

About the artist:



Yan Bingqing in his studio with his cats in Shanghai, 2023. Image courtesy to the artist.

Yan Bingqing was born in Shanghai in 1983 and graduated from the oil painting department of China Academy of Art with a master's degree in 2009. As one of the most important portrait artists of the post-80s generation in China, now he lives and works in Shanghai. In recent years, Yan Bingqing's creations have mainly focused on tempera painting on wooden panels. He has always been trying to find a state of "authenticity" in his paintings - to face things truthfully and to face oneself truthfully. The figures in the artist's works usually appear in front of the viewers in an unnatural posture and are often naked. He admits that he can precisely control the expression of a figure's body, but often cannot imagine what these people would look like when dressed; to be precise, clothes inherently carry too many hidden attributes - gender, age, era, preferences, culture, class, nationality. Therefore, when a figure is dressed, the expression may deviate from the pure state of the body itself, and expressing this pure state is very important - painting is the way for the artist to resist these external forces that he fundamentally doesn't need, and this seemingly insignificant resistance is part of his practice. In addition to painting, Yan Bingqing has also created many clay sculptures, pouring his most carefree state into them, exploring the act of "creation" as freely as a child.

Yan Bingqing is not an artist who likes to be into the limelight; he is suited to blend in with the crowd, following skillfully like a detective in crowded streets and alleys, or hiding in cheap hotels, peeking through the corner of curtains and peering through binoculars, and objects he follows or peers at are everything that could be pieced together into art —— absurd world situations, extraordinary moments, awkward poses, allusions in the art history, and fantastic thoughts in his mind. With a playful curiosity and enthusiasm, he turns the world into a game, allowing the viewer to plunge from surface to the inside, fall into the labyrinth of the ancient times and the modern society, the illusory and the real, and to go for the mystery that is either light or heavy.

Selected exhibitions / fairs:

NADA New York Solo Project "Look Me in the Eye", Cub_ism_ Artspace, New York/USA, 2025

"Camera Obscura", Cub_ism_ Artspace, Shanghai/China, 2024

Solo Project "Entangled" at Westbund Art Fair, Shanghai/China, 2023

"GE-SICHT: Masks and Portraits", Cub_ism_ Artspace, Shanghai/China, 2023

"Multiple Refraction —— The Ghost of Modernism", Cub_ism_ Artspace, Shanghai/China, 2023

Westbund Art Fair, Cub_ism_ Artspace, Shanghai/China, 2022

Solo exhibition "The Mystery of Enamoured", ZHEJIANG ART MUSEUM, Hangzhou/China, 2021

Solo exhibition "Monodrama", Line Gallery, Beijing/China, 2020

Solo exhibition "Ridiculous", Line Gallery, Beijing/China, 2018

Solo exhibition "Hormone", hiart space, Beijing/China, 2015