

Few! Lab

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS BOOK

BY MAURIZIO FAVA



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introduction PROJECT OVERVIEW

This project presents a curated selection of **established Chinese contemporary artists** belonging to the second post-1989 generation, whose practices represent a mature evolution of the Chinese avant-garde. The project focuses on painting and expanded pictorial languages as spaces of reflection on perception, memory, identity, and mentality, moving beyond the ideological frameworks that characterized earlier phases of Chinese contemporary art.

Emerging in the decades following the historic transformations of the late 20th century, these artists have developed autonomous and recognizable visual languages, shaped by both Chinese cultural heritage and sustained dialogue with Western art history. Their works reflect a shift from collective narratives toward individual experience, introspection, and formal research, positioning painting as a critical and sensitive tool for understanding contemporary reality.

Conceived as an international curatorial project, this selection brings together artists whose works have been exhibited in major **museums, biennials, art fairs, and institutional contexts across China, Europe, and the United States**. The project is designed to be adaptable to different exhibition formats and cultural settings, fostering cross-cultural exchange and offering an articulated perspective on the complexity and diversity of contemporary Chinese painting within the global art landscape.



THE OTHER CONTEMPORARY

Throughout 2025, this curatorial project has been developed under the title *Presente Cinese*, a working framework conceived to investigate **contemporary Chinese art as a living and evolving condition** rather than a fixed stylistic or historical category.

The project was born from the necessity to move beyond reductive or stereotypical interpretations, focusing instead on the complexity, sensitivity, and internal plurality of contemporary artistic practices in China.

The transition to The Other Contemporary represents the conceptual maturation of this research. The title does not imply an alternative or marginal position, but rather proposes **another way of understanding contemporaneity itself—one that resists ideological simplifications, linear narratives, and rigid geographical definitions.**

In this context, contemporaneity is approached as a space of experience shaped by perception, memory, material research, and individual sensibility.

The artists involved, all belonging to the **second post-1989 generation** of Chinese contemporary art, reflect this shift. Their practices move beyond the overt political urgency that characterized earlier phases of the Chinese avant-garde, embracing a language rooted in painting and expanded pictorial practices. Through silence, color, materiality, and introspection, their works articulate a form of contemporaneity that is lived rather than declared, inviting slow observation and emotional engagement.

Conceived as an international curatorial project, The Other Contemporary brings together established artists whose careers extend across China, Europe, and the United States, positioning their work within a **global artistic discourse** while maintaining a strong cultural specificity. The project proposes painting as a critical and poetic tool through which to reflect on time, presence, and perception, offering a nuanced and mature vision of contemporary Chinese art.

ARTISTS SELECTION

Xu De Qi

Qian Wu

Song Yongping

Zhang Hong Mei

Zang Peng

Luo Zhi Yi

The ***selected artists*** belong to the ***second post-1989 generation*** of Chinese contemporary art and are widely recognized as established figures within the international art scene.

Emerging in the aftermath of the pioneering experiences of the ***Chinese Avant-Garde***, they have developed solid careers marked by participation in major museums, biennials, international art fairs, and leading cultural institutions across China, Europe, and the United States.

Moving beyond the ideological frameworks that characterized much of the artistic discourse of the 1990s, their research focuses on issues of perception, memory, identity, and formal language, positioning painting and expanded pictorial practices as spaces of reflection rather than declaration.

Through a conscious ***dialogue with Western art history*** and a strong connection to ***Chinese cultural traditions***, their works articulate a mature and autonomous phase of contemporary Chinese avant-garde practice, firmly situated within the global institutional context.

XU DE QI



Born in 1964 in Jinan, Shandong, is one of the leading contemporary Chinese artists. Educated at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and Shandong University, where he currently teaches, he has exhibited widely in major museums and institutions across Europe, the United States, and Asia, including the Venice Biennale, Art Paris, and the Jinan International Biennale. His practice has evolved from existential realism into a distinctive form of Chinese Pop Art, characterized by a playful and luminous visual language that reflects the vitality and cultural confidence of contemporary China.



Underglaze Blue Girl
oil on canvas cm 70x90



Beauty and the Beast
oil on canvas
cm 100x150



China Girl
oil on canvas
cm 70x90

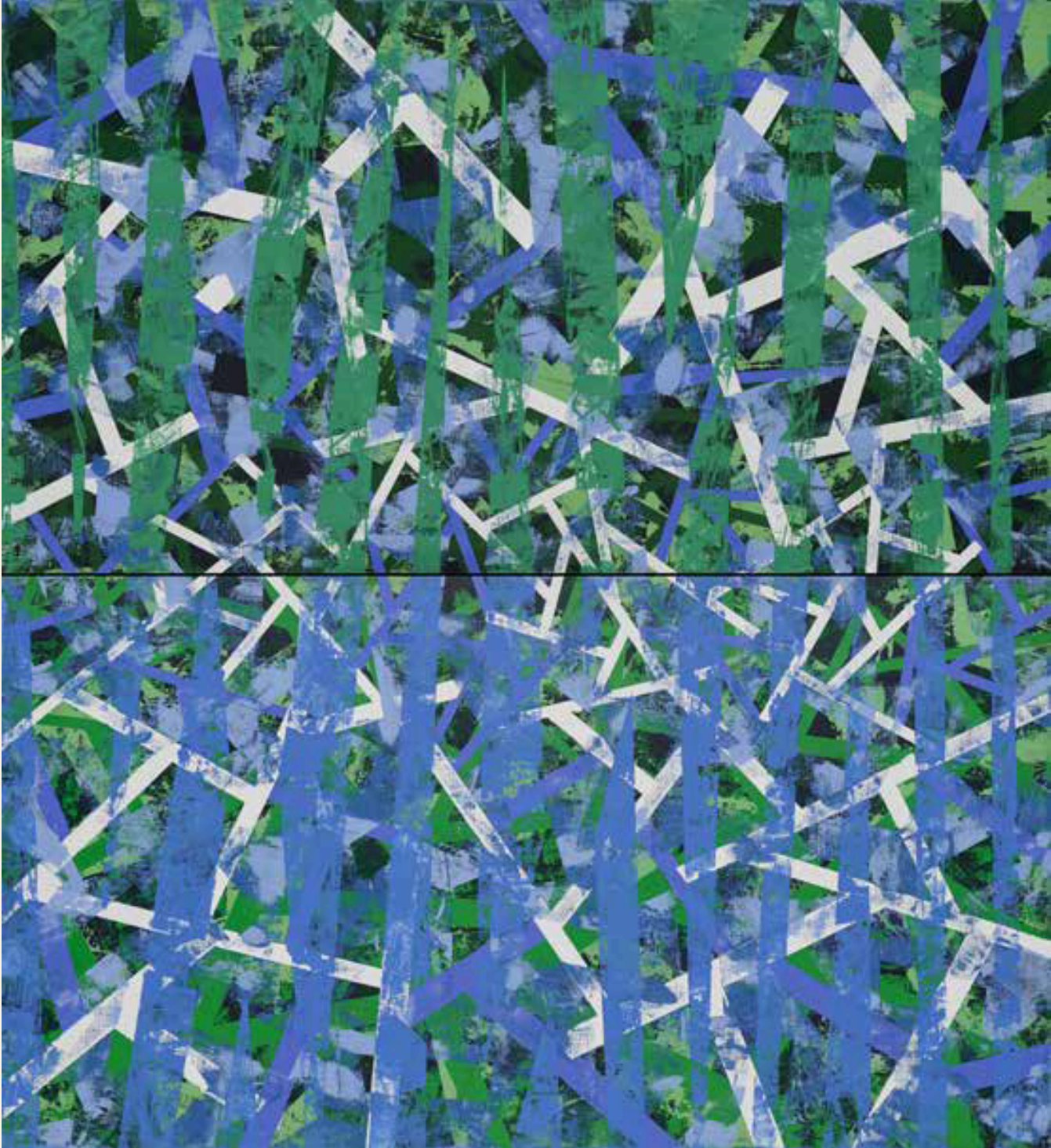
QIAN WU



Widely regarded as a pioneer and originator of contemporary Chinese abstraction. With an international academic background spanning New York University, Columbia University, the Art Students League of New York, and leading Chinese art institutions, his practice bridges Eastern and Western artistic research. Awarded internationally and recognized by Forbes China, he has exhibited in major cities including New York, Venice, Shanghai, and Shenzhen. His abstract work transcends technical and cultural boundaries, inviting viewers to experience painting as a purely emotional and sensory language.



Untitled
mix on paper cm 80x40



Blue and Green
mix on paper
cm 120x110

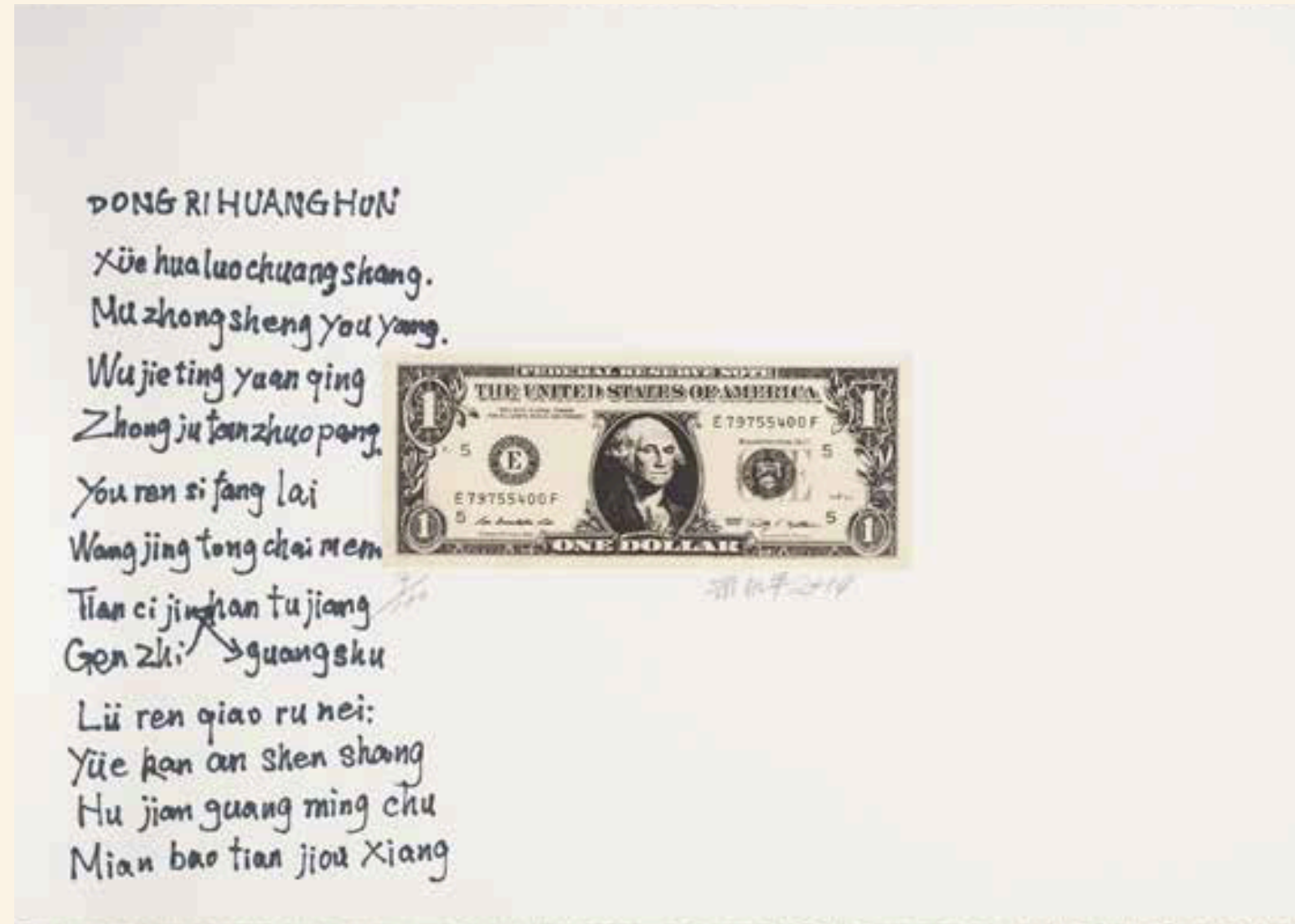


Blue and Green
mix on paper
cm 120x100

YONGPING



Born 1961 in Shanxi Province, is a key figure of the Chinese contemporary art avant-garde. Trained at the Tianjin Fine Arts Academy, he has participated in seminal international exhibitions at institutions such as MoMA, the Queens Museum, Asia Society, and the Venice Biennale. Working across photography, painting, and performance, his practice critically explores personal and collective memory in pre- and post-Mao China. His continuously evolving research positions him among the artists who helped shape the foundations of contemporary Chinese art.



Money
 serigraphy cm 38x54

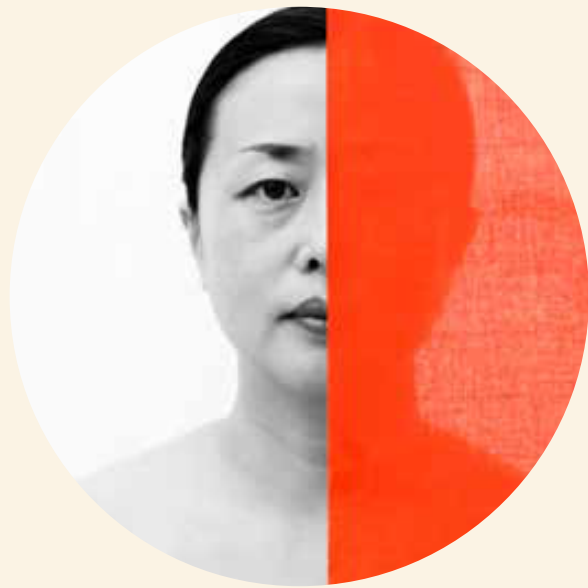


Ascend enjoy a distant view
oil on canvas
cm 100x128



My parents
digital print
cm 37x200

ZHANG HONG
 张虹



Born in 1973 in Peng Lai, often described by critics as the “poet of color”, is a prominent figure in contemporary Chinese art. Educated at Tsinghua University in Beijing and currently teaching at the Shandong Academy of Fine Arts, she has exhibited widely in major museums, biennials, and art fairs across Europe, the United States, and Asia, including the Venice Biennale. Her practice reinterprets Chinese historical and symbolic memory through the use of textiles and intense chromatic compositions, creating a distinctive visual language that bridges tradition, installation, and contemporary sensibility.



Mental landscape
 textile and acrylic on canvas
 cm 120x210



Nude
textile and acrylic on canvas
cm 100x70

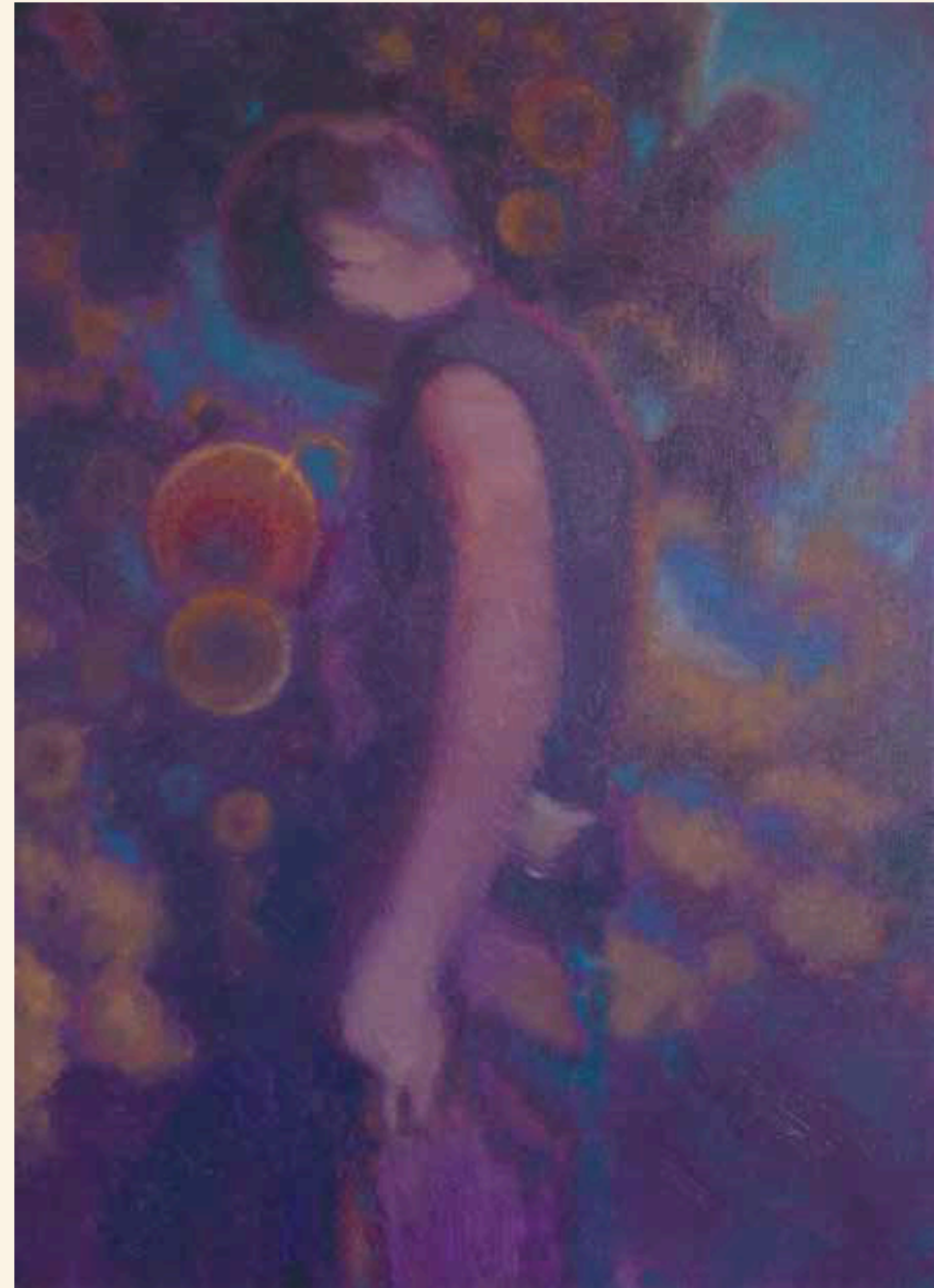


Magic Forest
textile and acrylic on canvas
cm 210x120 (each)

ZANG PENG



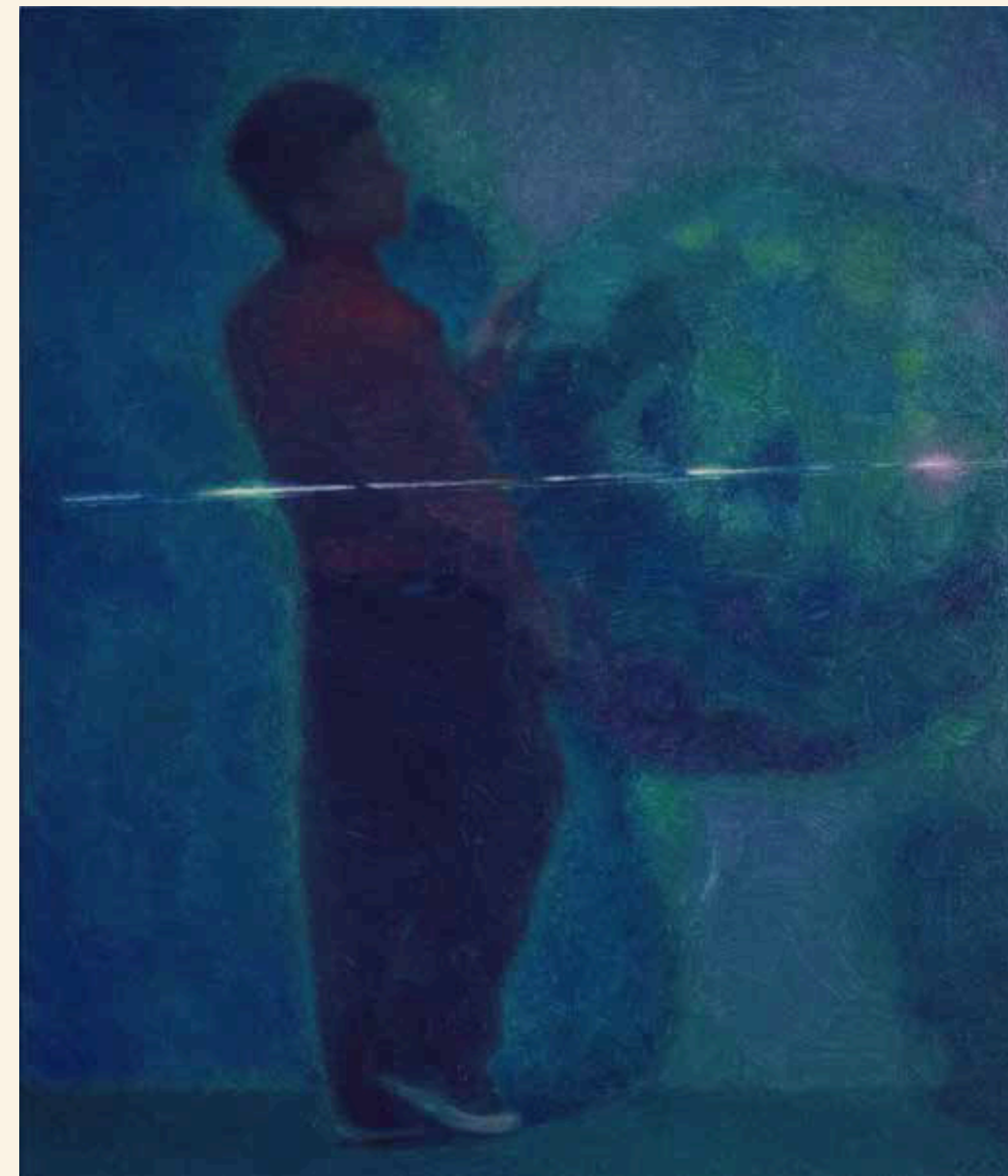
Born 1978 in Datong, Shanxi Province, is a contemporary painter based in Beijing. Trained in oil painting at Shanxi Normal University, he has participated in numerous exhibitions and art fairs in China and internationally, including the Affordable Art Fair Shanghai and the John Moores Painting Prize China. His work focuses on quiet, introspective scenes drawn from everyday life, using a subtle and restrained painterly language to explore inner landscapes, emotional resonance, and the poetry of ordinary existence.



Coral light
oil on canvas
cm 70x50



Moon in the water
oil on canvas
cm 100x70



Sisyphean
oil on canvas
cm 70x60

LUO ZHANG YU



Born 1967 in Nanchang, is an artist whose painting investigates silence as a visual and emotional experience. Educated at the Central Academy of Fine Arts, his practice moves between figuration and abstraction, transforming remnants of everyday life into quiet, introspective compositions. Through a highly refined painterly language, his works reveal suspended microcosms in which subject matter dissolves, allowing time, memory, and light to emerge as the true protagonists of the image.



Ashes
oil on canvas
cm 120x150



Red nr.17
oil on canvas
cm 80x80



Red nr.18
oil on canvas
cm 80x80

EXHIBITIONS

The project has been presented through a series of exhibitions and presentations in institutional and international contexts, including international contemporary art fairs and curated exhibition formats in **Europe**.

These presentations allowed the selection of works to engage with diverse audiences and professional environments, positioning the project within an active international circuit. Alongside these experiences, the project has also been shown in **Italy**, in the Marche region, where Feu!Lab is based, as part of a broader strategy aimed at fostering cultural exchange between local contexts and global contemporary art discourse.

The exhibitions received a positive response from both audiences and professionals, confirming the project's relevance and curatorial coherence. The project has gained critical visibility through specialized art media, including coverage by **ArtTribune** (<https://www.arttribune.com/mostre-evento-arte/the-other-contemporary-presente-cinese/>), and will be further developed through upcoming international presentations, including a scheduled exhibition at **LAC Lugano in March 2026**.



ABOUT

Feu! Lab

Feu!Lab is a **contemporary art gallery** based in **Italy**, operating at the intersection of curatorial research, exhibition practice, and international collaboration.

Founded with the aim of developing articulated and long-term projects, Feu!Lab focuses on contemporary artistic practices that engage critically with cultural identity and the evolving conditions of the present.

Within the context of **international Chinese contemporary art**, Feu!Lab positions itself as a mediator and facilitator of cross-cultural dialogue, creating opportunities for exchange between artists, institutions, collectors and audiences across different geographical and cultural contexts.

Through research-driven exhibitions, collaborations with established artists, and participation in international art fairs and institutional venues, Feu!Lab contributes to a broader understanding of contemporary Chinese art beyond simplified narratives. Its approach emphasizes curatorial coherence, cultural specificity, and international relevance.



CONTACTS

Let's work
TOGETHER



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Ancona, Italy

