



The Twelve Jing Xiaokou, a real scene,
Taishan Shigandang.
Image courtesy of Jiào Xingtao

Kaleidoscope MA Degree Show

Birmingham School of Art

Birmingham City University

31st August — 3rd September 2023

Camilla Spadaccino MA Contemporary Arts China

Limits and criticalities of the (so-called) socially engaged village-based rural projects in contemporary China: a study of the Yangdeng Art Cooperative and the Bishan Project

My project wants to analyse the socially engaged environment in contemporary China, through one of its peculiarities; long-term village-based projects in rural areas. Led by similar urban initiators, with similar aims, and degree of interaction with the state, space-based socially engaged projects in rural villages of China have specific features. Focusing on two long-term, village-based projects, the Yangdeng Art Cooperative and the Bishan Commune, respectively set in Guizhou province and Anhui province between 2010 and 2020 by two urban cultural facilitators, I will outline that they also have some limits and criticalities. Indeed, these are related both to the socio-political and aesthetic side of the practice but also to the projects' aims, engagement with the communities, display of the artworks, and relation with the state.

Opening Times
Thursday to Saturday 11.00 — 17.00
Sunday 11.00 — 16.00

Private view
Thursday 31st August
18.00 – 20.00

