BORDERLANDS 边陲

This season deals with borders in their various manifestations. Borders can delimit, but they can also exile; they can be crossed, contested, imagined, submerged, erased, and internalized. These films deal with social, cultural and political life at state territorial borderlands, but also with the borderlands that mark different states of existence, such as the haunted zone between the living and the dead.

23 October

Sunday, 2:00-4:00pm

Behemoth 悲兮魔兽

Directed by Zhao Liang 赵亮
2015, 95mins, China
Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles

The Auditorium, China in the World Building 188, Fellows Lane, ANU

Zhao Liang’s most recent film Behemoth combines a poetic apocalyptic vision with documentary footage from Inner Mongolia. Zhao Liang’s camera surveys landscapes that have been destroyed in order to fuel China’s breakneck urbanisation, which itself appears as a shimmering, uninhabitable fantasy. In addition to the film’s stunning visual landscapes, the sounds are also harrowing, ranging from the otherworldly traditional Mongolian throat singing, cacophony of machinery and violent explosions to the labored breathing of miners dying from black lung disease (pneumoconiosis). The voice-over narration laments the inability of hope to grow in a place in which ‘now not a single blade of grass survives’.

The screening will be followed by a short informal discussion.

This event is co-sponsored by ANU Mongolia Studies Centre.