

For Immediate Release

**Zheng Bo *Life is hard. Why do we make it so easy?***

[www.newartspower.hk/event/life-is-hard-why-do-we-make-it-so-easy/?lang=en](http://www.newartspower.hk/event/life-is-hard-why-do-we-make-it-so-easy/?lang=en)

**Exhibition Date:** 2021.1.30 (Sat) to 2021.3.14 (Sun)

(In light of the latest COVID-19 situation, the exhibition date is subject to change. Please stay tuned for the latest updates on the exhibition webpage.)

**Venue:** Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Walter Kerr Gardens and Art House

Valid KFBG admission ticket is required. Please visit [KFBG website](#) for detailed admission fees.



**JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power presents**  
***Life is hard. Why do we make it so easy?* by Zheng Bo**  
at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden from 30 January to 14 March 2021

Download link for press release, high resolution images

<https://bit.ly/39PS66r>

(Hong Kong, 18 January 2021) - Presented by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council and funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, **JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power** proudly presents **Zheng Bo's visual arts exhibition *Life is hard. Why do we make it so easy?*** at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG) from 30 January to 14 March 2021.

**Zheng Bo's** exhibition, titled ***Life is hard. Why do we make it so easy?***, is inspired by the TED talk "Life is easy. Why do we make it so hard?" by Jon Jandai. The artist modifies Jon Jandai's statement and expresses his apprehension about how human beings are making our lives easy at the expense of other species in nature. Through the exhibition, Zheng encourages people to reflect and live in harmony with other species, for the common good and in coping with the current climate and ecological crisis.

Zheng's work was first presented at Thailand Biennale Krabi in 2018. The evolving exhibition in Hong Kong takes place at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG). Here the artist works

with resident ecologist Dr. Stephan Gale, growing the botanical slogan installation from a selection of local orchid species, which will be exhibited at Walter Kerr Gardens of KFBG. Zheng's botanical sketch collection, the creative processes of the exhibition and the information about orchid conservation will also be on display at the Art House of KFBG.

Born in Beijing and currently residing on Lantau Island, Zheng Bo is impressed by the abundance of varieties of plants and species in the country parks in Hong Kong. He says, "Located in Southern China, Hong Kong is noted for its humid climate and lushness of the vegetation. In creating these outdoor installations, I have invited my neighbours in Lantau Island to build bamboo supporting frames on which I adorn with orchids specially selected by Dr Stephan Gale from different locally grown species. The installation will be displayed in mid-air, the audience will have to look up to reconstruct the whole slogan. I hope by discovering this text, made of living plants, viewers will reflect on how lives are all created equal and how urgent is the crisis we are facing now."

Representative of Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden says, "Orchid conservation is an important part of KFBG's flora conservation work. In the hope of raising awareness for orchid and environmental conservation, we propagate native orchids from germ-free seeds. Meanwhile, we conduct different kinds of conservation research, publish academic literature and review as well as organise a number of exhibitions and comprehensive education courses on ecology and culture. We are excited to collaborate with artist Zheng Bo and his creative team, together with our tree team, orchid section, education department, to build an entrancing and inspiring art installation. Allowing the audience to immerse themselves in the forest, this installation also invites visitors to audience will enrich their knowledge and understanding of the environment, and ultimately, reflect on the relationship with nature."

In addition to the exhibition, JCNAP will organise two extended activities, including guided tour and online exhibition talk:

### **Guided Tour**

Cantonese Sessions:

Date	Time
2021.2.21 (Sun)	11:00 ; 14:00
2021.2.28 (Sun)	11:00
2021.3.6 (Sat)	11:00 ; 14:00
2021.3.7 (Sun)	14:00

English Sessions:

Date	Time
2021.2.28 (Sun)	14:00
2021.3.7 (Sun)	11:00 ; 14:00

(In light of the latest COVID-19 situation, the event date and time is subject to change. Please stay tuned for the latest updates on the webpage.)

Online Registration: [www.newartspower.hk/event/zheng-bo-guided-tour/?lang=en](http://www.newartspower.hk/event/zheng-bo-guided-tour/?lang=en)

All registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fee: Free admission

Duration: Around 40 minutes

**Online Video: Exhibition Talk – *Life is hard. Why do we make it so easy?***

Speaker: Zheng Bo (Artist)

Dr. Stephan W. Gale (Senior Ecologist (Flora Conservation) of Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden)

Human Ip (Writer of *In Search of Flowers*)

Language: English (with Chinese subtitle)

Available on JCNAP Youtube channel on and after Feb 15, 2021

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**Notes to Editor:**

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Valid KFBG admission ticket is required. Please visit [KFBG website](#) for detailed admission fees.

JCNAP Official website: [www.newartspower.hk](http://www.newartspower.hk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/newartspower](http://www.facebook.com/newartspower)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/newartspower](http://www.instagram.com/newartspower)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/JOCKEYCLUBNewArtsPower](http://www.youtube.com/JOCKEYCLUBNewArtsPower)

**About JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power**

**JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power**, launched in 2017, is an annual Arts Festival presented by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council with the funding support from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. The Festival brings together established and emerging local artists to produce creative, approachable and engaging arts experiences for all. Over the past three years, 38 arts groups have participated in the Festival. Together they produced 72 live performances and a remarkable number of major exhibitions. Uniting art groups and various organisations from the social welfare, academic and commercial sectors, the Festival held over 450 community and school events, reaching some 380,000 participants. **JOCKEY CLUB New Arts Power 2020 / 2021** will be held from September 2020, featuring a total of 9 selected

programmes that include dance, theatre, music, *xiqu*, multimedia and visual arts exhibition, as well as presenting more than 100 community and school activities.

### **About Zheng Bo**

Beijing-born artist Zheng Bo is now a resident on Landau Island, Hong Kong. He received a PhD in Visual and Cultural Studies from the University of Rochester and have taught at the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong since 2013.

Zheng Bo gets inspirations from his multi-role as an art maker, a researcher and a teacher. His art is a long social and ecological engagement. Committed to multispecies vibrancy, he revisits the past and envisages the future through the eyes of the marginalised communities and plants. He creates weedy gardens, living slogans, and eco-queer films.

He has worked with a number of museums and art spaces in Asia and Europe, most recently Gropius Bau in Berlin, Kunsthalle Lissabon in Lisbon, and Kyoto City University of Arts Art Gallery; His works are included in the collection of Hammer Museum and Hong Kong Museum of Art. His projects are featured in Manifesta, the Taipei Biennial and the Shanghai Biennale.

### **About Hong Kong Arts Development Council**

Established in 1995, the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) is a statutory body set up by the Government to support the broad development of the arts in Hong Kong. Its major roles include grant allocation, policy and planning, advocacy, promotion and development, and programme planning. The mission of HKADC is to plan, promote and support the broad development of the arts including literary arts, performing arts, visual arts as well as film and media arts in Hong Kong. Aiming to foster a thriving arts environment and enhancing the quality of life of the public, HKADC is also committed to facilitating community-wide participation in the arts and arts education, encouraging arts criticism, raising the standard of arts administration and strengthening the work on policy research.

### **About Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden**

The KFBG site near Lam Tsuen, Tai Po, is one of Hong Kong's little-known jewels. Nine kilometres of road wind their way up around organic farming terraces, theme gardens and native forest to the summit of the mountain, Kwun Yum Shan, at over 1800 feet above sea level. A wide variety of educational displays, sustainability features and wildlife rescue facilities complement the extensively landscaped gardens with their cobbled paths, pavilions, bridges, waterfalls and picnic.

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