

## 近处的风景

### NEARBY SCENERY

Leo Gallery Shanghai

ARTIST: Fang Yang

CURATOR: Ning Wen

OPENING: July 27, 2024 4-6PM

DURATION: July 27 to September 8, 2024

VENUE: Ferguson Lane, 376 Wu Kang Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai



## FOREWORD

**Continuously observing the changes in the public environment around me is the starting point of my creative practice. - Fang Yang**

Fang Yang's creations are rooted in contemporary social landscapes. His ongoing interest lies in observing and contemplating daily life and the surrounding environment. Using simple forms and readily available materials, he seeks relatively free modes of expression within constraints. "Land, plants, buildings, and everyday objects gradually become spiritual symbols in my creative practice. I use them to record past and present stories, transforming them into artworks."

The frequent ecological disasters worldwide lately are nature's alarm bells for humanity. The conflict between survival development and ecological protection has always been a complex issue. From the emergence of Land art in the late 1960s, to the formation of Ecology art in the 1990s, and the hotly debated Ecofeminism in recent years., artists have been using various forms of art to express their concerns about nature and ecology.

Conceptually, "ecological art" encompasses natural ecology, social ecology, and cultural ecology, addressing related content and discourse of the three topics. From this perspective, Fang Yang's "Nearby Scenery" sculpture series can also be seen as "ecological sculptures."

Fang Yang's habit of promptly recording changes in the living environment through sketching and photography has accumulated a wealth of material for his creations. The artist attempts to document and discuss public environmental issues closely related to him through his works. He often uses discarded materials and ready-made objects generated during urban construction, creating sculptures and installations through arranging, carving, molding, and casting.

The exhibition theme *Nearby Scenery* is derived from a new series Fang Yang began in 2022. In these nearby sceneries, lie a few trees, a person, a house...The works appear tranquil on the surface but possess strong social critique and reflection at their core. Within the visible range, the artist collects materials on-site, and creates a batch of "landscape sculptures" by sketching on the spot and creating in the studio. These works

express concern about the survival state of people amidst the rapid urban development and transition in contemporary China, the changing relationships between people and society, and the evolving modes of interaction between humans and nature.

By pausing in the present, and delving into life, we will see a different landscape.

Text / Ning Wen

## ARTIST INTRODUCTION

### Fang Yang

Born in 1990 in Hubei province, China, Fang Yang now works and lives in Wuhan, Hubei province. He graduated from the Department of Sculpture of Hubei Institute of Fine Arts with a bachelor's degree in 2015. In 2019, he graduated from the Sculpture Department of Hubei Institute of Fine Arts with a master's degree.

Fang Yang has participated in numerous exhibitions, including the "2nd Suzhou Sculpture Exhibition," "Growth - Young Artists Invitational Exhibition," "2nd Donghu International Eco-Sculpture Biennale," "City of Light: Shanghai Contemporary Sculpture and Installation Art Expo," and the "3rd Hubei Youth Sculpture Biennale." He has received several prestigious awards, such as the finalist award of the 11th "Tomorrow Sculpture Award," the Excellence Award at the "Praise the New Era - Hubei Youth Art Exhibition and Contemporary Trendy Art Exhibition," the first K11 Emerging Art Creation Award, and the finalist award for the annual SAP (China) Iconic Style Art Award. His works are collected by He Art Museum, Zhi Art Space, and various private collectors.

## CURATOR INTRODUCTION

### Ning Wen

Curator, columnist for FT.com  
Current Art Director of ARTnews China

She graduated from Beijing Normal University and Goldsmiths, University of London. She has participated in the facilitation and international promotion of many private art institutions in China, including Three Shadows Photography Art Center, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Taikang Life Art Collection Department/Taikang Space, and CHAO Art Center. She is also a guest writer for ARTFORUM China, TANC, Wallpaper, Art Collection (Taiwan). Ning Wen served as the publicity director of the 2018 Chengdu-Pompidou: Cosmopolis #1.5: Enlarged Intelligence, and the academic director of the Zhi Art Museum from 2020 to 2024. Her focusing areas are: Transcendental Art, Himalayan Art, Conceptual Art, and Social Intervention Art.