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Spring 5-13-2017

### Temp Permit

Zhaoyang Zheng

*Claremont Graduate University*

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Exhibition Title: Temp Permit

Name: Zhaoyang Zheng

Date of Final Review: 2/21/2017

Names of Committee Members: David Amico,

Anne Bray, Carmine Iannaccone

## Artist Statement

As an artist, I also regard myself as a tourist, tourists are people who would like to explore and find special things which are not familiar to them. Usually a tourist is isolated from others because of his unfamiliarity with culture and language. It is hard for a tourist to fit into society. It is same for artists: they like to explore different and most of the time they are isolated from main stream society.

I'm interested in this isolation and alienation between society and the individual. This is a reflection of myself. Because I'm a foreigner in the United States, the culture and language difference make me feel isolated all the time. At the same time, being an artist in China, I also feel isolated, eastern culture emphasizes practical values, but art is not practical. I'm interested in my focus and the feeling of isolation. I felt excited and even accepted when I document giant empty architecture, the abandonment or the lonely workers.

The repetition and nonsense in my work also interest me. My work is like somebody locked in an empty room, doing the same thing again and again, almost as a subconscious action. I set up rules for my work without an end point which allows me make the collection bigger and bigger until I spend my whole life on one single project. There is an obvious relationship between repetition and time. Every time I press the shutter I record a unit of time, so the photos are accumulation and collection of time. Time is a very important element in my work because I think time is another thing that causes isolation. People are isolated by a different time zone. People spending time on their own trying to escape from reality. Time flies and changes everything etc. Time is terrible because it's unavoidable but it's friendly at the same time. Time is also unpredictable.

There is a famous story in Chinese culture called "Mr. Fool wants to move the mountain". It's about an old man who wants to move the mountain with a hand scoop because the mountain blocked his way, somebody laugh at him, but he says I will do it because if I die I have my son to continue, after my son I have my grandson. People see this as a story about perseverance but I see it as a story about time. Mr. Fool is like me, spending his life doing this appeared nonsense work, but actually has a hidden meaning in it.



**Claremont Graduate University**  
East Gallery  
251 East 10th Street  
Claremont, CA 91711  
909-621-8071



## Temp Permit

ZHAOYANG ZHENG

MFA Thesis Exhibition  
February 20-24, 2017

Opening Reception  
February 21, 2017, 6pm - 9pm

Gallery Hours  
Monday-Friday 10am - 5pm

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