



dslcollection a collection of Chinese contemporary art

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HSU CHIA WEI

Hsu's latest project focuses on the Huai Mo Tzu Chiang House in Chiang Rai, Thailand, which shelters a generation of orphans owning close relationships to the region's complex history. In the video, the director of the orphanage (who was once an intelligence officer) points out the historical origins and changes. The artist's customary style is extended in this work—the people telling the stories, the people hearing the stories, the crew made up of orphans, with the artist standing furthest back, observing it all.

Huai Mo Village  
Video, One channel video installation; 8 minutes  
and 20 seconds. 2012

Part of the artist's "Huai Mo Village" series, this collaborative tapestry came about when the artist visited Huai Mo Tzu Chiang House, where he found more than ten sewing machines that were donated by a British national some ten years ago. The machines were intended to provide the local orphans with a source of income, enabling them to make a living by producing and selling purses and clothes by their own. However, these machines were not fully utilized. After his visit, the artist invited a teacher to teach the orphans to use the machines, and eventually completed this tapestry together. The design of the tapestry is based on a picture taken in 1973, featuring two senior officers standing in front of the newly-established CIA (Central Intelligence Agency). The fabrics used for the tapestry are usually used to make clothes for local children. The fabric in dark blue is used for making girl's skirt, the khaki is used for boy's pants, while the white is used for their shirts.

Huai Mo Village - Tapestry  
Tapestry, 290 x 190cm. 2013