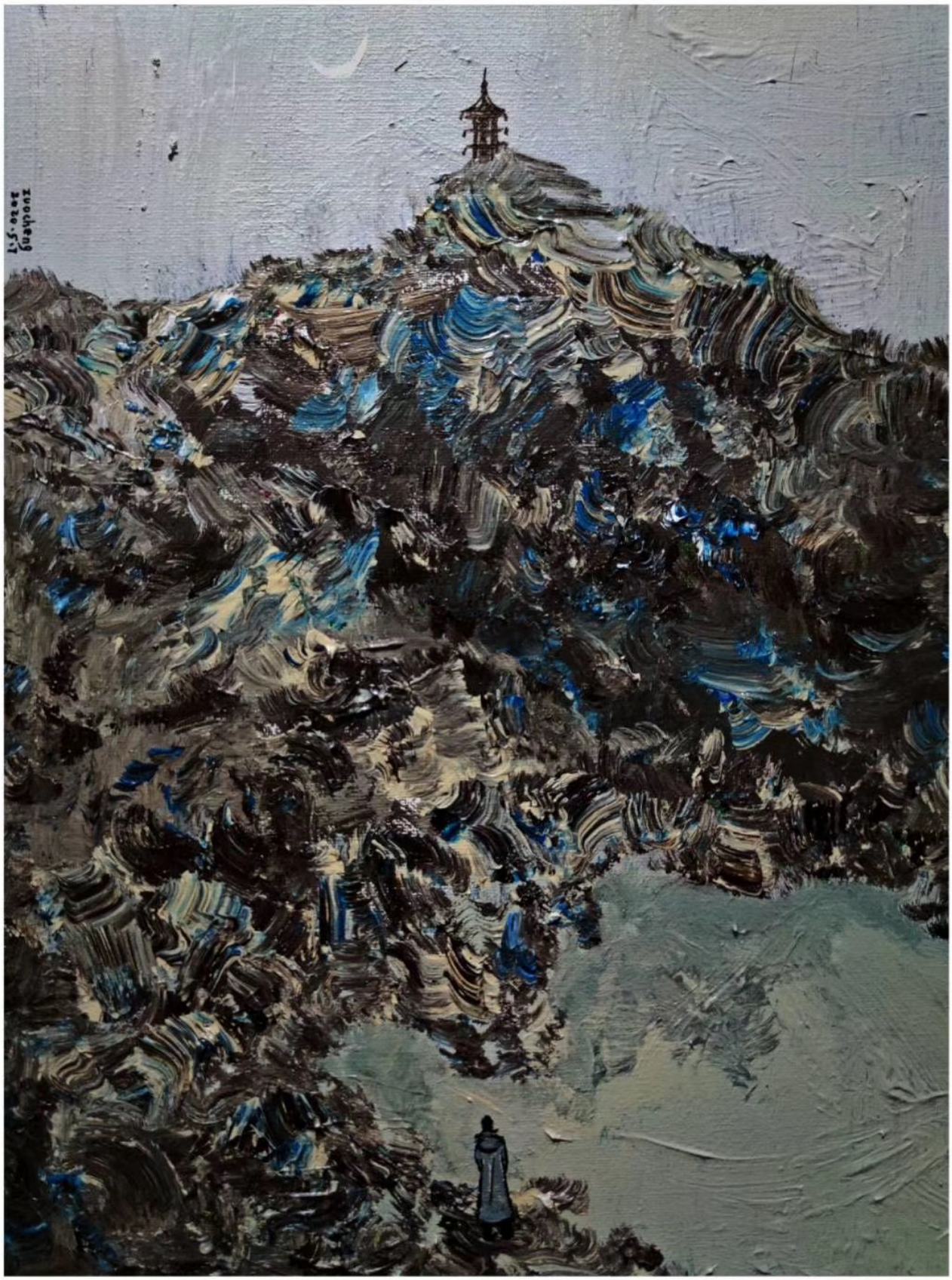
白鸟---5　　55x55cm　　左程 2020.4.27

The White Bird—5 Cheng ZUO

**寻塔---5** 50x50cm 左程 2020.4.28

Looking for the Tower—5. Cheng ZUO

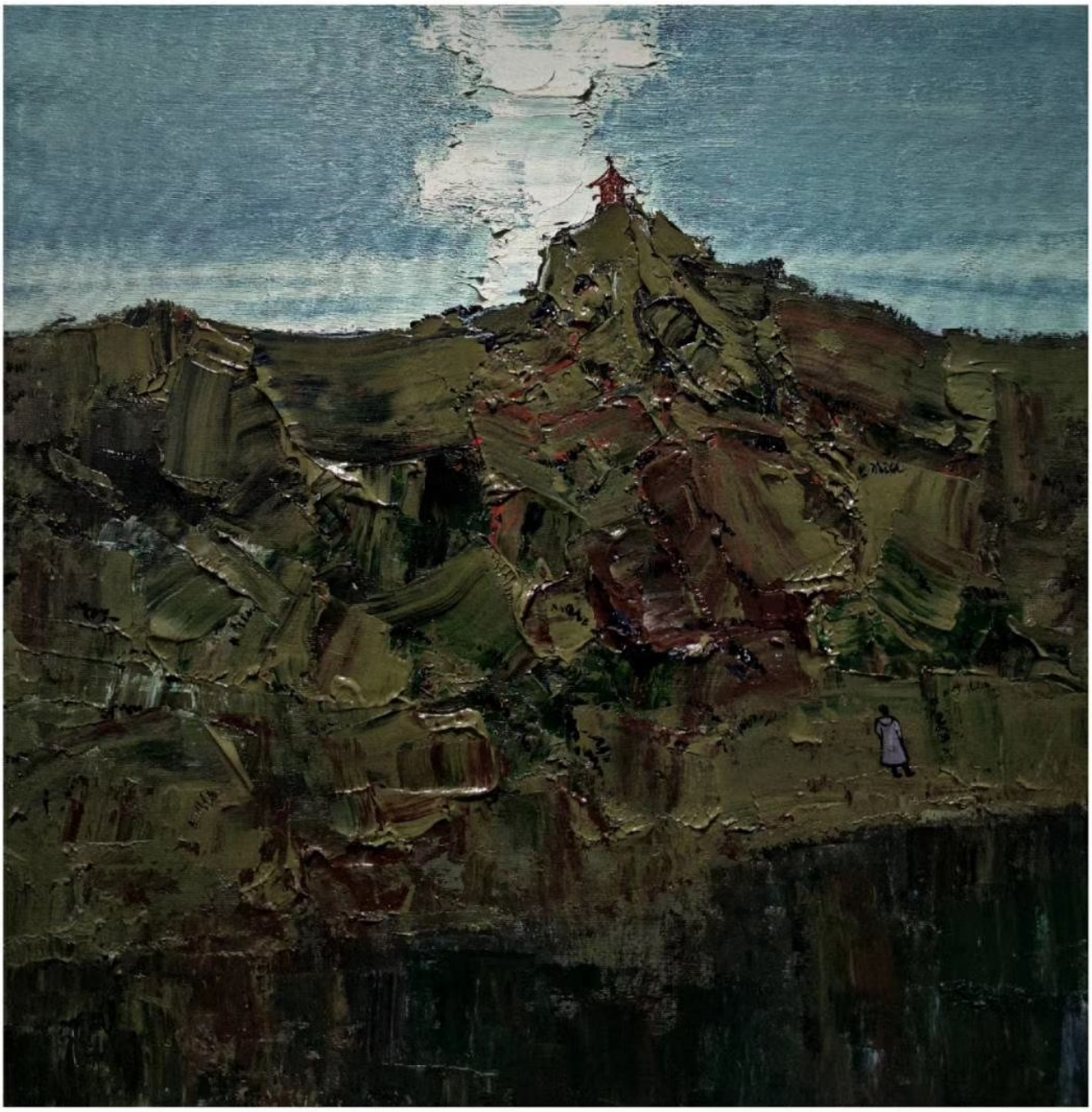



**寻塔--月下** 30x40cm 左程 2020.5.7

Looking for the Tower—Under the Moonlight

**曾经有一场雪---3** 40x60cm 左程 2020.5.5

Here used to be Snowing—3 Cheng ZUO



**寻塔---2** 55x55cm 左程 2020.4.24

Looking for the Tower—2. Cheng ZUO

曾经有一场雪---2　25x25cm　左程 2020.4.26

Here used to be Snowing—2. Cheng ZUO

**Jackie:** Your paintings are like diaries. When I was looking at them, I could feel that they are created by the same person, but it seemed that his daily mood was different according to his varied experiences. These paintings could express a lot of your own potential thoughts or the mood of the day unconsciously. I think this is particularly interesting.

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白鸟--4　　55x55cm　　左程 2020.4.23

The White Bird—4 Cheng ZUO

**ZUO:** Therefore, this period also has given us many possibilities. Just like when you’re sick, after being sick, people may experience a lot of things in the depths of their soul that were not touched during the original healthy period. In this disastrous situation, we could only try our best to face life with this positive attitude.

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童年时光---3　　21x27cm　　左程 2020.6.17

Childhood—3. Cheng ZUO

As far as I am concerned, the pandemic has brought me both

sadness and warmth. The emotion is like half sea and half flame, which is also same as our real lives. It would never be dull, there could always be ups and downs, tossing and turnings. In fact, this kind of life is relatively rich, too smooth or too bland would be too simple.

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**困境中的Z---16** 53x78cm 左程 2020.11.28

The Z in Trouble. Cheng ZUO

大地--202001　　21x27cm　　左程 2020.[illegible]9

The Ground—202001. Cheng ZUO

**ZUO:** Therefore, in some particularly peaceful times, the works of artists and writers would be relatively plain. However, facing this kind of big challenge, both artistic and literary works would be very powerful, because turbulence would also bring opportunities and bring new changes. Hence, as an artist, I think I should not be afraid of facing any challenges, even of natural or man-made disasters. If an artist has the sense of the social responsibility, he would truly reflect himself and society with his works, instead of commercializing art completely with a certain purpose. Completely commercial works could never directly hit people with power, and the shock brought by truly great art would never be replaced and imitated.

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As when we were talking before, our identities were not particularly clear. It may be due to our teacher-student relationship or the chat environment. Our discussions were always mixed with many identities. However, today our conversation is completely about an interviewee and an interviewer, and we are developing around your identity as an artist. I think this becomes more interesting and gives me more in terms of the art of refining space.
This interview has benefited me a lot, thank you, teacher.

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