

DING YI

(Shanghai, China, 1962)



Ding Yi's career includes studies in decorative arts at the Shanghai School of Arts & Crafts, a position as a designer in a toy factory, and studies in traditional Chinese painting at Shanghai University. The diversity of this background has been reflected, in his work, in the simultaneous coexistence of a high degree of apparent mechanization, repetition and precision, along with a creative impulse towards novelty and formal experimentation.

Though as a student he already favored abstraction, it was in 1988, when he began the infinite series called *Appearance of Crosses*, in which he started to develop a unique visual language that contradicted the typical formats of Chinese painting of that time. Using the cross as a formal referent, sometimes emptied from meaning, and sometimes associated with negation, Ding Yi established a distance from expression and the sentiment that predominated in his artistic environment. The idea of combining the principles of design with those of painting resulted, then, in an approach that he has called "the rational abstract", in which the rigor of the lattice coincides with the dynamism of stroke and color.

His artistic practice includes painting, sculpture and installation, and is circumscribed by the idea of promoting the autonomy of the artistic field beyond politics and history. As he has stated: "abstract art can represent the spirit".

Currently lives and works in Shanghai, China.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2026 Cosmotechnics: Ding Yi as a Planetary Code, Fondaziones Querini Stampalia, Venice, Italy
- 2025 Ding Yi: The Winding Path, Anthropology Museum of Yunnan University, Yunnan, China
The Road to Heaven, Lisson Gallery, London, UK
Between Prediction and Retrospection, Mostyn Gallery, Llandudno, Wales
- 2024 Constellations, Galerie Karsten Greve, Köln, Germany
Ding Yi: Prediction and Retrospection, Oscar Niemeyer Auditorium, Château La Coste, France
Crisscrosses: Ding Yi's Public Art for Twenty Years, Yangpu Waterfront, Shanghai, China
- 2023 Ding Yi: Cross Galaxy, Shenzhen Museum of Contemporary Art and Urban Planning, Shenzhen, China
Dimension of "crosses", Mojie Art Museum, Taiyuan, China
- 2022 Flowing Infinity, TAG Art Museum, Qingdao, China
Multiverse: Ding Yi in Tibet, Jebum-Gang Art Center & Shide Space, Lhasa, China
Anomalous Galaxies, Galería RGR, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2021 Ding Yi: Lightscares, Timothy Taylor, New York, USA
Ding Yi: Highlight, Galerie Karsten Greve, St. Moritz, Switzerland
- 2020 The Cross Style, Long Museum ChongQing, ChongQuing, China
Appearance of Crosses, Nova Contemporary, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2019 Rim Light, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany
- 2018 +x30 Years — Ding Yi's Works, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
- 2017 Appearance of Crosses: A Chronicle, Xi'an Art Museum, Xi'an, China
- 2016 Ding Yi-Art Unlimited Art Basel 2016, Booth Nr. U54, Basel, Switzerland
Re-Appearance of Crosses, Ding Yi Solo Show, Hubei Museum of Art, Wuhan, Hubei, China
- 2015 Ding Yi: What's Left to Appear, Long Museum (West Bund), Shanghai, China
- 2013 2013 Art Changsha, Changsha City Museum, Hunan Province, China
- 2011 Ding Yi: Specific · Abstracted, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2008 Appearance of Crosses from 1989-2007, Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

- 1998 Ding Yi: Crosses '89-'98, International Art Palace, Beijing, China
- 1997 Ding Yi: Crosses '97, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 1994 Exhibition of Ding Yi's Abstract Art Works, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2026 Threads of Kinship, He Art Museum, Guangdong, China
Architectures Inscriptions, TANK, Shanghai, China
- 2025 Re-Constallations: 5th Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art, Zhejiang Art Museum, Hangzhou, China
Behind the Screen Vol. 1 - The Intermate Space, Galería RGR, Mexico City, Mexico
On Paper: The Warmth and Depth of Painting Media, Powelong Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2024 I Thought I Lost It!, Hakgojae Gallery, Seoul, Korea
A Constellation of Cities: Contemporary Art and Experimentation in Southern China and Beyond, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
- 2023 Aranya Plein Air, Jin Shan Ling, Chengde, Hebei Province, China
Return to nature, Pearl Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Beyond 2003-2023, Ming Contemporary Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Guangzhou Triennial, Museo de Arte de Guangdong, Guangzhou, China
Harmonious Symbiosis – The 3rd Xinjiang International Arts Biennale, Xinjiang Art Museum, Urumqi, China
Jebum-gang: rebirth of an ancient mandala, Jiulong Yiku New Community Art Center, Chongqing, China
- 2022 Start, Star Museum, Shanghai, China
Greater than abstraction, Space 185 Bund Art Center, Shanghai, China
Rhythm and Refrain, Song Art Museum, Beijing, China
Eternal Seasons, LGDR, Hong Kong
- 2021 From Revolution to Globalisation, M+ Museum, Hong Kong
III Bienal de Anren Biennale, Chengdu, China
Between and Beyond, Shandong Art Museum, Jinan, China
Marginalism, Yan Art, Beijing, China
Waves and Echoes: A Process of Re-contemporarization in Chinese Art Circa 1987 Revisited, Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum, Beijing, China

- 2020 Waves and Echoes: A Process of Re-contemporarization in Chinese Art Circa 1987 Revisited, Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum, Beijing, China
- Ensemble Urbain, APSMUSEUM, Shanghai, China
- Sheng Mo, Zhu Qizhan Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- Vitality of Variables, HOW Art Museum, Wenzhou, China
- Duration: Chinese Art in Transformation, Beijing Mingsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China
- Psychedelic, Urban Landscape and Abstraction, Mingyuan Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- On Sabbatical, West Bund Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2019 The Return of Guests, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China
- 1st Airport Biennale, Airport Town, Guangzhou, China
- The Challenging Soul, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China
- Daybreak, The Barn Contemporary Art Space, Shenzhen, China
- 2018 From 1978 To 2018: Art History Shaped by 40 Artists, Shanghai Powerlong Museum, Shanghai, China
- Ambush on All Sides — Another Kind of Social Vision Intervention, Sichuan Fine Art Institute Art Museum (Tiger City University), Chongqing, China
- Chinese Spirit: The 4th Chinese Oil Painting Exhibition in Beijing, China Art Museum, Beijing, China
- Turning Point - 40 Years of Chinese Contemporary Art, The Long Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2017 Bye Bye De Stijl, Contemporary Artists Respond to De Stijl, Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Tracing The Past and Shaping The Future - Powerlong Museum Grand Opening, Powerlong Museum, Shanghai, China
- Capacity x Tension, Shanghai International Printmaking Exhibition 2017, China Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- Longitude, Latitude - Kesi Dialogue With Contemporary Art, Chengdu MOCA, Chengdu, China
- 2016 Permanent Abstraction - Epiphanies of Modern Form in Escaped Totalities, Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing, China
- Share On Site Exhibited Artwork Permanent Abstraction: Epiphanies of a Modern Form In Escaped Totalities, Red Brick Art Museum, Beijing, China
- Abstraction and Beyond: A Research- Based Tour Exhibition of Chinese Art, Shanghai Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- An/Other Avant-grade China-Japan-Korea, 7th Edition of Busan Biannual, Busan Museum of modern Art, South Korea
- 2015 Dunhuang - Song of Living Beings, Shanghai Himalayas Museum, Shanghai, China
- Shanghai Flowers, 30 Years of Shanghai Contemporary Art, Songjiang Contemporary Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- Jing Shen, The Act of Painting in Contemporary China, Milan Museum of Contemporary Art, Italy
- Abstract Art Exhibition in Asia, Poly Art Museum, Beijing, China

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 Shanghai Flowers, 30 Years of Shanghai Contemporary Art, Songjiang Contemporary Art Museum, Shanghai, China
 Jing Shen, The Act of Painting in Contemporary China, Milan Museum of Contemporary Art, Italy
 Abstract Art Exhibition in Asia, Poly Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2014 Myth/History: Yuz Collection of Contemporary Art, Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China
 Re-View, Opening Exhibition of Long Museum West Bund, Long Museum (West Bund), Shanghai, China
- 2013 Shanghai Art Exhibition in Beijing, The National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
 Un Nuevo Horizonte, Exposición de Arte Chino Contemporáneo, Conde Duque Center, Madrid, Spain
 A New Spring in Ink, Contemporary Space Ink 2013 Beijing, Museum of Contemporary Art Beijing, Beijing, China
- 2012 Meet Taipei, Shanghai Oil Painting & Sculpture Exhibition, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
 Through All Ages, New Style: Invitation Inaugural Exhibition of Long Museum, The Long Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2011 A New Horizon - Contemporary Chinese Art, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, Australia
 Verso Est, Chinese Architectural Landscape, National Museum of XXI Century Arts, MAXXI Architettura Gallery 1, Rome, Italy
 Chinese Abstract Slow Art, Singer Laren Museum, Netherlands
- 2010 Shanghai, Asian Art Museum, California, USA
 Thirty Years of Chinese Contemporary Art, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
 Photo Exhibition of Contemporary Artists, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2009 Collision, Experimental Cases of Contemporary Chinese Art, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
 Out of Shanghai, Museum gegenstandsfreier Kunst, Otterndorf, Germany
 Mahjong: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection, Peabody Essex Museum, Massachusetts, USA
- 2008 The Tale of Silk: A Hermès Exhibition, Beijing Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
 Writing on the Wall, Chinese New Realism and Avant-Garde in the Eighties and Nineties, The Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands
 Red Aside, Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection, The Joan Miró Foundation, Barcelona, Spain
 History of River - Chinese Oil Painting in New Era, The National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China

- 1999 Open the Channel, Dongyu Museum of Fine Arts, Shenyang, China
- 1997 China!, Artists' House, Vienna, Austria; Zacheta Art Museum, Warsaw, Poland; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
- The Collection of Shanghai Art Museum, Incheon New World Art Museum, Incheon, South Korea
- New Art Work from China, Flanders Contemporary Art, Minnesota, USA
- The Chinese Roots, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- Quotation Marks, Chinese Contemporary Paintings, National Art Museum, Singapore, Singapore
- In Between Limits, An Aspect of Chinese Contemporary Art, Sonje Museum of Contemporary Art, Kiungju, South Korea
- 1991 Shanghai Modern Art, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan
- 1989 China/Avant-Garde Art Exhibition, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China



COLLECTIONS

The City of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

University of Sydney Art Collection, Sydney, Australia

Chinese Modern Art Foundation, Ghent, Belgium

Stichting Van Tuyckom Foundation, Brussels, Belgium

Z-art Centre, Shanghai, China

Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangdong, China

Hubei Museum of Art, Wuhan, Hubei, China

Chengdu Museum of Contemporary Art, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

The National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China

Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China

Long Museum, Shanghai, China

Taikang Collection, Beijing, China

China Art Museum, Shanghai, China

Fosun Foundation, New York, USA

Hammer Museum, Gift of the Haudenschild Collection, California, USA

Pacific Asia Museum at University of Southern California, California, USA

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

George Pompidou National Center of Art and Culture, Paris, France

Foundation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France

Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan

Morioka City Library, Morioka, Japan

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, UK

British Museum, London, UK

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