

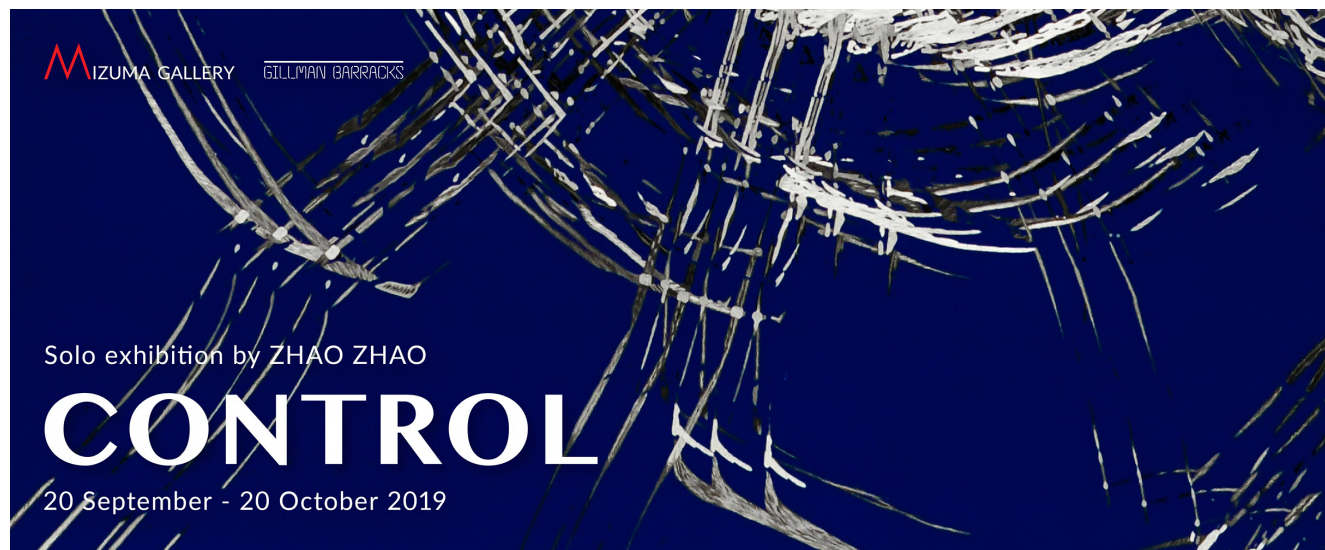
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ZHAO ZHAO

Control

20 September – 20 October 2019

Opening Reception: Friday, 20 September 2019, 7pm – 9pm



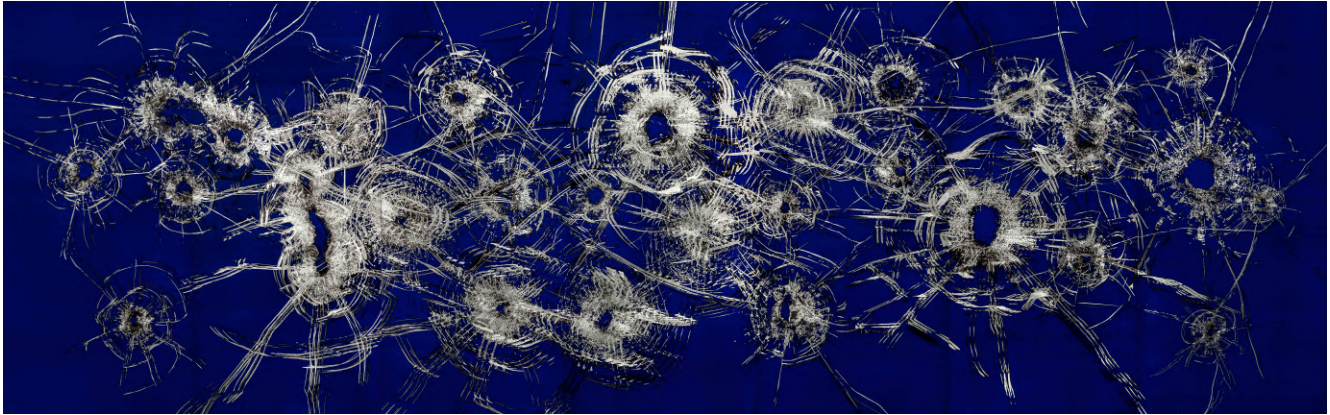
Mizuma Gallery Singapore is pleased to announce *Control*, the solo exhibition of Chinese artist Zhao Zhao – his first solo presentation in Southeast Asia. Featuring new sculpture and embroidery works, the exhibition will showcase two of Zhao Zhao's iconic series: his *Control* series and *Constellations* series.

Manifest in the works of Zhao Zhao is a persistent interest in Chinese history, tradition, craft, culture and a keen observation of life. Juxtaposing the speed (and ferocity) of industry and technology with the deliberateness and delicateness of craft, the two series presented in the exhibition, *Control* (2015–) and *Constellations* (2008–), are evocative of forms of desistance from the conditions of living in a “modern” capitalised world of conformity.

We witness in the artist's *Control* series, an exploration on the theme of control specifically focused on the collective consciousness of people. In the exhibition, this theme is projected through several gourd-shaped sculptures; 4 new marble pieces and a large stainless steel one resting on a rosewood pedestal, the centrepiece anchor of this presentation. As Chinese culture and society go through drastic transformations in the modern era, the usages and metaphorical meanings of gourd became oriented towards reality and blessings, and people projected more secular desires onto gourd, the plant of a unique natural symmetry in itself. In pursuit of perfection, the growth of gourds have been intervened by man by having them grow in man-made moulds, forcing them to grow into desired shapes. When we look at this series' overarching idea, life on both individual and collective levels have become deeply controlled by power. Human beings are also placed under the covert and especially effective manipulation of all kinds of 'power installations'. Just as young gourds encapsulated into moulds, life, as it grows, gradually reaches a state that the majority pervasively acknowledges.

The ongoing series, *Constellations*, originated from Zhao Zhao's fascination with the twisting cracks emanated by the impact of his body against the glass windshield after being in a motor accident in 2008. Through studying the patterns and visuals of the breaking glass, the artist explores the repeated, forceful, violent efforts that proved futile against political, social and/or economic resistances.

These subtle expressions of individualism figure strongly throughout Zhao Zhao's artistic practice: from his obscure acts that playfully challenge the regulated social and ideological sphere in works such as *Cobblestone* (2007) and *On Guard* (2008); to absurd representations of social phenomena in, for example, *Slap* (2013), *Crush* (2014) and *Confusion* (2015); to witty commentary on the economy of (ethical and cultural) values such as *Again* (2012–13), *Countless* (2014) and *Suit* (2016); and more recently, poignant journeys into forgotten realities and land in *Project Taklamakan* (2016), *Desert and Camel* (both 2017). The series *Control*, developed since 2015 (first iteration shown in 2018), marks another stage of the artist's use of materialised forms that uncover the gaps in conditioning control.



About the Artist



Zhao Zhao (b. 1982, Xinjiang, China) graduated with a BFA from the Department of Painting at the Xinjiang Arts Institute, Xinjiang, China in 2003. His solo exhibitions include the forthcoming *Control* at Mizuma Gallery, Singapore (2019); *Control* at Roberts Project, California, United States (2019); *One Second · One Year* at Tang Contemporary Art, Hong Kong (2018); *Zhao Zhao: Constellations II* (2015), and *Zhao Zhao: Constellations* (2013) at Chambers Fine Art, New York, United States (2015); *Nothing Inside II* at Alexander Ochs Gallery, Berlin, Germany (2013); and *Da Quan Gou* at China Art Archives and Wavehouse (CAAW), Beijing, China (2008). Zhao Zhao has also participated in numerous in China, United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Ukraine, Spain, Belgium, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, and Australia. His works are in the public collections of Daimler Art Collection, Berlin, Germany; DSL Collection, Paris, France; The Guy & Myriam Ullens Foundation, Switzerland; Tiroche DeLeon Collection, Frankfurt, Germany; and White Rabbit Collection, Sydney, Australia. In 2019, he won the “Artist of the Year Award” in the 13th Annual Award of Art China (ACC) and in 2017, he was Shortlisted as “Young Artist of the Year Award” in the 11th ACC. Zhao Zhao lives and works in Beijing, China.

About Mizuma Gallery

Executive Director Sueo Mizuma established Mizuma Art Gallery in Tokyo in 1994. Since its opening in Gillman Barracks, Singapore in 2012, the gallery aims for the promotion of East Asian artists in the region as well as the introduction of Southeast Asian artists to the international art scene. In 2014, the artist residency space “Rumah Kijang Mizuma” opened in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to create a new platform for dialogue by supporting exchanges between East Asia and Southeast Asia.

About Gillman Barracks

Set in a former military barracks dating back to 1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was launched in September 2012. Gillman Barracks’ vision is to be Asia’s destination for the presentation and discussion of international and Southeast Asian art. Today, Gillman Barracks is a place for art lovers, art collectors, and those curious about art. The cluster is a focal point of Singapore’s arts landscape, and anchors the development of visual art in the region and beyond. For more information: www.gillmanbarracks.com

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Gallery hours:
Tue - Sat: 11am - 7pm
Sun: 11am - 6pm
Closed on Mondays &
Public Holidays

www.mizuma.sg
www.mizuma.shop
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Zhao Zhao
Constellations (2019)
embroidery on silk
300 x 969.5 x 3.5 cm (total of 7 panels, each
panel 300 x 138.5 x 3.5 cm)
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Mizuma Gallery