

LIN Xue on "Seeds", 2014

自兒時初次被這種核吸引後，每次經過生長它的樹都會不經意放慢腳步低頭探尋一下，樹下的風景隨季節更替而轉化，從果實熟透跌落一地，到露出完整的核，再經風雨蟲豸侵蝕呈現一片腐壞，然後便沒留絲毫殘餘，翌年萬物甦醒，新的果實又悄悄鋪陳在我經過的路上，

Ever since I was a child, I have been drawn to this kind of fruit pit. Every time I walk past such trees, I would instinctively slower my pace, to survey the scenery below that changes with the seasons. From when ripe fruits fall and litters the ground to the exposure of their cores. That then passes through a scene of decay, as the pits are consumed by insects and weathered to a point where all remnants perish without a trace. Until the next year, when everything revives, new fruits quietly dot the path once more.

大約兩年半前，又從樹下撿起一顆核，在其中我看見一幅宋代山水，我遽然對它們有嶄新的體會，數天縈迴不散，於是再上山從那片腐壞之地搜集更多核準備投入新的工作，

About two-and-a-half years ago, I picked up another fruit stone from under the tree and I saw in it a Song dynasty landscape painting. All of a sudden, I experienced it in a new way and that feeling lingered on for days, so I climbed the hill again to collect more from the decaying debris in preparation for new works.

那天靈雨霏霏，我在亭子等候良久至雨稍歇才繼續上路，走到樹下剛要撿核，驟然雷雨交加，我抬頭清楚看見雨水從樹幹急流而下，四周的事物清晰可辨，它們自放於明亮中，

That day, the rain was pouring and I waited for a long spell at a pagoda for the rain to subside before continuing onwards. When I arrived at the tree and was about to gather the pits, a thunderstorm suddenly erupted. I raised my head and saw rainwater gushing down the trunk of the tree, my surroundings were clear and distinct as everything revealed themselves in the brilliance.

我篩選撿來的核對應十八幅歷代山水〔·〕，並以平日所見構成這些，自然中的微物雖是片段，仍是此一物的整體，綜觀而言並無差別

The selected pits match eighteen classical landscape paintings [·], and built them in the way they are seen in everyday, although the minutiae of nature are fragments, they are still a part of a whole, and broadly speaking, there is no difference

核的工作快將完結之際，又想看看十一月的樹下景色，隨即上山，果然是微微細雨滋潤滿地核子，兒時陶然撿核的自己再次浮現，忽然想，我到底惦念甚麼，

As the works with the fruit stones were coming to a finish, I returned to the hill to see the November view beneath the canopy. As expected, the ground was covered by pits slicked with a fine drizzle. My childhood self, that had happily collected such stones, emerged once more and I suddenly wondered what I was actually reminiscing.

除了這棵樹，這片林地還有不少景物每次經過總會往它們瞥一眼，像有一截斷木長年卡在溪澗上，某次見末端附生一簇幼苗，就想記錄它們的生長過程，可惜未及完成，那年盛夏連日豪雨猝然把斷木沖走，
Besides that tree, there are many scenes in the forest that I take a glance at every time I walk pass, for instance, the log that has been lodged in a brook for many years. At one point, I saw a cluster of shoots sprouting from the ends and I wanted to record its process of growth. But unfortunately, it was not meant to be. That year experienced a mid-summer downpour that unexpectedly washed the log away.

逝去的事物無法挽回，卻以別的樣態伴隨著人，這棵樹也許還會結果，也許不會，然而我已經認真和它相處過。

What has perished cannot be retrieved yet they accompany us in another incarnation. This tree may bear fruit, or not, but I have spent time with it in earnest.