

UNCOMPLETED SYMPHONY: IN SEARCH FOR 3 2 1!

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Like vines  
I rise  
from one show to another  
in search  
for  
fruits

Like bites  
I bleed from one finger to another  
in search for  
cures

Like lines  
I flow from  
artwork  
to  
construction  
work  
in search  
for  
highs

Like archives  
I jump from  
pre- to post-  
time  
in search for  
roofs and  
proofs

WE FLY, WE RUN, WE SING  
WE SWIM, WE DANCE, WE FIN

I II  
exhibition space,  
the third floor

VII VI III  
liminal space  
the window area of  
the third floor

V  
exhibition space  
the first floor

X  
(the background image)  
exhibition space  
the second floor

IV  
transitional space  
the gate area  
of the museum

从一棵树  
到另一  
棵树

上海多伦美术馆  
Shanghai Duolun Museum of  
Modern Art  
N: 31°15'43.93" E: 121°29'1.21"

上海站 Shanghai Railway Station  
N: 31°12'14.48"  
E: 121°21'57.81"

IX  
a street scene  
(50 metres away from  
Shanghai Duolun Museum  
of Modern Art)

阿里巴巴国际站 Alibaba East  
China  
N: 31°09'42.25"  
E: 121°27'51.54"

VIII  
a street scene  
(210 metres away  
from Shanghai Duolun Museum of  
Modern Art)

西岸美术馆 West Bund Museum  
N: 31°10'9.99"  
E: 121°28'0.61"

法华禅寺 Fahua Temple  
N: 31°12'14.45"  
E: 121°21'57.51"

With the juxtaposition of images, texts, poetry and line drawing, in this work, the senses of floating unease and stranded unsettlement that many artists and art institutions experience in cities of the developing world are expressed through the use of calligraphy-like line drawing. Circled by the directionless, squiggly lines, the photos that were taken aim to document the indoor spaces of the art museum, the in-between spaces of museum and urban area, and its surroundings.

Since the 1980s, the reform was in full swing in China and constructing infrastructures and commercial facilities have played a central role in China's urban transition. Art museums, although with the distinctive missions in exhibiting and safekeeping the collective memory and the human experience, they exist with diverse misconceptions. As non-commercial venues, in many Chinese cities, their roles are like secret stowaways without assured identity, or like wanderers who are always in search for meanings and positions.

In the ongoing and everlasting place-making process, art museums in Shanghai coexist with the most complex urban structures, marked by unequal socioeconomic distribution and living conditions. In **Uncompleted Symphony: In Search For 3 2 1 !**, I have assembled six photos that were taken in the Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, four photos of its surroundings, and a symbolic photo of tree. Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art is Shanghai's first state-owned museum dedicated solely to contemporary art. The museum is almost enclosed by construction sites and commercial shopping streets. In this work, "3 2 1 !" symbolise two types of in-between spaces: liminal space between museums and the outside world; transitional space when entering museums; and "1!" is the code number of "my existence", of individual who exists and interacts with the museum space when visiting. These in-between spaces have the privilege to watch spectacles of two worlds, and listen to two types of stunning and uncompleted symphony, from the great symphony generated by exhibitions, artworks, artists and visitors; and the great symphony performed by construction sites, street entertainments and rule makers.

"3 2 1 !" is also the call and motto of the duck-like bird  $\beta$  and her companions. The smaller  $\beta$ s like to write poems on trees. Whether they are in front piles of archives, or alien artworks, whether they are enclosed by construction sites, or stopped by security guards,  $\beta$  and her companions are constantly in search for roofs, proofs, cures, fruits and highs. The motto reflects my subjective, unsettled, in-between state of mind after I returned to my native land with an art degree from the University of Leeds. As an interdisciplinary writer and a nomadic creator, like  $\beta$  and  $\beta$ s, I sometimes write at riverside, sometimes in parks, or at randomly picked cafes, from a temporary canoe to another, and from a search to another. **Uncompleted Symphony: In Search For 3 2 1 !** depicts the entanglements of my inner space and the pervasive spectacles of various types of urban spaces. The work tries to raise the question on the stowaways-like, complicated roles of artists and art museums in the contemporary world.