



## Hai Bo 海波

Through the medium of photography, Hai Bo dwells on the passage of time and its consequences, namely the decay of beauty and the inevitability of death. While inspired by his personal experiences, the works convey the weight of history. In his earlier works, the *They* series, the artist juxtaposed photographs, collected from friends and acquaintances dating back to the time of the Cultural Revolution, with photographs of the same people in the same arrangements but taken in a completely different cultural context of today's China. The people in both images are the same, those who have passed away are marked by a void in comparison to the earlier photograph. In the era of Mao Zedong they were a collective entity, wearing uniforms and similar haircuts, and this monotony and anonymity is reinforced by the black and white photography. The same protagonists, living in China thirty years later, are now a collection of individuals grouped together and they are distinguished by their different features and clothing, an effect enhanced by colour photography. The romantic portrayal of the glorious youth of the Cultural Revolution has given way to the picture of age. The discrepancy of both representations illustrates the cultural divide between both periods. Throughout his artistic career, Hai Bo has kept exploring the inevitable fate of Man, aging and the vanity of human pursuits.

Born in Changchun, Jilin Province of China in 1962, Hai Bo was graduated from Jilin College of the Arts in 1984 and subsequently completed his postgraduate studies at the Print Department of Central Academy of Fine Arts in 1989. Hai Bo has widely exhibited both at home and abroad in cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Singapore, Gwangju, Madrid, Berlin, Vienna, Venice, Basel, Vancouver, Washington and New York. His works are amongst major museum and private collections, namely San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in the USA, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, USA and the Museum of Modern in New York, USA.