

# 生动

# Shēng Dòng

## The artist
## Wanbing Huang

**Exhibition from October 24 to November 3, 2024**
**Press Kit**

# Press Release

### 60 years of Franco-Chinese diplomatic relations celebrated through art

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and China, the year 2024 highlights the richness of cultural exchanges between these two nations through numerous artistic and commemorative events.
It is in this historical context that **Shēng Dòng**, the first solo exhibition by Chinese artist **Wanbing Huang**, will be presented from October 24 to November 3, 2024, at 16 rue des Minimes in Paris.

This landmark event, one of the highlights of **Paris Art Week**, aligns with major international art events such as **Art Basel** and **Asia Now**.

### An exhibition celebrating movement and vitality

The Chinese term **Shēng Dòng**, meaning "Alive and Dynamic," guides Wanbing Huang's artistic journey, exploring the vitality and power of nature. This universal theme is elevated through the artist's unique perspective, whose works embody the Taoist philosophy of harmony between humans and their environment, inviting a deep reconnection with nature.

### Intercultural dialogue and contemporary aesthetics

Co-curated by French curator **Caroline Arhuero** and Chinese curator **Sylvia Sun**, the exhibition reflects the spirit of exchange and mutual respect that has characterized Franco-Chinese relations for six decades. This curatorial collaboration enriches the exhibition's artistic narrative, emphasizing the importance of intercultural dialogue in contemporary artistic practice.

Wanbing Huang reinvents Chinese cultural traditions by infusing them with a modern and innovative aesthetic, as evidenced by her creations praised by publications such as **T Magazine** and **Vogue**.

### An iconic work: The Entropy Reduction of Hundun

One of the exhibition's masterworks, **The Entropy Reduction of Hundun**, was selected for the prestigious **LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize 2023**.
This suspended sculpture, made of ramie fibers, draws inspiration from ancient Chinese weaving techniques and the myth of Hundun, a symbol of the world's creation. Its raw exterior contrasts with the delicacy of its inner structure, translating the complexity of creation through a captivating artistic approach.

**Wanbing Huang** transcends the traditionally accepted notion of craftsmanship. She pushes these boundaries by blending artisanal expertise with contemporary innovation, thus creating a dialogue between tradition and modernity.

### Practical Information

**Shēng Dòng** by Wanbing Huang
From October 24 to November 3, 2024
6 rue des Minimes, 75003 Paris

The exhibition will then be presented in **Shanghai** between January and March 2025, in resonance with the **Franco-Chinese Year of Cultural Tourism**.

### Press Contact

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*The Artist*

# Wanbing Huang

Wanbing Huang is an artistic trailblazer, reimagining China's rich cultural traditions through a contemporary lens. As a distinguished Central Saint Martins alumna, Huang's aesthetic vision seamlessly integrates the essence of her native artistic heritage with modern sensibilities. Her groundbreaking art explores the interplay between physical materials and intangible cultural meaning, using innovative techniques that push the boundaries of creative expression.

Huang's growing reputation is reflected in features by prestigious publications like T magazine, Vogue, and other influential art world authorities. These high-profile features spotlight her status as an artistic luminary reimagining China's living heritage.

In Huang's words, "*My fascination with nature, spirit, culture, stories, and native materials fuels my artistic journey. I feel a deep bond with these quintessences of China that I seek to distil, transform and impart through my art, transcending borders to stir a universal resonance.*"



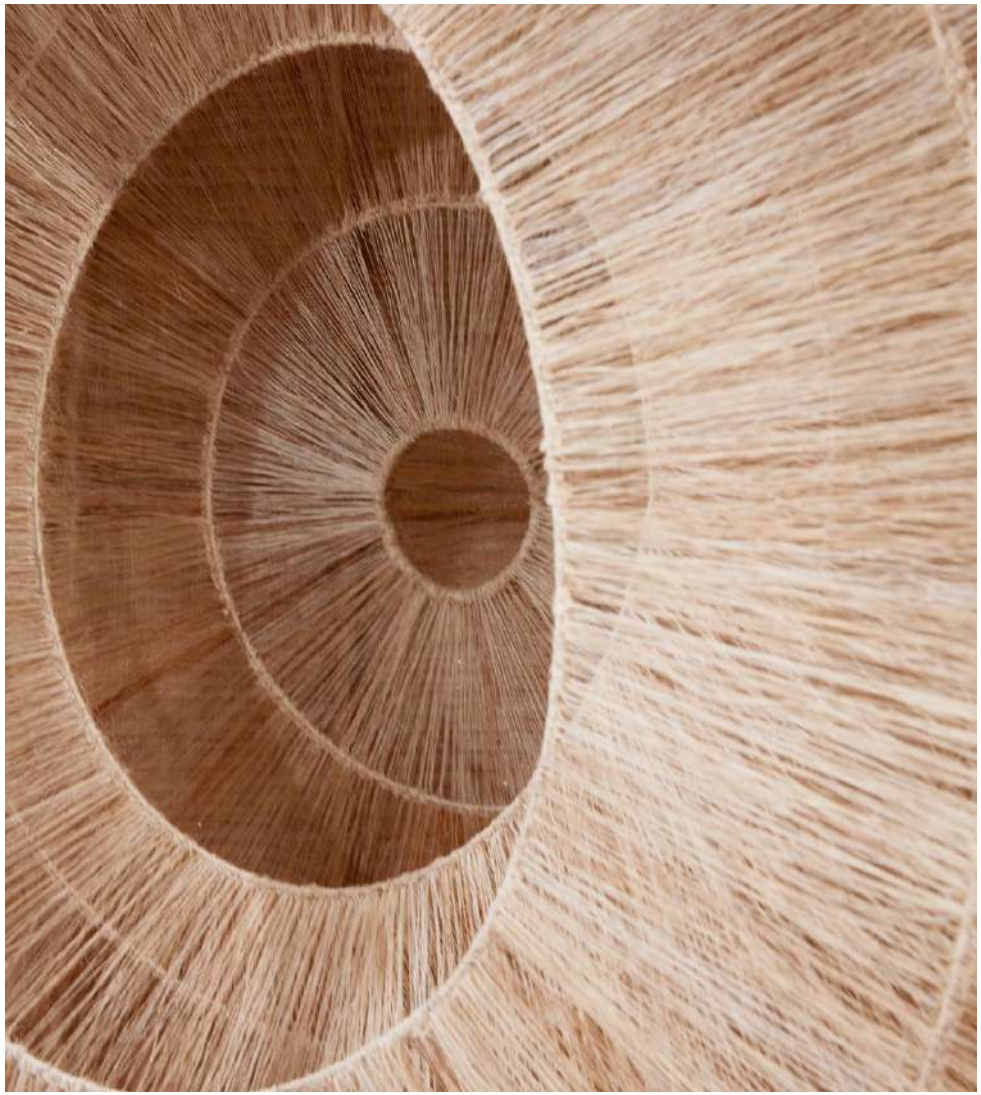
*About the Exhibition*

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# Shēng Dòng

## Alive & Dynamic

Titled Shēng Dòng, meaning “Alive and Dynamic” — the essence of life — in the Chinese language, this exhibition explores the vibrant pursuit of vitality, a theme ubiquitous across cultures yet distinctively depicted in Chinese art. Evoking Taoist philosophy’s integration of humankind with the natural realm and cosmos, works in the collection emphasize confluence over division, reflecting ideological threads that resonate alike with Eastern and Western expressions. The concept of “Qi” or life force propelling us animates as an artistic metaphor, yielding stimulating cross-cultural dialogues on this driving current likewise felt by philosophers and creative pioneers from Occident to Orient over millennia. Like the yang and yin, divergence melts into convergence as audiences glimpse borderless similarities under artistic manifestations specific to China wherein the dynamism of living resonates with observers regardless of origin.



*About the Exhibition*

生动

# Shēng Dòng

## Alive & Dynamic

“Shēng Dòng” showcases the works of emerging handcraft artist Huang Wanbing, who integrates the philosophy of “harmony between humans and nature”. This exhibition reflects the profound thoughts of ancient Chinese philosophy. Through her art, Huang Wanbing emphasizes the importance of natural materials and traditional craftsmanship in modern society, aligning with contemporary environmental awareness.

Her works offer a path back to nature, helping people seek inner peace in a fast-paced life, echoing Laozi's principle of “following the way of nature”. The natural beauty and wisdom embedded in her creations remind us to have a deeper appreciation and respect for the environment.

“Shēng Dòng” is not just an exhibition of handcrafts; it is a celebration of life, dynamism, and natural wisdom. Huang Wanbing's works urge us to embrace a more harmonious and sustainable lifestyle, achieving inner balance through alignment with the natural world.



# Shēng Dòng

## Paris

The First Solo Exhibition of Huang Wanbing

Open at: October 24, 2024
Until November 3, 2024
Location: 16 rue des minimes 75003, Paris






# Shēng Dòng

## Shanghai

Date: January - March, 2025.
Location: Anfulu No.255, Xuhui district, Shanghai









# Franco-Chinese 60th Anniversary: A Vibrant Cultural Journey at Shēng Dòng

The year 2024 marks a significant milestone in the history of international relations, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and China. Since January 27, 1964, when the two nations officially began their diplomatic partnership, Franco-Chinese relations have continuously strengthened, paving the way for enriching cooperation in various fields.

To commemorate these six decades of friendship and collaboration, a series of events has been organized throughout 2024, highlighting the depth and richness of the partnership between France and China. The year 2024 has also been designated as the Franco-Chinese Year of Cultural Tourism, underscoring the importance of cultural exchanges between our two nations.

- **A Curatorial Collaboration Reflecting Franco-Chinese Relations**

The collaboration between our French curator, Caroline Arhuero, and our Chinese curator, Sylvia Sun, mirrors the essence of the Franco-Chinese relationship, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. This dual perspective in curating the "Shēng Dòng" exhibition not only enhances the artistic narrative but also embodies the spirit of cultural exchange and mutual respect that has defined the relationship between France and China for the past six decades.

- **L'Exposition "Shēng Dòng": A Major Event Closing Paris Art Week in October**

In this historical context, the "Shēng Dòng" exhibition captures the essence of "Alive" and "Dynamic" in Chinese through the works of emerging artist Huang Wanbing. This exhibition, which will conclude Paris Art Week with events such as Art Basel and Asia Now, not only embodies vitality and movement but also reflects the profound thoughts of ancient Chinese philosophy. Wanbing's work integrates the philosophy of harmony between humans and nature, emphasizing the importance of natural materials and traditional craftsmanship in modern society, aligned with contemporary environmental awareness.

# Co-curated by Caroline Arhuero & Sylvia Sun

*Caroline Arhuero* (France)

Caroline began her professional career at the Centre Pompidou, before joining the Fonds national d'art contemporain. Subsequently, she joined the Musée national des arts asiatiques - Guimet, where she successively headed the exhibition and museography department, before taking over the direction of the collections department. At this national museum, she initiated contemporary art programming and organized numerous exhibition projects.
Caroline Arhuero then joined the Centre national des arts plastiques (CNAP), where she was responsible for the acquisitions and commissions department for artworks.

Currently, she holds a position at the Service des musées de France - Ministry of Culture.

Caroline Arhuero is also a curator and has participated in the selection of artists for contemporary art awards.

*Sylvia Sun* 孙雯 (China)

Sun's career, shaped by her upbringing in a family immersed in art and culture, blends Chinese heritage with global contemporary trends. During earning degrees from Parsons School of Design and Columbia University, she founded Wavelength, an exhibition platform that bridges Chinese intangible cultural heritage with international fashion and creative industries.

She has collaborated with brands like Nike, and Tencent Games, as well as cultural organizations such as The Place Museum, promoting the fusion of traditional craftsmanship with modern fashion. Sylvia has curated events like the "Splendid China Fashion Show" and the "Shanghai Taohuayuan at the United Nations" forum, focusing on cultural preservation, while continuing to explore contemporary Chinese aesthetics through interdisciplinary collaborations.

# LOEWE Foundation Craft Prize 2023

Wanbing Huang's work "The Entropy Reduction of Hundun" has been shortlisted for the LOEWE Foundation Craft Award 2023.

This sophisticated sculptural work uses ramie fibres to create a work on an expressive scale. Inspired by Chinese grass cloth weaving techniques, the egg-shaped hanging installation recalls an ancient Chinese myth that the breaking of Hundun was the origin of the world. Radial circles of fine knitting and weaving are layered to create the intricate inner structure and this delicate use of the material is contrasted with a course dense exterior, which has been created by distressing the ramie fibre.



# Redefining Chinese Tradition with Global Artistic Innovation : Wanbing Huang

## Wanbing Huang: An Artistic Pioneer

Wanbing Huang is an artistic pioneer, reimagining the rich cultural traditions of China through a contemporary lens. A distinguished graduate of Central Saint Martins, Huang's aesthetic vision seamlessly integrates the essence of her native artistic heritage with modern sensibilities. Her innovative art explores the interaction between physical materials and intangible cultural meaning, using techniques that push the boundaries of creative expression.

Her creations offer a path back to nature, helping people seek inner peace in a fast-paced life, echoing Laozi's principle of "following the way of nature." The natural beauty and wisdom embedded in her works remind us to have a deeper appreciation and respect for the environment.



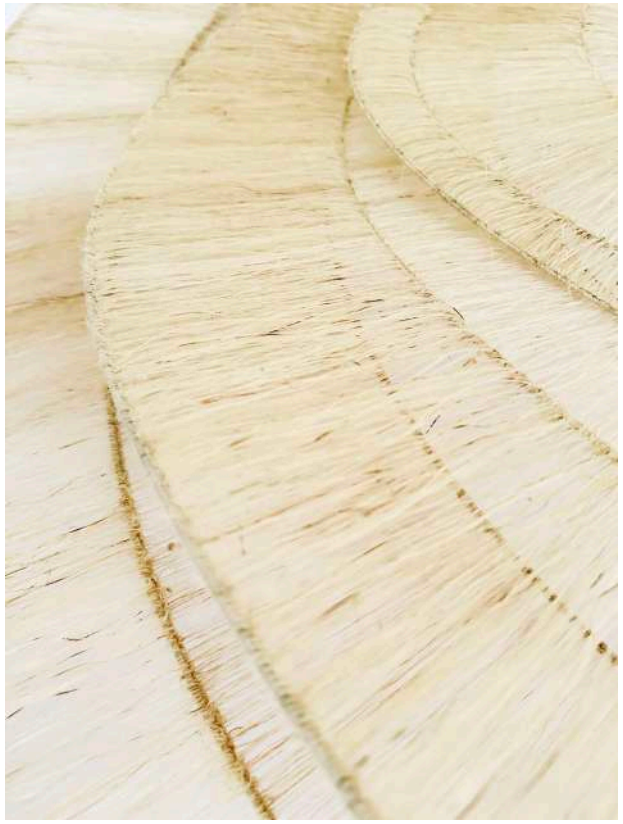
## Craft Prize 2023 and International Recognition

As a finalist for the Loewe Foundation's Craft Prize 2023, Huang’s exceptional artistic contributions are gaining global acclaim for their ability to evoke emotions and establish connections with audiences. Her sensitivity to indigenous cultures and universal human experiences imbues her work with a profound wisdom that resonates across borders. While mastering new methods, Huang remains committed to honoring the stories and significance woven into traditional art forms.

# Redefining Chinese Tradition with Global Artistic Innovation : Wanbing Huang

## Media Recognition and Artistic Prestige

Huang's growing reputation is reflected in features by prestigious publications such as T Magazine, Vogue, and other influential art world authorities. These articles highlight her status as an artistic luminary, reinventing China's living heritage. In Huang's words, "My fascination with nature, spirit, culture, stories, and native materials fuels my artistic journey. I feel a deep bond with these quintessences of China that I seek to distill, transform, and impart through my art, transcending borders to stir a universal resonance."



## Panels and Cultural Discussions

To deepen the understanding of the works, discussions and cultural panels can be organized around the theme “Return to Authentic Creations, Nature, Primitive Craftsmanship, Sustainable Art, and Contemporary Art”. These discussions will explore the reasons behind this contemporary trend, highlighting how artists integrate environmentally respectful practices into their creative processes. Additionally, these events can feature Chinese creations imbued with fundamental values, emphasizing the importance of these principles in contemporary art. Aligning with Paris's role in global cultural exchange, the exhibition will highlight the mutual influences of French and Chinese cultures, as well as the rich heritage of Chinese and French artisanal traditions and their global relevance.

# Artworks





**Order Within Chaos**

Horsetail hair
L203 x W128 x H10 cm
2019

# Artworks





# Artworks

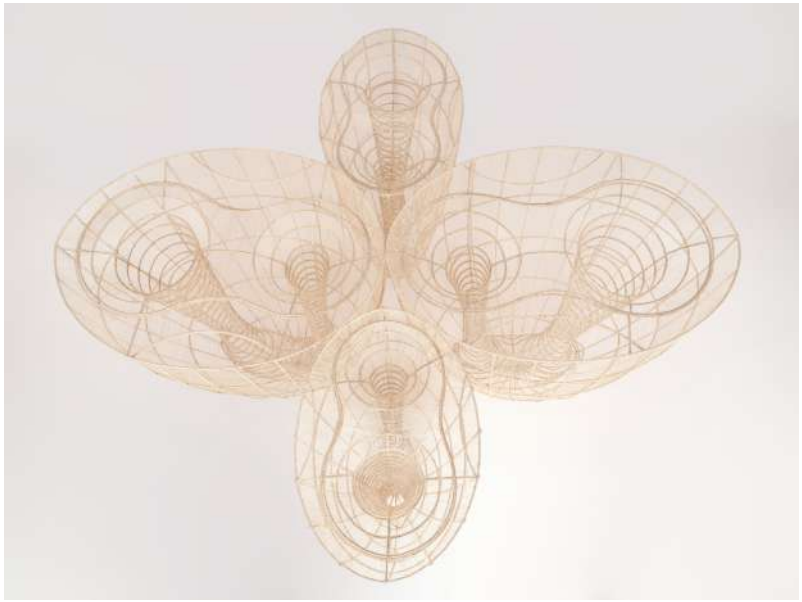


**Hong Meng - The Primordial Mist**
Ramie fibres, Steel
L85 x W60 x H71 cm
2024



**Ying Xu - The Waxing and Waning  series**
Ramie yarn, Grass cloth, Bamboo
L55 x H38 x D30.5 cm / L33.5 x H36 x D25.5 cm / H52.5 x W44 x D24cm
2024

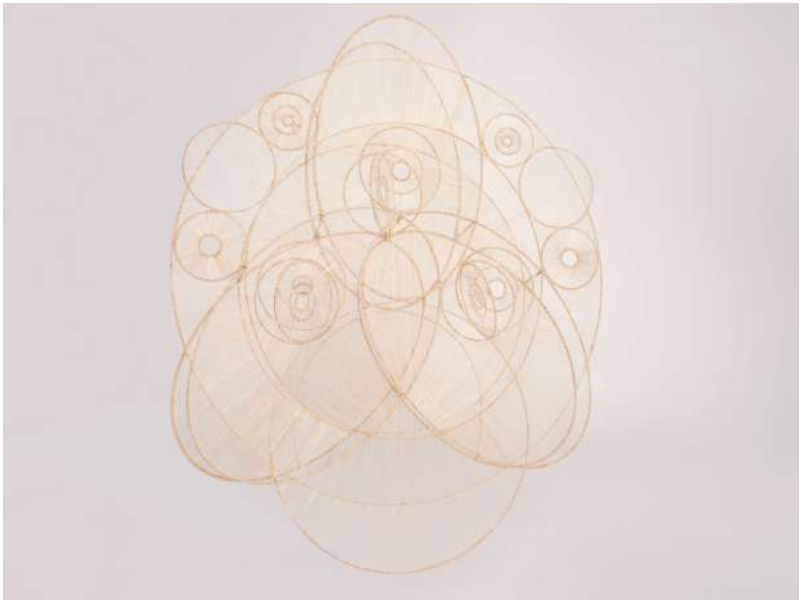
# Artworks



**Si Xiang - The Four Symbols**
Ramie fibres, Steel
L220 x W200 x H120 cm
2024



**Xiang Xian - The Integral Symbol**
Ramie fibres, Steel
L80 x W80 x H100 cm
2024



**"Yao - The Divinatory Line"series - 04**
Ramie fibres, Steel
L105 x W93 x D13 cm
2024

*Exhibition Review:*

# The Entropy Reduction of Hundun

The Entropy Reduction of Hundun is a handcrafted installation designed to represent the universe — the origin of all kinds of lives. The inspiration is drawn from the essence of life itself and an ancient Chinese myth that the breaking of Hundun was the origin of the world. By using textiles to communicate emotions and stories, this installation evolves from a disorderly abstraction into an orderly embodiment, symbolizing the ideal state of human life – that is, to reduce entropy and usher in inner harmony.

To create this egg-shaped installation piece, Wanbing Huang used natural horsetail hair and high-tech fiber to weave the textiles in several innovative ways. Radial circles of fine knitting and weaving are layered to create the intricate inner structure which is inspired by Chinese grass cloth weaving techniques. This artwork also reflects the balanced attributes of ramie –rigidity and flexibility – mirroring the essence of life. The creative process of the entire artwork is imbued with Huang's deep passion and exploration of materials, handcraft techniques, and natural culture.



"THE ENTROPY REDUCTION OF HUNDUN" at LOEWE FOUNDATION Craft Prize exhibition, The Noguchi Museum, New York, 2023







“THE ENTROPY REDUCTION OF HUNDUN” at LOEWE Crafted World,
Shanghai Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China, 2024

*Exhibition Review:*

# Unveiling the Secret of 'Yan Yan'

Installation art 'Yan Yan' was collaborated by Wanting Huang with de Gournay, a renowned brand specialising in the creation of the world's finest handmade wallcoverings. The installation is on display at The Middle House in Shanghai upon the Chinese New Year of the Dragon. 'Yan Yan' was inspired by Suan Ni, the fifth son of the Dragon in Chinese mythology. Exploring one of the core memories of Chinese civilization - the ancient Chinese star maps, associating and connecting the dots within these star maps, the prototype of the auspicious beast conceived. 'Every auspicious beast has its secret, and Yan Yan's secret is that it doesn't like to move, because there are countless worlds and stories in its belly.' explained Wanbing.

Through the birth of the new universe, the artwork casts light on the auspicious beast in its infancy in the centre of the wallpaper. Also dotted around is a series of artworks using traditional Chinese material of ramie fibre as well as traditional paper-cutting techniques to show the characteristics of strength and softness, while revealing the essence of life.



祥兽之秘 Unveiling the Secret of 'Yan Yan',
The Middle House, Shanghai, China, 2024

*Press:*


LOEWE
FOUNDATION
CRAFT
PRIZE
Studio tour with Wanbing Huang
Watch now on Instagram
loewefoundation
LOEWE FOUNDATION
CRAFT PRIZE


LVMH
The LOEWE FOUNDATION unveils the thirty-finalist list for the sixth edition of Craft Prize
Craft figures at the heart of LOEWE and the vision of its Creative Director Jonathan Anderson. The LOEWE FOUNDATION has announced the 30 shortlisted artists for the 2023 edition of its annual Craft Prize. Their work will be exhibited in Isamu Noguchi's Studio at The Noguchi Museum in New York from May 17 through June 18, 2023.
Wanbing Huang (People's Republic of China)


VOGUE
With the Help of Fran Lebowitz, Jonathan Anderson and The Loewe Foundation Craft Prize Celebrate Creativity and Artistry At the Noguchi Museum
Entering the exhibition, Wanbing Huang's The Entrophy Reduction of Hundun, to the left, makes quite the statement. Photo: N Kubota. Courtesy of Loewe


安邸AD
中国
黄婉冰


T
从星图到神兽
一次神话重述
MYTHICAL BEASTS


Wallpaper*
卷宗
4KB2022
黄婉冰
The Entrophy Reduction Of Hundun


LVMH
UNEXPECTED DIALOGUES




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