



Press Release

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Displacement Artists and Works



Conceptual artist and photographer **Zhuang Hui** is probably best known for his series of long horizontal portraits of workers' and citizens' groups, a series that he began in the late 1990s. *Displacement* presents instead one of the artist's early works: a large-scale photographic installation that is simultaneously more concrete and more abstract than any other work in this exhibition. In April of 1995, one year after construction began on the Three Gorges Dam, Zhuang traveled to the region and dug holes in three sites: a construction area near the Dam itself, the shore along the Wuxia Gorge, and "White Emperor City", a historic site and tourist destination. Zhuang's photographic installation *Longitude 109.88° E and Latitude 31.09° N* includes thirty black-and-white photographs, each of which presents a close-up view of one of the holes. Framed from above so that the hole is parallel to the picture plane, these deadpan images are surprisingly captivating. They preserve not only Zhuang's modest interventions into these sites but also the everyday beauty of plants, rocks, and dirt: the diverse textures of a landscape about to be irrevocably altered. Related materials include a map identifying the three locations of the holes and three 30-minute DVDs which show the sites as they are now, below water level.

Work on View

Longitude 109.88° E and Latitude 31.09° N, 1995–2008, Mixed-media installation including color and black-and-white prints from digital photographs, map, and single-channel video, Dimensions variable, Courtesy the artist. (Detail above.)

About the Artist

Zhuang Hui (Chinese, b. 1963) is an independent artist. He lives and works in Beijing. This is the only biographical information that the artist chooses to make available.