



Yan Dafu (b. 1994) received his MA from Chelsea College of Arts, University of the Arts London, and is currently based in Hangzhou. His practice investigates the space—both conceptual and physical—between the macro-anxieties of geopolitics and the micro-realities of individual existence. Working primarily through installation, sculpture, and painting, he translates abstract tensions of safety and unease into a material “negotiation” between object and space.

Yan approaches his studio as a testing ground, where material properties and manual processes act as conceptual “generators.” His works form circulatory systems that connect external phenomena with internal perception—functioning not as declarative statements, but as provisional sites for contemplation, touch, and potential reconfiguration.

Biography

1994 born in Hunan, CN

lives and works in Hangzhou, CN

Education

2020 MA, University of the Arts London, London, UK

2016 BA, Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts, Shenyang, CN

Solo exhibitions:

2024 *Hunting*, BLANK Gallery, Shanghai, CN

2023 *Logistics*, Imagokinetics, Hangzhou, CN

Group exhibitions (selection):

2026 *A Constellation of Methods*, ARCH Gallery, Shanghai, CN

2025 *Unboxing the Box*, Gallery OM, Shanghai, CN

Nature Through a Glass, REFLEXION Gallery, Beijing, CN

2024 *HumanScapes*, BLANKgallery, Shanghai, CN

Strait is the Gate, MC Gallery, Shenzhen, CN

2023 *A Way of Crossing Space*, Levant Art Gallery, Shanghai, CN

Lightness of being, Gallery OM, Shanghai, CN

Flux Zone, BLANK Gallery, Shanghai, CN

Idea Images, Epoch Art Museum, Wenzhou, CN

lín láng mǎn mù, Inna Art Space, Hangzhou, CN

2022 *Unknown*, 33ml Offspace, Shanghai, CN

2021 *Hereditary Territory*, Shanghai Powerlong Museum, Shanghai, CN

Freefall, 33ml Offspace, Shanghai, CN

2020 *Backlight*, 33ml Offspace, Shanghai, CN

Fragile Relation, Seewell International Art Center, Fuzhou, CN

Residency

2026 A4 International Creator Residency, Chengdu, CN

Workshops, Lectures & Public Engagement

2026 Space Operation & Project Initiative, Mediums art workshop, Hangzhou, CN

2025 Hands on Work : Fine Art Installation Workshop, China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, CN

2020 Space Operation & Project Initiative, 33ml Offspace, Shanghai, CN