





MA Degree Show
Birmingham School of Art
Birmingham City University
31st August to 4th September 2022

Private view:
Thursday, 1st September
18:00 – 20:00

Xirui Zhao, MA Contemporary Arts China
Scared Journey



The idea of the artwork comes from “Qiwu’s theory” of Zhuang Tzu. The meaning of “Qiwu” is that all things are the same in the end, and there is no difference between right and wrong, beauty and ugliness, good and evil, nobility and lowliness. Zhuang Tzu believes that all things are one and the same, and are constantly transforming into their opposites, so there is no difference.

In the first chapter of Zhuang Tzu’s treatise on Qiwu, the dialogue between Nan Guo Ziqi and Yan Chengzi You is the opening part of the whole chapter. Here, Nan Guo Ziqi proposes a realm of “I am losing me”. By “I have lost me”, “I” refers to the self that has transcended the world, entered the realm of high spiritual freedom, and sublimated the spirit, the spiritual self. The “I” is the physical,

realistic, mortal “I” with the concept of right and wrong. By placing my personal image in a photograph, I present my travels through events by transposing my identity and time and space.

Starting from “No Difference”, I collected photographs of urban educated youths who went to the countryside during the cultural revolution in China that I was interested in, I was about the same age as them and I wanted to experience what they went through.

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