

未名之地

BEYOND INTERPRETATION

Leo Gallery Shanghai

ARTIST: Yan Bo

OPENING: September 13, 2024, 4-8 PM

DURATION: September 13 - October 27, 2024

VENUE: Leo Gallery 1st Floor Space, 376 Wu Kang Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai



FOREWORD

Leo Gallery is pleased to present Yan Bo's solo exhibition *Beyond Interpretation* from 13 September to 27 October 2024, bringing together the artist's works from the past three years.

"Beyond Interpretation" refers to forms, things, or realms that remain undefined and beyond interpretation through language. All the works featured in this exhibition are named *Untitled*, representing Yan Bo's practice of severing the interference of language with painting. When a work is given a fixed and singular title, it inherently establishes a point of reference, which can often disrupt the instinctive response of the viewer. Only when language falls short does vision become the sole pathway to perceiving the work. The "uninterpreted" pieces are purely connected with the act of viewing, offering a purified visual language.

These "uninterpreted" works reflect the artist's deliberate choice to resist interpretation and return to the essence of form while also pointing to an open creative methodology. In his creative process, Yan Bo persistently pursues "defamiliarization" in logic. By constructing a context of logical estrangement and establishing unique technical support, his works, through irregular shapes and complex images, exhibit an ever-changing sense of uncertainty. This approach requires the artist to remain constantly vigilant, keenly aware of the potential stagnation in his creative thinking, and continuously break away from existing creative systems. After reaching a pinnacle of complexity, he returns towards simplicity.

In this exhibition, the visual world that Yan Bo presents is an undefined one, refusing to be interpreted by words. The act of "resisting interpretation" points towards the freedom that constitutes the worldview of Yan Bo's artistic universe. Through the cyclical process of breaking and rebuilding, Yan Bo continuously constructs new artistic worlds for himself, sustaining the vitality and uniqueness of his creation.

ARTIST INTRODUCTION

Yan Bo born in 1970 in Beijing to an artistic family, his father was an oil painter and his mother was an art teacher. He graduated from the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in 1996, and graduated from the postgraduate program in oil painting materials and expression at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing in 2002. He now lives and works in Beijing.

Yan Bo's artistic practice breaks the constraints of traditional rectangular frames, focusing on three-dimensional non-figurative works. His deep understanding of structure, form, color, space, and material has led to a maturation of his artistic language. Yan Bo's works set up a kind of discursive "special objects" in the mixed zone of painting and objects, in which Yan Bo sets up a kind of "logical strangeness", and he establishes a kind of logically unfamiliar context and unique technical support, so that the works, with their open irregular shapes and the traces of time's stacking and sharpening, present the spirit palpable and seemingly warm freedom.

Yan Bo has held exhibitions in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and other places multiple times in recent years, and has won the Gold Prize at the 10th National Art Exhibition in 2004, the Distinguished Young Artist Prize of Shanghai Spring Art Salon and so on. His works are collected by the National Art Museum of China, the National Museum of Modern Chinese Literature, as well as other prestigious institutions.