

David Cotterrell: Hero (v)

Date: 11th October 2005

Materials:

DVD Video and Sound (3 Works)

Hero is the first of a series of three simple video sketches offering documentation of individuals in Shanghai, trying to impose a form of order on the urban chaos

The problematics of living in this dense structure are further explored in a series of short video sketches Cotterrell filmed on the streets of Shanghai: traffic conductors, lone policemen and traffic assistants are individually documented attempting to impose order on the masses of cars, trucks, buses, bicycles and pedestrians of central Shanghai. These men, reminiscent of Gary Coopers Marshal Will Kane, single-handedly attempt to stem the seeping of traffic along gargantuan stretches of 10-lane motorways. Ignored and avoided, their attempts are comi-tragic - like a modern-day Sisyphus, each must do battle with the masses and their machines to earn his daily bread.



Traffic Assistant (Hero) (2009)



Filming above Shanghai's elevated highway Credit: Xu Zhi Feng (2005)