

Zhou Documents

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## Project Introduction: Zero-Gravity Project

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## **Zero-Gravity Project**

Zero-Gravity Project, by Chinese artist Niu Bo, first began in Japan in 1993. Known as the *Space Atelier Project 1993*, it involved using a zero-gravity plane at 20,000-25,000 ft. The interior of the plane was covered entirely with special rice paper; the paint used was created from a mixture of China ink, water colors, oil colors, and symbolic liquids and pigments from earth (civilization) contained in balloons. When he achieved a weightless state, the artist released the pigment into space, the solutions symbolizing the terrestrial nature and culture as well as his works of art.

What humans cannot take into the weightless space are senses of "up and down, vertical and horizontal, high and low", for instance. On earth we use these senses everyday to grasp the three dimensional space, while astronauts floating in space cannot recognize the difference. An apple leaving the hand has no force and therefore no direction, it floats. That is to say, everything in the weightless space can have only a sense of far and near based on the distance from oneself.

In the same way the Impressionists could not make their creations without stepping out of their studios and bringing the natural light onto their canvases, so must we leave the stratosphere to be free from established concepts; it is impossible to create the new culture without parting from terrestrial limitations.

Thus, Niu Bo has created this weightless state for his work to enter the new age