

## METEOR SONATA

Text / Anet ter Horst

A dead, seventeen-year-old tree from the artist's hometown is immortalized in this commanding installation for six carefully aligned screens. Ding Shiwei sawed the entire tree into pieces, its stem and branches into half-inch slices, and took some 700 groups of photographs of them that jointly constitute the more than 14,000 animated images. The growth rings or annual rings form recognizable patterns on the sectional planes of the wood, shaped by the climate and the conditions the tree was able to grow in. The growth rings and gnarls tell a life story, from the birth, growth and development to ageing and death. During their growth, slender twigs stretch out. The branching annually increases, seemingly at random. Each branching off is only one of the infinite options a life offers. Each piece of tree is unique. The metaphor of the tree constitutes a poetic, near abstract installation about evanescence, a time poem, a ballet of floating celestial bodies in their own universe.