

# Interview: View of Art

**Cheng Zuo** 程作

## 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.

程作，油画家，中国美术家协会会员，河南省美术家协会理事，河南省油画学会会长，河南省油画研究会会长。曾多次在全国性油画比赛中获奖。

## Interview

**Jackie GAO:** In this talk, we left out the identities of teachers and students. Taking the pandemic as the central topic, we have made a subjective interpretation from the perspective of the artist. Before the conversation started, I prepared a few topics in advance to facilitate the development of the topic:

Art creation transformation, the exploration of the artist's self-positioning, the profound experience during the period, the trend of Art turning to online.

These topics have been already informed to Mr. Cheng ZUO in advance, so the following dialogues were all naturally occurred around these topics.

艺术创作的转型，对艺术家自我定位的探索，疫情期间的深刻体验，艺术转向线上的趋势。

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The names would be abbreviated as “Jackie” (Jackie GAO), and “ZUO” (Mr. Cheng ZUO)













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**Jackie:** Yes, after the outbreak, there were riots in many parts of the world and so on. This reflected the other side of human nature, but simultaneously it would also strengthen the beauty of human nature to a greater extent, and will also inspire many kind human qualities. This depends on which aspect we look at.

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Also, regarding what you said before, when we touch those sculptures, we can feel it has a soul. This reminds me of the concept of the "distributed personhood" (an anthropology concept raised by Alfred Gell), which is an artwork placed there, when everyone is looking at it and thinking, whether it is about dissent or compliment, they're actually taking part in the personality of this artwork. It is equivalent to taking a seed from each person from the work, and then the seed will bloom in the process of thinking it through. This is based on each person has different ideas and varied personal experiences, but in fact a certain part of the thoughts involved in this work has been absorbed by them.

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**ZUO:** For me, no matter when the pandemic subsides, its impact will be with us for our the rest of our lives. And maybe after it is completely over, when we look back, it would be like the scars left by a fall during childhood. It is always with you, and also reminds you of a certain period of time. From this







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 ZU0



困境中的Z--13

21x27cm

左程 2020.7.17

The Z in trouble-13 Cheng ZU0



大地--202019

21x27cm

左程 2020.7.16

The Ground202019 Cheng ZUO



大地--202015

21x27cm

左程 2020.7.12

The Ground 202015 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,







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

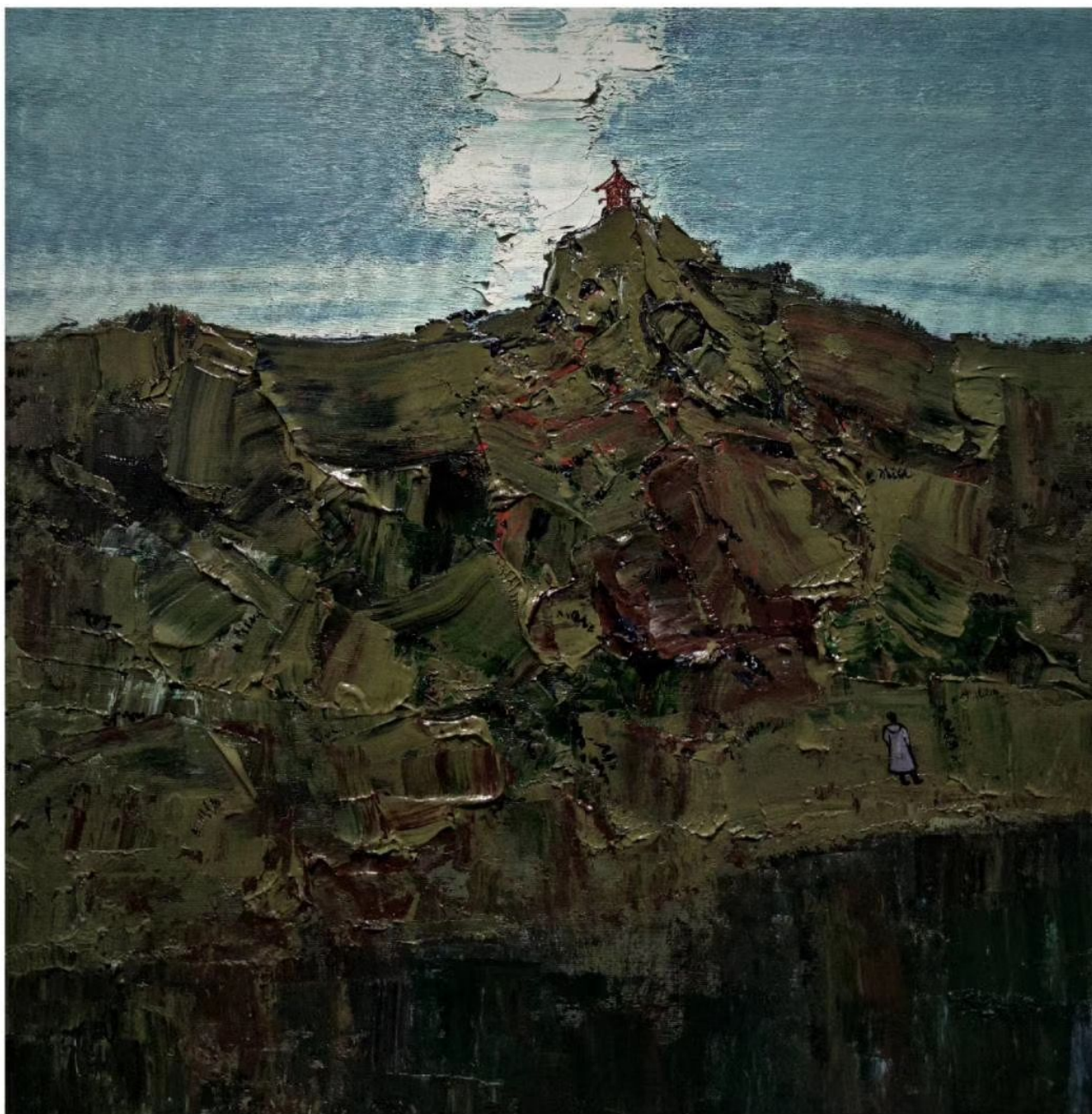
左程 2020.5.7

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







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







困境中的Z--16

53x78cm

左程 2020.11.28

The Z in Trouble. Cheng ZUO





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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Cheng Zuo is a great mentor and my helpful friend. He has not only brought me artistic enlightenment but also helped me to resolve the confusion and difficulties in my life. Everyone has a "mentor" in your life. He/she may be your friend, you parents or families, they could always clarify the difficulties for you and resolve your confusion.

This period has brought us a lot of negativity and anxiety. Therefore, maybe it's time for you to have in-depth communication with your mentor based on art, in order to find yourself a bright light and dispel the haze.

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Please share your experience of conversation on the comment section below! We'd like to hear from you!

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