

# ZHOU YĪYAN

*Contemporary Ceramic sculpture*

*And Performance*

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« Reflect » 2020 white earthenware sculptures, polished brass. 40x50x30cm, 5kg



« Half-light » 2024  
Chamotte clay, transparent glaze, 22K gold leaf, polished brass  
40x15x14 cm; 3,5 kg

## 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 think, we reflect  
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 is made 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



Performance « Sculpture! » 2024  
Konstepidemin Art Residency, Göteborg

## Ce que je fait

Une figure, Une forme  
Qui vient d'un morceau de silex  
Qui vient du mouvement d'une danseuse  
Qui amène une réflexion

On réfléchit, on se reflète  
Devant un panneau doré ou mat  
On s'équilibre, se déséquilibre  
Avec une ligne droite ou courbée

Dialoguer, on dialogue  
Par le langage des corps  
Et entre les parties du corps lui-même  
Les lignes invisibles tracées par les lignes  
visibles

Une composition  
Qui se compose de deux oppositions  
Une construction  
Qui se construit par des dé-constructions

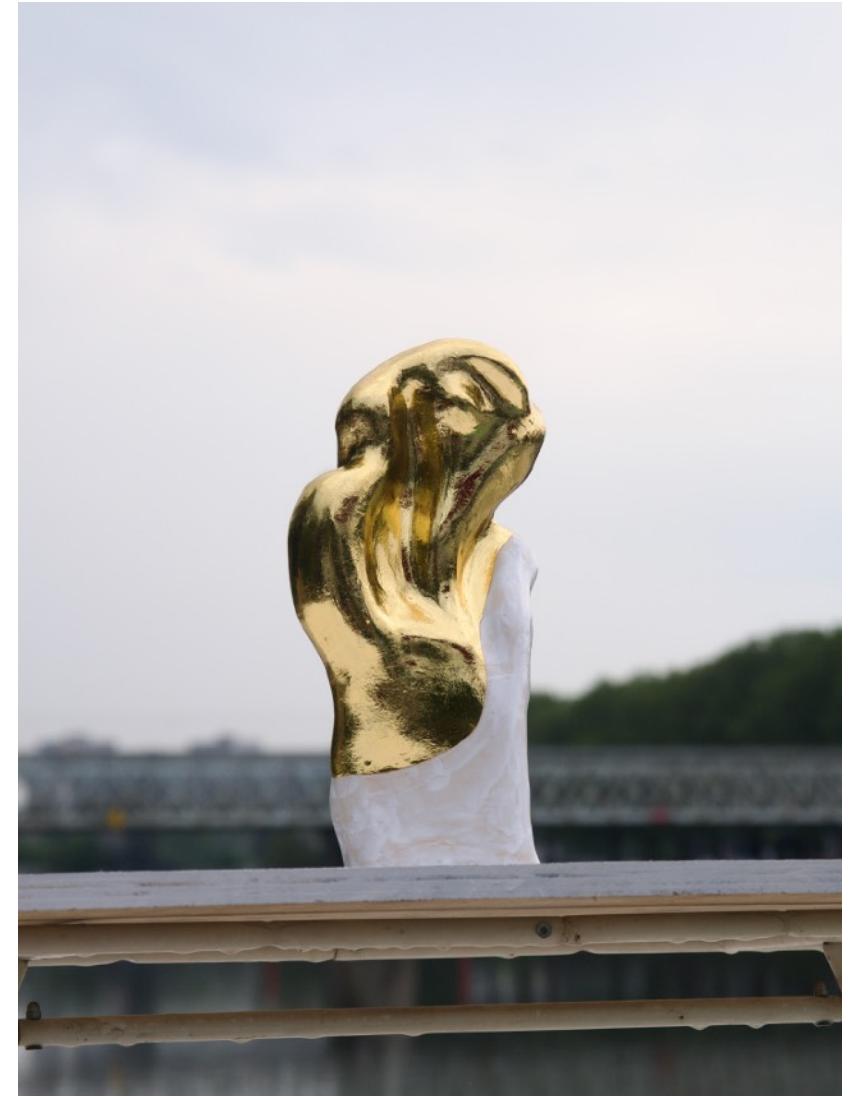
On s'ouvre pour accueillir une greffe  
On se libère pour sortir d'un cercle

C'est sur ce chemin  
Que je cherche de nouvelles naissances

**Zhou Yiyan** is a contemporary sculptor based in France whose work transcends traditional boundaries in visual arts. Each of Yiyan's creations stems from deep reflections on human nature, the relationship between beings and their environment, and the movements of dance. Inspired by natural forms and expressions of the human body, she crafts evocative sculptures where earth, porcelain, and metals like brass, bronze, and gold intertwine. Her sculptures embody a subtle fusion of the delicacy of ceramics with the robustness of brass, revealing a constant exploration of contrasts and complements.

In addition to her sculptures, Yiyan explores another artistic expression centered around movement. She combines improvisations in drawing, sculpture, dance, and music to create immersive performances. This illustrates her fascination with fluidity of movement and bodily expression, integrating gesture and material in an intimate dialogue.

Originally from Anhui China, Yiyan received her education in art and design from Shanghai Normal University and studied fashion design at Studio Berçot in Paris. Her work has been celebrated for its beauty and originality, including winning the Young Creation Award in crafts, organized by Les Ateliers d'Art de France, in 2016. Her work is regularly showcased in international art galleries and fairs.



« White and golden lighted figure » 2024  
Chamotte earthenware, transparent and white glaze, imitation gold leaf  
40x20x16cm, 7kg





« Anne » 2024  
Chamotte earthenware, 22-karat gold leaf, copper leaf, brass plate.  
54x24x16 cm, 10 kg

*Alongside the exploration of forms, I am deeply interested in the coexistence of opposites: the combination of two completely opposing materials and visions that create or enrich a new life. It is an alliance of robustness and delicacy, as well as a contrast between warm and cold light.*

*Like reflecting reflections, rebalancing imbalances, calming a body's movement, or making the invisible visible... I aim to bring these thoughts to life by inviting brass and gold to join my clay sculptures.*



« Figure with a golden part » 2024  
Chamotte earthenware, transparent glaze,  
gold leaf, polished brass;  
44x20x15cm, 8kg

The reflection 'Man resembles nature' came to me a few years ago when photographing flints that looked like human forms. I then began modeling clay, inspired by these flints, which I personified.



Draw in movement ,Charcoal on paper, A3

Later, I had the idea of reversing the roles and exploring the opposite of this reflection: moving beings resemble objects of nature. This idea appeared to me while re-watching the video of a dance piece, where I saw the body resembling an object, changing shape at every moment. I captured these dance movements in drawings, which became the foundation of the 'Dancing Woman' sculptures.

This idea evolved the feeling of joy and power I experienced while drawing the improvisations of the dancers with musicians. It also gave birth to the performative project "DancInk"



Bleur art, London 2020



« Duo in Resonance » 2025 Black Grogged Stoneware  
37x13x12, 4,6 kg, 37,5x15x17 cm, 4,6 kg



« Feminine figure » 2021 Chamotte earthenware; 45x25x12cm, 5kg

*' Balance-Imbalance-Rebalance '*

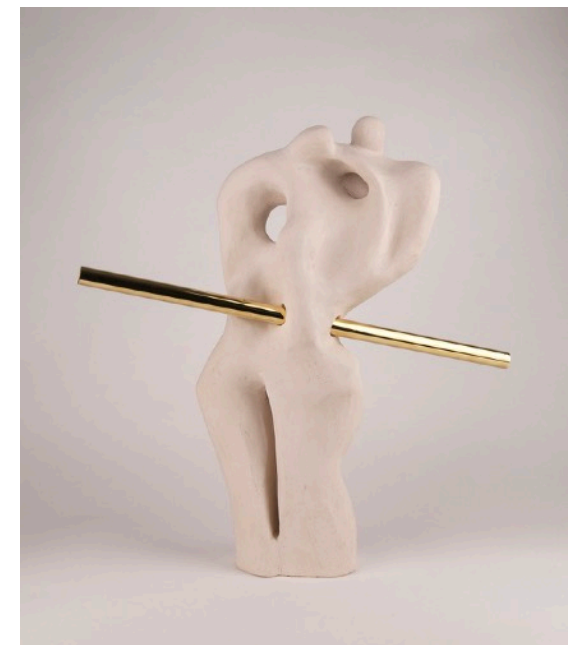
*Beyond a reflection on the relationship of nature with itself and with others,  
I seek the evolution of balances and the dialogue between these three stages:  
balance, imbalance, rebalance.*



« Couple balances each other » 2022 Chamotte earthenware, brass; 44x60x50cm;7kg



« Couple » Charcoal on paper, A3



« Couple-couple balances each other II » 2022  
Chamotte earthenware, brass; 54x20x15; 6kg





Drawings at studio, Charcoals on papers

*Moving beings are similar to objects of nature.' This idea came to me when, re-watching the video of a dance piece, I saw the body resembling an object that changed shape at every moment. I then captured the dance movements in drawings, which became the foundation of the 'Dancing Woman' sculptures.*



« Three dancers conversing in movement »  
2022 Chamotte earthenware sculptures  
43x21x9cm , 4kg ; 20x20x15cm, 3kg  
40x14x8cm, 3kg



« Dancing woman » 2018 Black and white earthenware  
20x22x8cm, 2kg; 7,5x23x7cm; 2kg



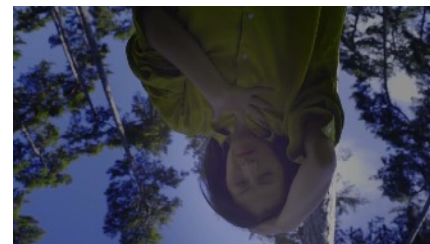
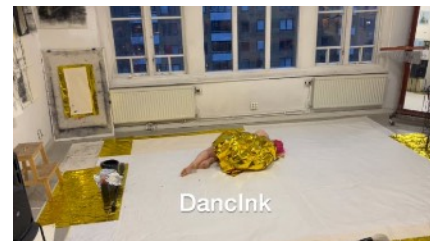
« Three Graces » 2018  
Black clay, brass rod; 19x10x7cm, 0,7kg,; 18x10x6cm, 0,7kg; 18x10x8cm, 0,6kg



"DancInk" is an artistic performance where multiple artists improvise together, blending dance, music, drawing, and painting. This work emerges from spontaneous interactions among the artists, with no predetermined order, creating the piece as emotions are felt.

"Sculpture!" is a unique artistic performance where sculpture comes to life through movement and music. This performance consists of a sculptor (myself), a dancer, and a musician. Together, we form a creative trio that brings an interactive work of art to life.

*links to the performance show*



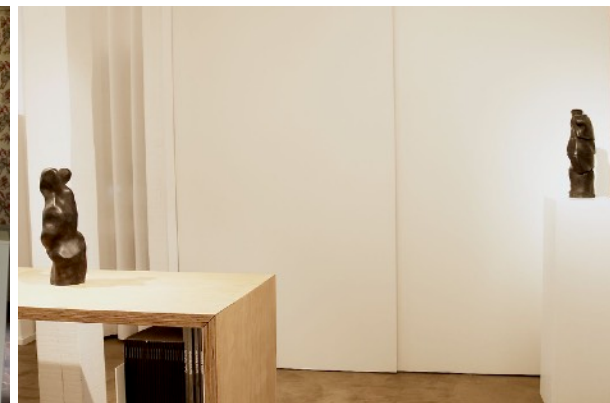
DancInk performance show, Göteborg 2024



« Sculpture! » performance show , Göteborg 2024



## Exhibitions





# ZHOU YIYAN Sculptor

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Based in France

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La Maison des Artistes : Z115184

ADAGP : 1324721 / CNFAP

## 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

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

2002 -07 College of Fine Arts of Shanghai Normal University /Art & Design