

ZHOU YIYAN

Sculptor | Ceramic & Brass



"Reflector" 2026 Brass, stoneware. 84 x 50 x 50 cm

Instagram | zhou_yiyan

What I do

A figure, a form,
That comes from a piece of flint,
That comes from the movement of a dancer,
That brings a reflection.

We reflect, we mirror,
In front of a panel, golden or matte.
We balance, we unbalance,
With a straight or curved line.

We converse, we dialogue,
Through the language of bodies,
And between the parts of the body itself,
Invisible lines traced by visible lines.

A composition,
That consists of two oppositions.
A construction,
That is built through deconstructions.

We open up to receive a graft,
We free ourselves to break out of a circle.

It is on this path,
That I seek new beginnings.



"Reflecting" 2020
Earthenware, polished brass. 40 x 50 x 30 cm



"Irregular Staircase" 2020
Brass, stoneware, polished brass. 88 x 59
x 13 cm



"Duo" 2025
Earthenware, gold slip, 22K gold leaf, brass
plate. 48 x 24 x 11 cm

Zhou Yiyan is a sculptor and visual artist whose work crosses the traditional boundaries of the visual arts.

Each work by Yiyan emerges from a deep reflection on human nature, the relationship between the individual and the environment, and the movements of dance. Inspired by natural forms and the expressions of the human body, she creates evocative sculptures in which clay, porcelain and metals such as brass, bronze and gold intertwine. Her sculptures embody a subtle fusion between the delicacy of earthenware and stoneware and the strength of brass, revealing a constant exploration of contrasts and complementarities.

Alongside her sculptures, Yiyan develops another artistic expression around movement. She combines improvised drawing, sculpture, dance and music to create immersive performances. This reflects her interest in the fluidity of movement and bodily expression, bringing gesture and matter into an intimate dialogue.

She trained in art and design at Shanghai Normal University and in fashion design at Studio Berçot in Paris. Recognized for the quality of her work, she won the Young Craft Creation Prize awarded by Ateliers d'Art de France in 2016. Her work is regularly shown in international galleries and art fairs.



"Leaning Outside the Arch" 2026
Brass, stoneware. 49 x 32 x 20 cm



"Anne" 2024
Earthenware, 22-carat gold leaf, copper leaf, brass plate. 54 x 24 x 16 cm

Alongside my exploration of forms, I am deeply interested in the coexistence of opposites: the combination of materials and visions that are entirely opposed, creating or enriching a new life.

It is an alliance between strength and delicacy, a contrast between warm light and cold light.

Like a play of reflections answering one another, a rebalancing of imbalances, the calming of a bodily movement, or the revelation of the invisible...

I seek to give life to these reflections by inviting brass and gold to enter into dialogue with my clay sculptures.



"Point of Support" 2026
Brass, stoneware. 56 x 23 x 28 cm

The thought "Human beings resemble nature" came to me several years earlier, while photographing flints that looked like human forms.

I created modeled clay sculptures around this first theme, "At the Origin", inspired by flints that I personified.



"Inverted Support"
Brass, glazed stoneware. 52 x 16 x 27 cm

Later, I had the idea of reversing the roles and seeking a counter-meaning through this reflection: beings in motion are similar to objects in nature. This idea came to me while watching the video of a dance piece, where I saw the body resembling an object changing shape at every moment. I then captured the movements of dance in drawings, which became the basis for the "Dancing Woman" sculptures.

This idea developed the sense of joy and power I felt while drawing the dancers' improvisations with musicians. It also gave rise to the performance project "Danclnk"



"Duo in Resonance" 2025
Stoneware. 37 x 13 x 12 cm, 4.6 kg; 37 x 15 x 17 cm



"White and Golden Lighted Figure" 2024
Transparent and white glazed earthenware, imitation gold leaf.
40 x 20 x 16 cm

"Balance - Imbalance - Rebalance"

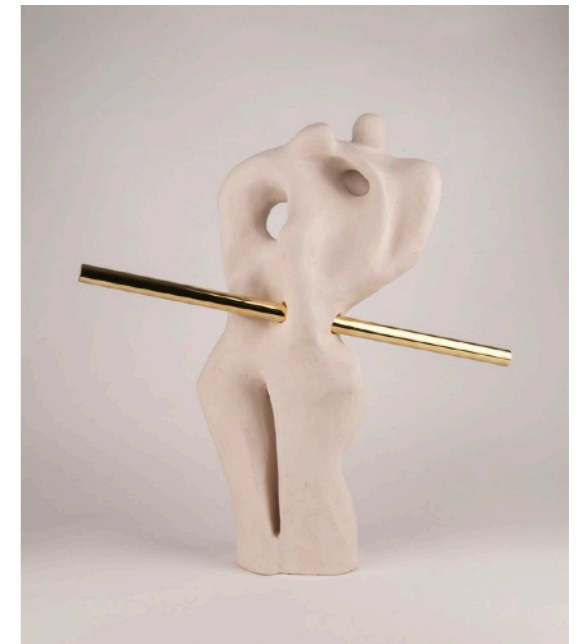
Beyond a reflection on nature's relation to itself and to others,

I seek to explore the evolution of balances and the dialogue between these three states:

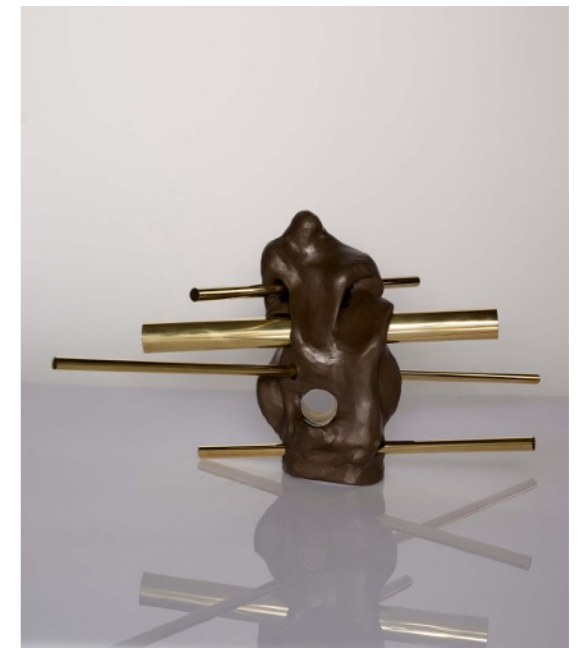
balance, imbalance, rebalance.



"Balancing Couple" 2022 Earthenware, brass tube; 44 x 60 x 50 cm



"Balancing Couple II" 2022
Earthenware, brass tube. 54 x 20 x 15 cm



"Balance IV" 2022
Black earthenware, brass tube. 30 x 17 x 14 cm

"Beings in motion are similar to objects in nature."

This idea came to me while rewatching the video of a choreographic piece: I saw the body resembling an object changing shape at every moment.

I then captured the movements of dance in drawings, which became the basis for the Dancing Woman sculptures.



"Three Dancers Dialoguing in Movement"
2022
Matte and glazed earthenware.
43 x 21 x 9 cm; 20 x 20 x 15 cm;
40 x 14 x 8 cm



"Dancing Woman" 2018
Earthenware. 20 x 22 x 8 cm; 7.5 x 23 x 7 cm



Lydia in Movement,
Stoneware. 13 x 18 x 12 cm



"Circle" 2025
Earthenware, brass. 39 x 39 x 28 cm

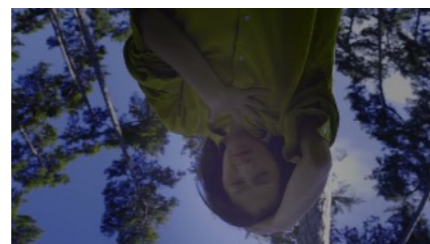
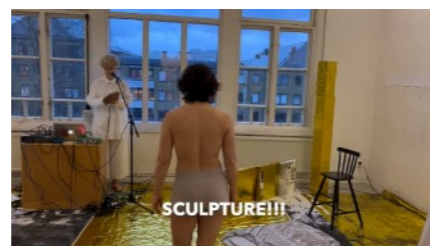
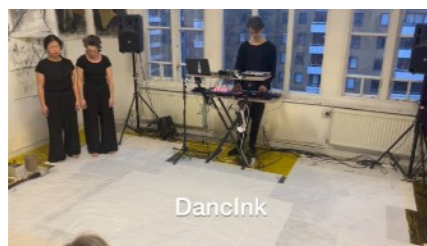
"Danclnk" is an artistic performance in which several artists improvise together, combining dance, music, drawing and painting. The work emerges from spontaneous interactions between the artists, without a predetermined order, creating the piece through the emotions that arise.

"Sculpture!" is a unique artistic performance in which sculpture comes to life through movement and music. The performance brings together a sculptor (myself), a dancer and a musician. Together, we form a creative trio that brings an interactive artwork to life.



Danclnk, London 2020

Links to recorded performances



Sculpture!!! Performance, Gothenburg 2024



ZHOU YIYAN Sculptor

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Permanent Exhibitions

MiniMasterpiece Gallery, Paris

Aquilaluna Gallery, Liège, Belgium

Online Exhibitions

Rise Art, Bleur Art, Saatchi Art

Private Collection

France, Belgium, UK, Hong-Kong, United States

Sculptures Editions

Lumas Gallery

Solo show

2025 Aquilaluna Gallery, Liège, Belgium

2023 « Danse-Silex » Le Carré, St Cloud, France

« Danse-Silex » Galerie GBD, Arnay-le-Duc, France

2022 « Graft » MiniMasterpiece Gallery, Paris

2017 Joseph Déchelette Fine Art Museum of Roanne, France

Biennale of creative jewelery of St Maurice sur Loire, France /Guest of honor

2016 « Circles » MiniMasterpiece Gallery, Paris

Group shows and trade shows

2026 Asnieres-sur-Seine castel, France

2025-26 Makk Museum, Cologne

2024 Aquilaluna Gallery, Liège, Belgium;
ART[s] Gallery, Noordwijk, pays-bas;
FIAA Art Centre, Le Mans, France

2023 France: Contemporary Ceramics center, Giroussens;
Grand Palais Revelation Biennial, Paris;
Asnieres-sur-Seine castel; Francis Barlier Gallery, Paris

2022 The Royal Exchange, London; London design festival;
Collective Design, New York

2018 -20 PAD-Paris Art + Design, Paris; Art Elysée, Paris; Revelation
Grand Palais, Paris; Mouvements Modernes gallery, Paris; 12 Drouot,
Paris; P/CAS PARIS Contemporary art show; BOZAR de Bruxelles;
Collective Design, NY; « Insert Feeling », London; Venice Design, Venice
/in the context of the Venice Architecture Biennale 2018; Milan design week;
Château de Montbron, France; Stadt Museum Düsseldorf and
Deutsches Goldschmiedehaus Hanau, Germany.

Bibliography

2018 « Bijoux Contemporains, une passion » /Editions of Regard

Awards

2017 Friedrich Becker Prize Düsseldorf 2017 /Finalist

2016 Prix de la jeune création des métiers d'Art des Ateliers d'art de France
/Laureate

2012 Grand Prix de la Création de la mairie de Paris /Finalist

Artist residences

2024 Konstpidemin, Gothenburg, Sweden

2019 « Chantons aux vache », Châteauroux, France
Foundry workshop of l'Opidum, Roanne, France

2007 -08 National Manufactory of Sèvres Ceramics
/Discovery of know-how within the workshops

Education

2008 -10 Studio Berçot Paris /Fashion design



Thank you

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