

A Bridge Between Two Worlds: Works by Wu Jian'an

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts



Installation view: *A Bridge Between Two Worlds*

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Michigan, USA

Exhibition Dates: September 16, 2023 – December 31, 2023

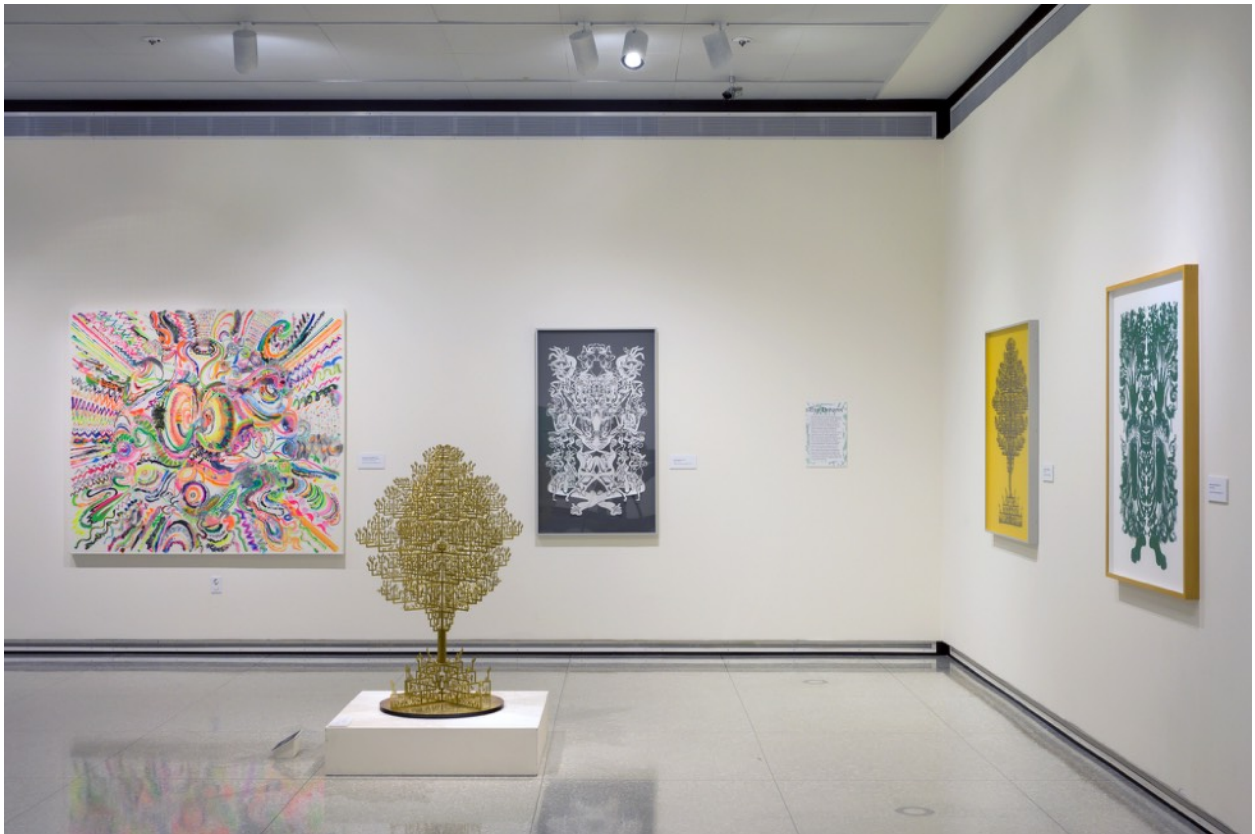
A Bridge Between Two Worlds: Works by Wu Jian'an is the first major museum exhibition featuring the artist's incredibly meticulous work in the United States. Operating across a variety of media, Wu Jian'an is a unique figure in the contemporary Chinese art world. Although the artist's primary medium is cut paper, over the course of his career, he has expanded his practice to include working in painting and sculpture. The exhibition features a variety of objects demonstrating the artist's creative evolution over two decades. Frequently, the artist's complex and multi-layered compositions include thousands of elements that reference contemporary, mythological, and obscure folklore. Wu Jian'an work has been referred to as a hybrid of past and future, figure and abstraction, and tradition and innovation.



Installation view: *A Bridge Between Two Worlds*



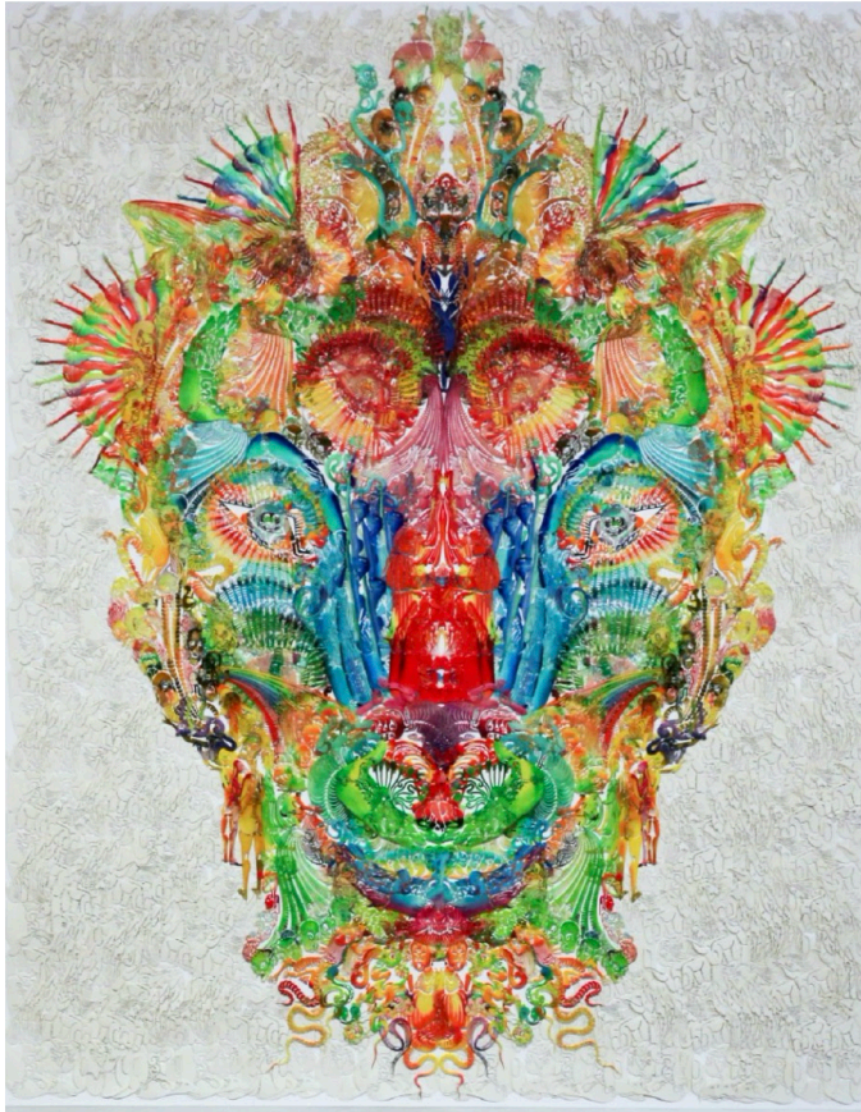
Installation view: *A Bridge Between Two Worlds*



Installation view: *A Bridge Between Two Worlds*



Wu Jian'an 郭建安 (b. 1980)
Rainbow Cloud – Purple Cloud 彩云气-紫云, 2012
Colored paper, collage 彩纸, 手工剪贴
Set of 2, 35 x 25 in (89 x 64 cm) each
WJA-PAP-1202-1203



Wu Jian'an 邬建安 (b. 1980)

Shapeshifting Deity 神人, 2020

Hand dyed and waxed paper-cut 手工着色和浸蜡镂空剪纸, 棉线, 纸
47 x 59 in (119 x 150 cm)
WJA-PAP-20003



Wu Jian'an 鄂建安 (b. 1980)

500 Brushstrokes #71 五百笔 #71, 2021

Ink, watercolor, paper cut and collage on Xuan paper 纸上水墨水彩拼贴
31 1/2 x 39 1/3 in (80 x 100 cm)

WJA-WOP-21001



Wu Jian'an 邬建安 (b. 1980)

***Nirvana Of The White Ape* 白猴涅槃, 2014**

Colored wax on wood 木板彩蜡

70 3/4 x 98 1/2 in (180 x 250 cm)

WJA-PTG-1402



Wu Jian'an 郭建安 (b. 1980)

***Flying Snake* 飞蛇, 2016**

Xuan paper on aluminum 铝合金覆宣纸
172 x 82 x 96 cm (67 3/4 x 32 1/4 x 37 3/4 in)
WJA-SCP-16039

Wu Jian'an (b.1980)

In the hands of Wu Jian'an, the traditional Chinese medium of paper cut is elaborated and used to explore an idiosyncratic range of iconographic source material culled from all over the world. Over time, Wu Jian'an's works have grown both in scale and complexity as he increasingly conceives individual works as part of larger installations.

Since his first exhibition at Chambers Fine Art in 2006, Wu Jian'an has established himself as a unique figure in contemporary Chinese art. Having chosen paper-cut as his primary means of expression in his early work, he has continued to use this technique in increasingly complex multilayered compositions and installations that frequently utilize thousands of components. Simultaneously, the range of references embodied in his works has grown enormously, embracing a multitude of mytho-logical, esoteric and contemporary references.



WU JIAN'AN

1980 Born in Beijing, China

2002 Graduated from Beijing Broadcasting Institute, B.A. Degree, Beijing, China

2005 Graduated from Central Academy of Fine Art, M.A. Degree, Beijing, China

Currently Lives and works in Beijing as Associate Professor of School of Experimental Art of Central Academy of Fine Art

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *A Bridge Between Two Worlds: Works by Wu Jian'an*, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Michigan, USA

2022 *Recent Works*, Chambers Fine Art, New York, USA

2021 *The huge sand dunes are the bed of the Sea*, CAFA Art Museum-Langfang, Langfang, Hebei, China

2020 *The Myths of Innovation*, Hermès Maison, Shanghai, China

2019 *Infinite Labyrinth: New Works by Wu Jian'an*, Chambers Fine Art, New York,

2018 *Of the Infinite Mind*, Guardian Art Center, Beijing, China

2017 *Daydream Forest*, University of Chicago Center, Beijing, China

The Celebration Show of 2017 Chinese Lunar New Year, Galeries Lafayette Haussman, Paris, France

2016 *Da Hua Shen Guai*, Chinese Museum of Finance Art Center, Beijing, China

Omens: Recent Works by Wu Jian'an, Curated by Wu Hung, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China

Lunar New Year Installation by Wu Jian'an: "Release the Buddhist Mantra", Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

Ten Thousand Things: New Works by Wu Jian'an, Chambers Fine Art, New

Ten Thousand Things: New Works by Wu Jian'an, Chambers Fine Art,

2015 *Transformation: A Tale of Contemporary Art and Intangible Cultural Heritage*, Prince Gong's Palace, Beijing, China

Having Floods under Control, Art Stage Singapore, Singapore

Change of Power, ART021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair, Shanghai, China

2014 *Transformation*, Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, China & New York, USA

Faces, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, China

Having Floods under Control, SCOPE Art Show, Basel, Switzerland

2012 *Seven Layered Shell*, Chambers Fine Art, New York, USA

2011 *Seven Layered Shell*, Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, China

Mountain Ranges, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, Hong Kong

2008 *Heaven of Nine Levels*, Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, China & New York, USA

2006 *Daydreams*, Chambers Fine Art, New York, USA

2005 *Search for Piyongxi (Shadow Play)*, Oil Painting Department Gallery, Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), Beijing, China

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Echo of Water*, MOCA Yinchuan, Ningxia, China
The Rabbit Projects, Chambers Fine Art, New York
Bordercrossing: Possibilities and Interactions, Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2022 *The Trace of Civilization: The Great Art of Dun-huang*, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China
BVLGARI SERPENTI RHAPSODY, BVLGARI, Beijing, China
- 2021 *Laminated Time & Space: Kulangsu Center for Contemporary Art Opening Exhibition*, Kulangsu Center for Contemporary Art, Xiamen, China
The Exhibition of Annual of Contemporary Art of China Shanghai 2020, Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
Chen Yujun, Li Jikai, Wu Jian'an, Wu Junyong, ECHO ARETE, Hangzhou, China
Zeit-geist Co-Evolution: 2021 Chengdu Biennale, Chengdu Art Museum, Chengdu Museum of Contemporary Art, Chengdu, China
Foresights, Guardian Fine Art Asia, Beijing, China
Towards a New Land: Tales of the Ancient Pavilion-Suzhou Garden Art Festival, Pavilion of Surging Waves/Keyuan/Yiyuan/Yipu, Suzhou, China
Ignescent: Group Exhibition of Xennial Artists, Holly's Space, Beijing, China
Chinese Contemporary Art Invitational Exhibition, Songzhuang Art Museum, Beijing, China
Glasstress: Window to the Future, The State Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, USA
Futurism of the Past-Contemplating the Past and Future in Chinese Contemporary Art, Inaugural Exhibition of the Culture and Art Hub of Beijing Exhibition Center, Beijing, China
The Logic of Painting, Xinjiang Art Museum, Urumqi Art at Fuliang 2021-Held·Discovery, Hanxi Village, Fuliang County, Jingdezhen, China
All of You, Art You, Taiyuan, China
Kaiwu: Art and Design from China, Musée de l'Hospice Comtesse, Lille, France

- 2020 *The Illustrated Word: Artwork Inspired by Calligraphy*, Chambers Fine Art, New York, USA
Whole Cloth, SITE131, Dallas, Texas, USA
The Revival of Tradition, Song Art Museum, Beijing, China
7th MoCA Animamix Biennial, MoCA Shanghai, Shanghai, China
The New Classic of Mountains and Seas: Contemporary Art on Chinese Original Myths and Legends, Zhejiang Art Museum, Hangzhou, China
The Endless Life: The Narrative of the Yellow River, The Museum of Contemporary Art Yinchuan, Yinchuan, China
Clouds Gathering and Unfolding: An Exhibition of Contemporary Chinese Art on Paper, Ichihara Lakeside Museum, Ichihara, Japan
Union, Objective Space, Shanghai, China
The Logic of Painting, Shijiazhuang Art Museum, Shijiazhuang, Hebei, China
The Curation WorkshopII, OCAT Shenzhen, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China
- 2019 *Material Traditions*, Chambers Fine Art and Pagoda Red, Chicago, USA
Chambers Review II, Chambers Fine Art, New York, USA
Needlepoint, Chambers Fine Art, New York, USA
- 2018 *Continuum – Generation by Generation*, Pavilion of China, 57th Venice Biennale, Times Art Museum/Ming Contemporary Art Museum, Beijing/
Wu Jian'an and Wang Tianwen: In The Mythical Forest, Aurora Museum, Shanghai, China
Echigo-Tsumari Triennale 2018, Echigo Tsumari, Japan
Where Worlds Weave: Modern Mores and Traditional Miao Values, Today Art Museum/Prince Kung's Mansion, Beijing, China
- 2017 *Continuum - Generation by Generation*, Pavilion of China, 57th Venice
Paper Play: Kindergarten to Contemporary Art, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, USA
HappyChinese New Year: Fantastic Art China, Metropolitan Pavilion, New Impuls: Contemporary Chinese Art, Beinal deCuritiba2017 China/Pais, Homdenageado, Oscar, Niemeyer Museum, Curitiba, Brazil
Fashion Art – Contemporary Dialogues between Fashion and Art, Zhuzhong Art Museum, Beijing, China
SerpentiForm, ArtScience Museum, Singapore; Mori Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Echo of Civilization: Chinese craft art and contemporary art, Empirical Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
Hands Plus Embrace: 2017 Cheongju International Craft Biennale, Cheongju Tobacco Processing Plant, Cheongju, Korea
15th ASIA Arts Festival: The Echo of Civilization-The Beauty of Crafts, Ningbo Museum, Zhejiang, China
Paper into the Fold, Wanying Art Museum, Hebei, China
Medium Utopia-Art Jiangxi Academic Invitational Exhibition, Jiangxi Exhibition Center, Jiangxi, China
Ya Shan, G&G Creative Community, Shenzhen, China
Baton, Shandong Art Museum, Shandong, China

- In Progress-The Annual Exhibition of Teachers in CAFA School of Experimental Art*, Riverside Art Museum, Beijing, China
Reciprocal Enlightenment, Central Academy of Fine Arts Art Museum, Beijing,
- 2016 *Monkey Business: Celebrating the Year of the Monkey*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, USA
July Festival in China House, 2016 Echigo-Tsumari Art Field, Echigo-Tsumari, Niigata, Japan
Beautiful Asset Art Project, Art 16, London, UK
Echo of Civilization: Crossing Dunhuang, Empirical Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
China Now, Gallery@OXO, London, UK
Peony Pavilion Contemporary Art, Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum, Suzhou, Everlasting Mountain and Water: Chinese Landscape in Multiple Dimensions, Hua Yu Hotel, Sanya, China
- 2015 *The Civil Power*, Beijing Minsheng Contemporary Art Museum, Beijing, China
Up – Youth China Young Artists Exhibition 2015, Beijing Times Art Museum, Beijing, China
Hetero – Entity Myths Narration Imagination, E Museum of Contemporary Art, Shenzhen, China
The Carolyn Hsu and René Balcer Collection: Exploring Three Decades of Contemporary Chinese Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
Annual of Contemporary Art in China 2014, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2014 *COSMOS*, Shanghai 21st Century Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Present-ing Recital Louder than Paint, Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai
Ten Years in One Inspection CAFA Achievement Exhibition of Ten – Year – Education on Experimental Art, Central Academy of Fine Arts Art Museum,
- 2013 *The 9th Shanghai Biennale, Zhongshan Park Project – City Memory: Zhangzhou*, Zhangzhou Bihu Exhibition Hall, Fujian, China
Forward! Contemporary Art & Contemporary City, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
The 6th Chengdu Biennale: Relation, Museum of Contemporary Art Chengdu, China
A4 Young Artist Experimental Season, 2nd Round Exhibition, A4 Contemporary Arts Center, Chengdu, China
The 2nd Datong International Sculpture Biennale, Heyang Art Museum, Datong, China
The 8th International Ink Art Biennale of Shenzhen, Guan Shan Yue Art Museum, Shenzhen, China
Time Zone-Creation and Exploration of Contemporary Young College
- 2012 *The First CAFAM – Future Exhibition Sub – Phenomena: Report on the State of Chinese Young Art Nomination*, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China

CHAMBERS FINE ART

前波画廊

- “Explosion!” 2012 CYAP Exhibition*, International Convention Center, Beijing, China
ALLES UNTER DEM HIMMEL GEHORT ALLEN, Chinese Public Art in Kassel, Kassel, Germany
I, Pencil, PIFO Gallery, Beijing, China
Not only Paper, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
China Young Artists Project, Beijing International Conference and Exhibition Center, Beijing, China
Contrast - Inheritance & Development, Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Gallery, Suzhou, China
The Exhibition of Works by Teachers at CAFA 2013, Central Academy of Fine Arts Art, Beijing, China
Also World, T Art Center, Beijing, China.
- 2011 *Mind in Landscape*, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington DC, USA
1+1 A Cross-Strait-Four-Region Artistic Exchange Project, Hexiangning Museum, Shenzhen, China
Start from the Horizon: Chinese Contemporary Art Since 1978, Sishang Art Museum, Beijing, China
Print, Concept, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2010 *Modeling*, Central Academy of Fine Art Art Museum, Beijing, China
River Flows East: Landscapes of the Imagination, The Collection the County Museum of Lincolnshire, England
Beyond Mediations- the 2nd Mediations Biennale, Zamek Culture Center, Poznan, Poland
Sharism-Get It Louder 2010, Sanlitun SOHO, Beijing, China
Post Traditions: Enlarge The Carve, Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
- 2009 *Live and Let Live: Creators of Tomorrow—The 4th Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale*, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
Always—As It Was, Tang Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
Paper! Paper!, Chambers Fine Art, New York, USA
- 2008 *Another Lonely Planet Revisited*, Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, China
A+A’ 2008 The Third A+A, PIFO New Art Studios, Beijing; Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
- 2007 *Net: Re-imagining Space, Time and Culture*, Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, China
A+A’ 2007 The Second A+A, Gallery of Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing;
- 2006 *Coming from Daily Life: The 1st Academy Documentary of Experimental Art*, Zhulou Art Space, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China
New Folk Movement: The Reconstruct of Commonality Living, U Space, Beijing, China
- 2005 *Archaeology of the Future: The 2nd Triennial of Chinese Art*, Nanjing Museum, Nanjing, China

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Fidelity Investments Art Collection, USA

Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan

Museum of Central Academy of Fine Arts, China

National Art Museum of China, China

White Rabbit Collection, Australia

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

21C Museum Hotel, Kentucky, USA

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, USA