

Final Report

From March to May 2016, I was honored to be given the opportunity to spend three months living and working as an artist-in-residence at ArtBellwald. It was really wonderful to be able to live and work in the Swiss Alps region for three months. The landscape, culture, and heritage of Valais were incredibly inspiring to me.

I visited the grave of the German-language poet Rainer Maria Rilke in Raron in the first week of March 2016. The excursion led me to abandon my original plans to show the impacts of human activities on the Alps. I eventually decided to follow my personal perceptions and explore the invisible soul of the place beyond mundane daily life. During the transition from Winter to Spring, I traveled across the whole canton, visiting mountains, villages, dams, natural parks, museums and places of culture to observe the daily life of Valais and the spirit behind the daily life.

In my residency project "Valais, the Daily Views", details of nature, everyday situations, and symbols of historical memories and cultural Valais form a kind of trilogy, through which, I aim to seek a coherent sense of place beyond the visible and the present moment. The project has since been shown in several places in Switzerland and China during the Summer of 2016.

The 3-month residency in ArtBellwald has influenced my art practice in many ways, including but not limited to the following: the observation of the daily life of an unfamiliar society, the exploration of the intersection of nature and culture, and the methodology of working with image, text, and other media and attending to intertextuality and intersubjectivity. I am truly grateful for the generous support from Madelon and Dieter of ArtBellwald and from Sarah, Muriel, and Eric of FDDM. This work couldn't have been completed without your support and input. Thank you so much.

Best regards,

Jiehao Su