



Don't Fly too Close to the Sun Wenrui Zhao, Graphic Design

ken787@live.cn

Don't Fly Too Close To The Sun investigates the architectural style between communist monuments from the cold-war period and contemporary Chinese buildings. It explores a connection between post-modernist architecture and a post-economic-reform modernism which China exports to Africa.

The first image comprises fragments of Oceanology Institute (Conakry, 1968), La Pyramide (Abidjan, 1973), and Jingmao Tower (Shanghai, 1998), a skyscraper in heart of the financial district. The monumentality of these buildings in different times and locations shows a fascinating geopolitical dynamic of which consists an attempt to progress without history.

The ambition towards modernisation in a ambivalent conditions indicates in the second image, which refers to the famous idiom of Icarus, who ignored his fathers warning too keep distance to the sun, causing the wax on his wings to melt and fall into the sea where he drowned. Buildings appeared in second images are Agostinho Neto Mausoleum (Luanda, 2002), Pangu Plaza (Beijing, 2008), and Tomorrow Square (Shanghai, 2003).