

# Curiously Direct

March 23, 2016

CCA Wattis // Wang Bing : Three Portraits = Three videos by documentarian Bing. It is early in the year, but definitely this is so far the best thing I've seen. Bing takes his task seriously, crafting portraits to suit the subject no matter how difficult they might be to produce (or exhibit/see). Each of the three works would be a highlight in any group show – it's hard to pick a favorite. This is multiplied by the near impossibility of seeing it all as there is at least 19 hours of footage here. This massive duration might seem excessive but as most viewers view shows with a lot of video work by catching snippets of each and rarely seeing the whole, the length here simultaneously frees the viewer from the guilt of having not watched it all. And it implies, forcefully so, that a portrait is always incomplete. And however closer it draws towards some truth of its subject, it simultaneously repulses, repels: we want to know, we don't really want to know, won't really ever know. Highly recommended.