

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ZIAN**



Curator: Rongwei Li

# JIANGHU: The Discrete Center

2024.3.30 - 2024.5.15

ZIAN Gallery

20-2 Chekengwu, Yuhang District, Hangzhou

In martial arts novels, "*Jianghu* (江湖)" is the stage where heroes and villains engage in intrigue—a realm far removed from the courtly formalities and a vivid battleground for human nature. From its inception, "*Jianghu* (江湖)" symbolises the isolation of individual lives from one another. The phrase "Better to drift apart than to cling together half-heartedly (相濡以沫, 不如相忘于江湖)," as echoed by the characters in martial arts tales, captures both a poetic allure and profound depth. Yet, it also reflects the unavoidable separation driven by material pressures, religious norms, and familial or national conflicts. The clash between individual insignificance and collective power demands inner strength and unwavering faith. In essence, this encapsulates the subtle essence of "disperse." Is proximity or distance a matter of personal preference, or does it lay the groundwork for peaceful coexistence?

The "*Jianghu* (江湖)," far removed from the corridors of power, is intertwined with nature; the gathering of primitive tribes bolsters their survival in the face of environmental challenges. The transition from nomadic to settled life brought scattered individuals together. However, modern urbanisation has estranged individuals from their innate freedom, independence, and solitude. "Disperse" also underscores the separation between humanity and nature. From stark divides to the contemporary trend of "reconnecting with nature," it seems to follow a cyclical pattern dictated by destiny. Humanity, as the offspring of nature, neither conquers nor seamlessly integrates with its surroundings. The rejection or deliberate distance from centralisation prompts a balancing act between personal and collective time.

Is it a choice to immerse oneself in urban life or to seek the freedom of navigating between nature and the city? Is self-exile the beginning, journey, or end of life's odyssey? Reflecting on the globalisation led by neoliberalism and urbanisation, the dispersion of centralisation embodies an attitude—the multi-centralisation of urban geography in cities like Hangzhou (Shenzhen) reflects a dispersed reorganisation of urban spaces. Within dispersion lies the discovery of new meanings after the deconstruction and reconstitution of the central concept. Can our current lifestyle and production methods truly detach from nature, or does the notion of an "imagined nature" signify an "imagined future"?

Regardless of acknowledgment, we find ourselves living within an irretrievable natural order. This reality urges us to adopt a critical and constructive approach, always remaining vigilant about the "imagined future." This exhibition aims to present a perspective that juxtaposes the center with the periphery, exploring how individual autonomy shapes the coexistence of the center and periphery. Artists will reflect on themes such as *Jianghu* (江湖)//court, nature//non-nature, center//non-center, and aggregation//dispersion, sharing stories from their personal perspectives entrenched in the center while immersed in the *Jianghu* (江湖). Through various mediums like images, videos, paintings, spaces, and installations, they'll delve into the relationship between themselves as artists and their surroundings.

Additionally, the basement will be presenting a special screening "Go with the Flow", curated by guest curator Baiqi Chen.

May each individual find their own "*Jianghu* (江湖)."

## Artists

Andrej Auch	Francesco di Biasi	Chujing Fan	Weixuan Guo
Lei Gao	Xinyu Han	Yanan Jin	Gergory Kitterle
Langqing Liu	Guoqiang Liu	Enrico Minguzzi	Tao Peng
Nicola Samori	Yiyi Wang	Xingyun Wang	Shibin Yang
Muxi Zhuo			

## About Gallery

Established in Hangzhou, China in 2022 and quickly expanded its activities to New York, ZIAN Gallery is a global gallery specialising in modern and contemporary art. Working with a wide range of distinguished contemporary artists, ZIAN is dedicated to discovering, exploring and promoting art that has an inclination on dynamic, vigorous and energetic gesture, and to fostering the career of emerging and mid-career artists in global context. ZIAN focuses on the spontaneous and intuitive nature of life in art that demonstrates the emotions and psyches of individual life experience through the expression of form, media and subject. Since its inception, the gallery has been exploring and nurturing singular and innovative works of art across genres and media in the context of contemporary states of being.

Designed by German architect Andreas Ruhland, the gallery features a four-story complex with interior spaces designed by Debelle de Montby. It includes galleries as well as an independent sculpture garden dedicated to showcasing and hosting large-scale public sculptures and projects. The gallery's flexible and open exhibition environment transcends spatial limitations, enabling the artworks to interact and engage with the surroundings and the audience on a deeper level. This creates a fresh and immersive exhibition experience for visitors.

### For Further Information and Press Inquiries, Please Contact:

Jaden Zhang  
info@ziangallery.com