

Shen Shaomin: Experimental Fields

“Today what we feel and know as Nature has become something artificial, technical, and sociological. Men are fabricating an artificial world of their own according to their personal interests. The biological world is no exception; the strangest place of the future world will be none other than the ‘biological factory.’ In this place, men will be utilizing their adept skills and methods to produce DNA, to nurture new biological species, creatures that will either be manufactured or implanted.”

- Shen Shaomin

Shen Shaomin’s *Experimental Fields* draw on post-9/11 terror, millennial apocalyptic fear, modern biotechnology and Chinese folklore. Mimicking the future scientists he fears, Shaomin plays the role of Dr. Frankenstein, using natural matter—including the bones of cows, rabbits, rats and roosters—to construct nightmarish skeletons of unknown creatures. At first glance his creations appear as fossilized remains, but upon further examination they are strange beasts, sharing veins with the leaves from which they sprung. In a foreboding look at the future, the artist questions humanity’s neglect of nature in the pursuit of progress and happiness. By presenting his *Experimental Fields* as museum relics, Shaomin warns us of the dangers of progress, demonstrating the remains of a terrible end.