

# Go Big or Go Home

Contemporary Art in Beijing

# Pan Yu Lin (1895-1977)

Pan Yuliang, born in Yangzhou as Chen Xiuqing, and was renamed Zhang Yuliang when adopted by her maternal uncle after the early passing of her parents. She was a Chinese painter, renowned as the first woman in the country to paint in the Western style. She had studied in Shanghai and Paris.

<https://www.messynessychic.com/2020/09/30/from-the-brothel-to-beaux-arts-she-should-have-been-chinas-own-matisse/>

- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=174538686779177> (short video)



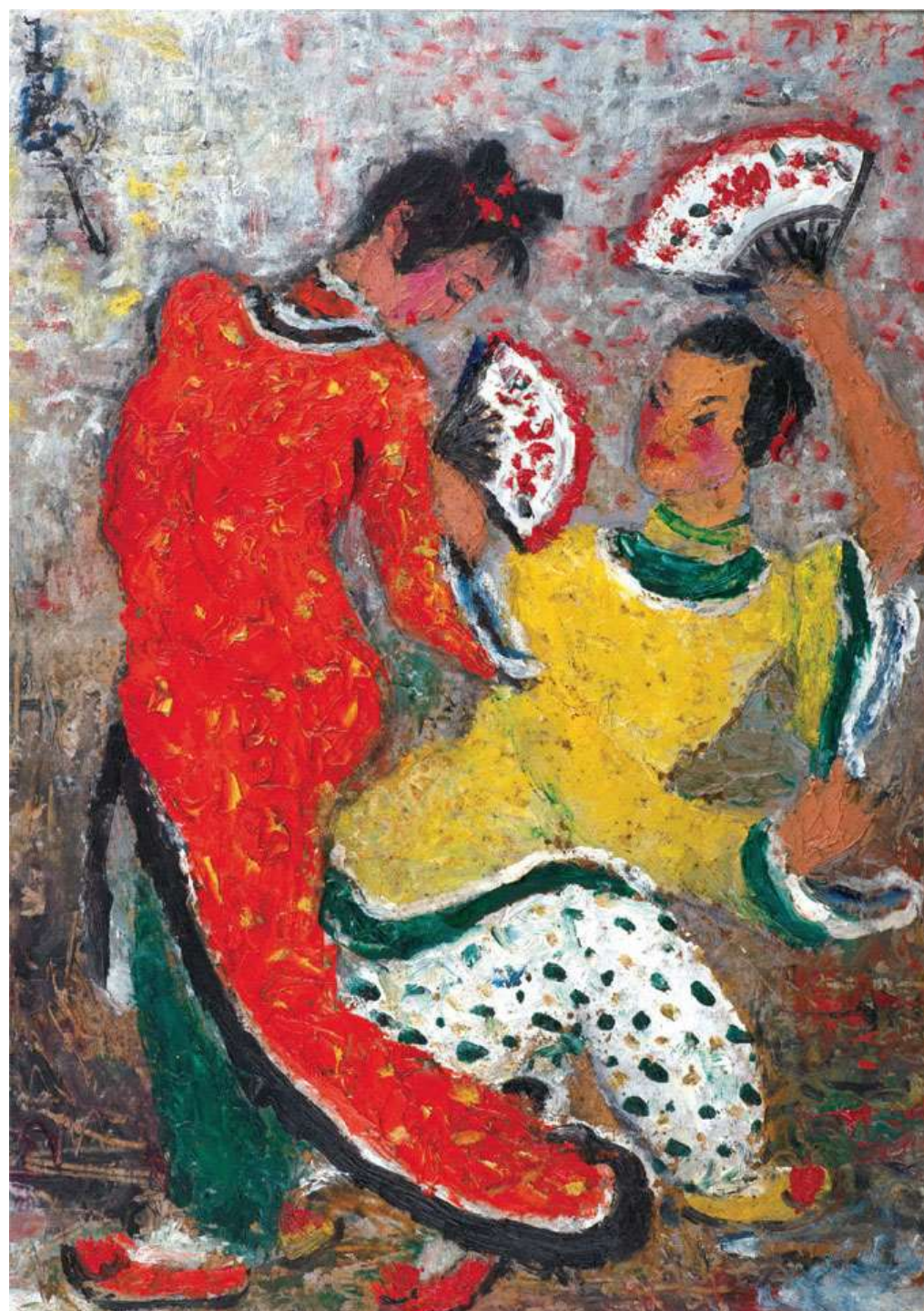






























# Xu Bing



Xu Bing is a Chinese artist who served as vice-president of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. He is known for his printmaking skills and installation art, as well as his creative artistic use of language, words, and text and how they have affected our understanding of the world.

<https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s10/xu-bing-in-beijing-segment/> (14 mins)

























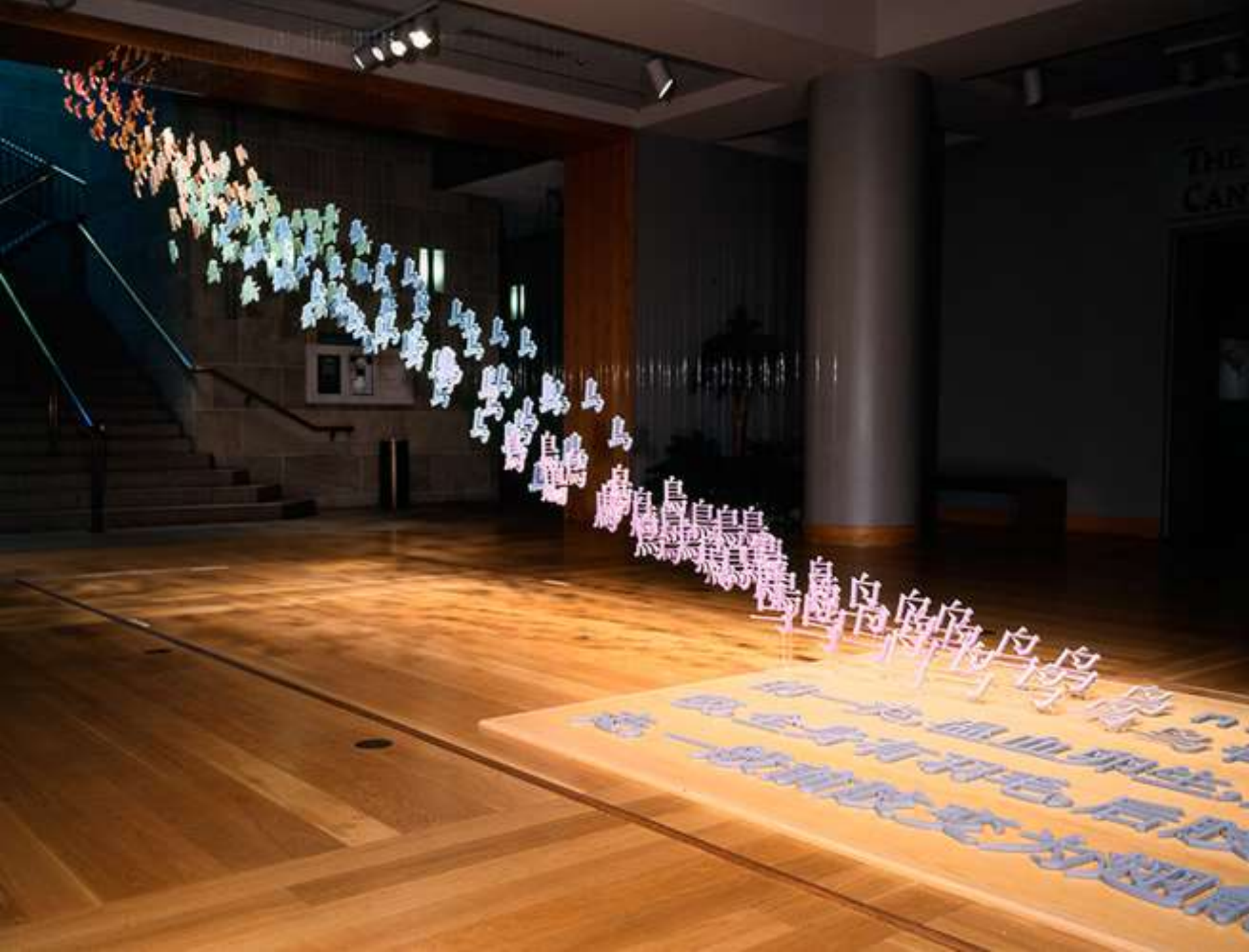














# Guan Xiao

Guan Xiao was born 1983 in Chongqing Province, China. In her sculpture and video work, Guan juxtaposes discordant images, diverse cultural artifacts, and modern technology to create objects that are futuristic, referential, unsettling, and humorous. Working with traditional Chinese sculpted tree roots, 3D fabrications, and readymade industrial objects, Guan Xiao epitomizes the next generation of artists from China, rooted in transnational culture and immersed in our technology-fueled present. Her video works mirror viewers' experiences of the Internet and personal memories, where seemingly unrelated images find inexplicable yet resonant connection.

<https://art21.org/watch/extended-play/guan-xiao-breaking-free-short/> (4 minutes)

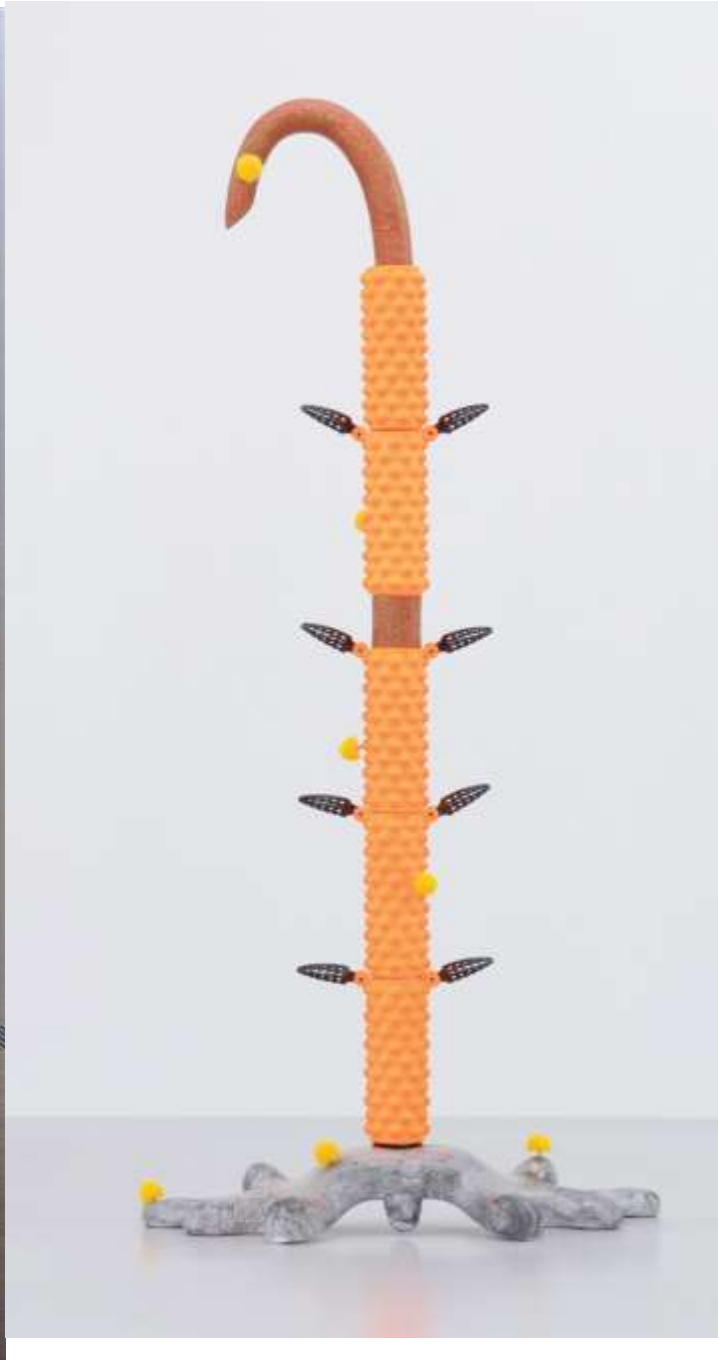
<https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s10/guan-xiao-in-beijing-segment/> (12 minutes)

















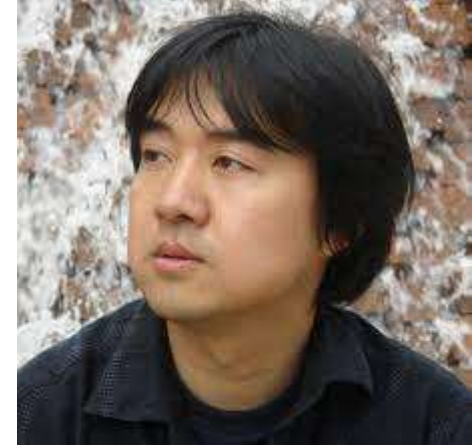








# Song Dong



**Song Dong** is a Chinese contemporary artist, active in [sculpture](#), [installations](#), [performance](#), [photography](#) and [video](#). He has been involved in many solo and group exhibitions around the world, covering a range of themes and topics including his relationship with his family and their experience of living in modern China (the topic of his widely exhibited installation [Waste Not](#)), the transformation of China's urban environment and the impermanence of change.

Several of Song Dong's works have conveyed a theme of the impermanence of change, highlighting the way that although a single person could effect a minor change it could only have a fleeting impact. In 1995 he began writing a daily diary on a flat piece of stone using clear water rather than ink, so that the letters would disappear as he wrote them. He subsequently visited [Tibet](#), where he photographed himself striking the [Lhasa River](#) with an old-style [Chinese seal](#). The following year, he visited [Tiananmen Square](#) in Beijing on a freezing New Year's Eve to create the piece *Breathing*, showing himself lying face-down on the ground for 40 minutes until his breath had created a temporary sheet of ice on the pavement. He repeated the same thing on a frozen lake in a Beijing park that made no impression on the existing sheet of ice.

<https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s10/song-dong-yin-xiuzhen-in-beijing-segment/>















# 菜譜



SONGDONG  
COOKBOOK



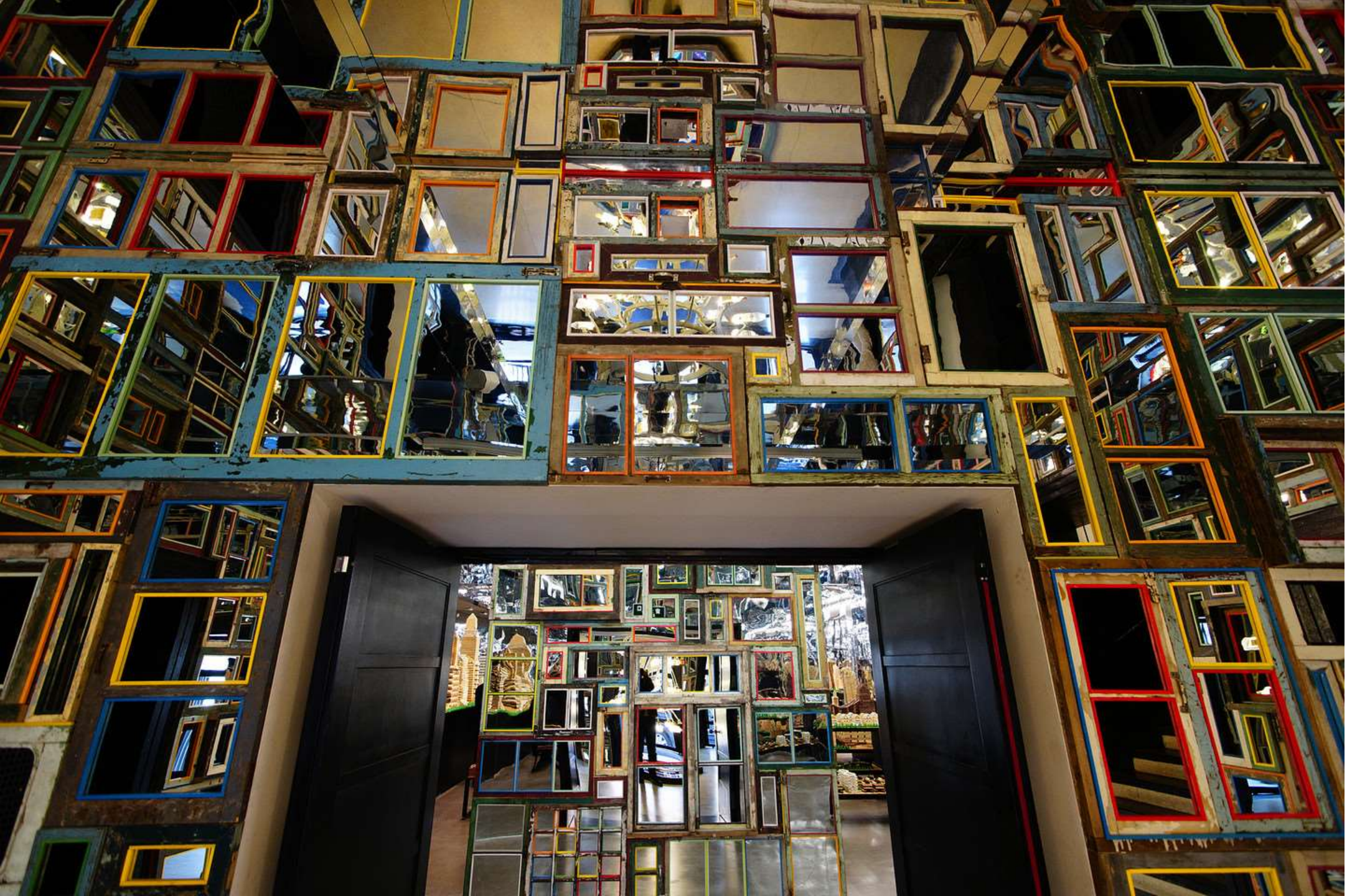














# Yin Xiuzhen

Yin Xiuzhen is a Chinese sculpture and installation artist. She incorporates used textiles and keepsakes from her childhood in Beijing to show the connection between memory and cultural identity.

Yin Xiuzhen currently lives and works in Beijing. Yin began her career after earning a BA from Capital Normal University's Fine Arts Department, Beijing, in 1989. She is best known for her sculptures and installations comprising secondhand objects like clothing, shoes, and suitcases. Inspired by the rapidly changing cultural environment of her native Beijing, Yin arranges and reconfigures these recycled items to draw out their individual and collective histories. Her assembled materials operate as sculptural documents of memory, alluding to the lives of individuals who are often neglected in the drive toward rapid development, excessive urbanization, and the growing global economy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZxzsT1a3Lk&t=13s> (short)

















## Projects 92 Yin Xiuzhen

The author chooses from 2012 to 2013 a series of small objects in the art field, as the artist's own work in China is mostly in the form of small objects, which is a reflection of the artist's own work in China, and is also a reflection of the artist's own work in China.

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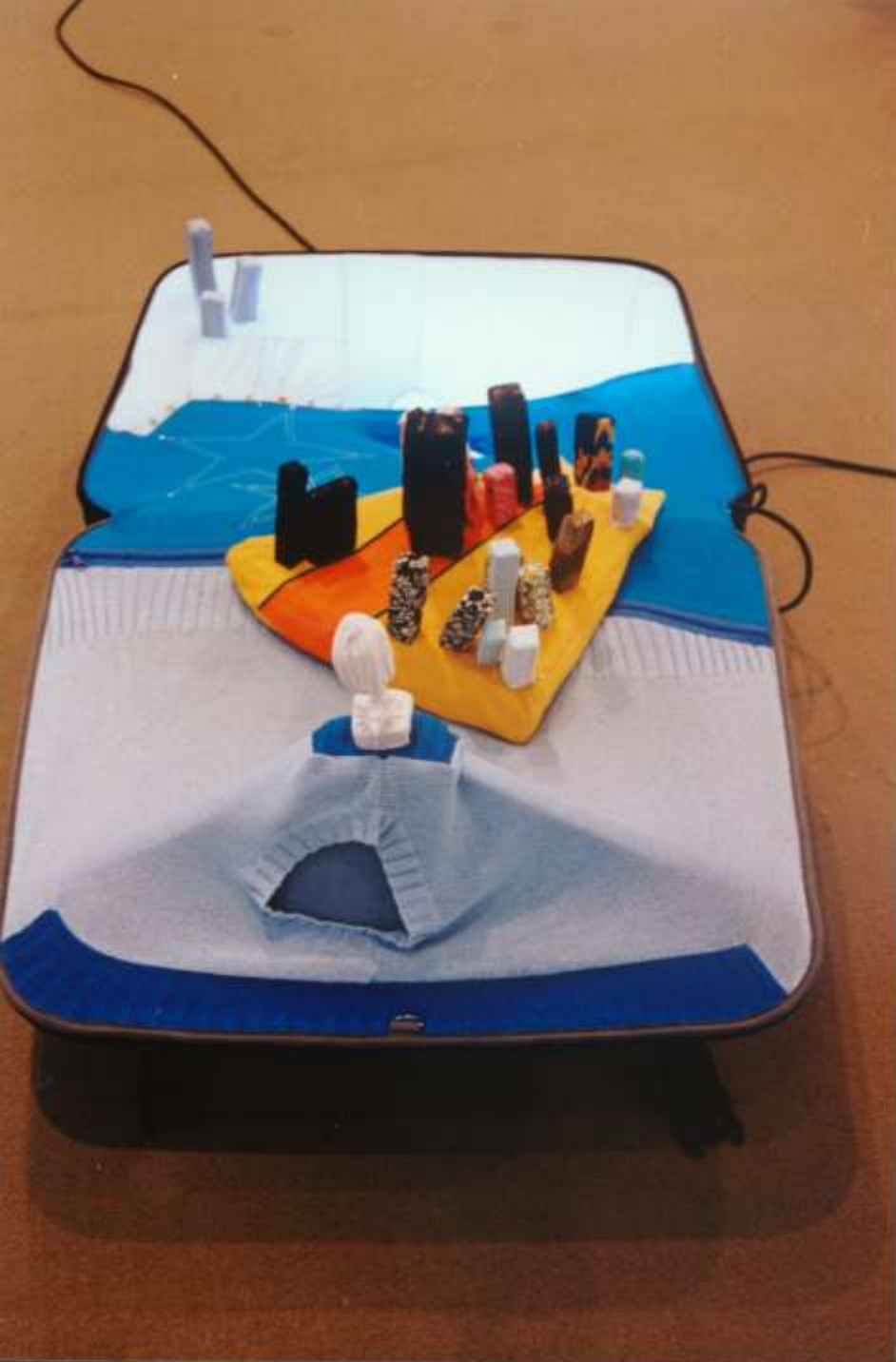














# Liu Xiaodong



Liu Xiaodong is a painter of modern life, whose large-scale works serve as a kind of history painting for the emerging world. Liu locates the human dimension to such global issues as population displacement, environmental crisis and economic upheaval, but through carefully orchestrated compositions, he walks the line between artifice and reality. A leading figure among the Chinese Neo-Realist painters to emerge in the 1990s, his adherence to figurative painting amounts to a conceptual stance within a contemporary art context where photographic media dominate. His undertaking 'to see people as they really are' was galvanised in the aftermath of 1989 events and, alert to the legacy of Chinese Socialist Realism, his compositions are painted with loose, casual brushstrokes and layered with meaning. While he works from life and often *en plein air*, he chooses sitters to supply ancillary narratives to landscapes or situations.

- <https://art21.org/watch/art-in-the-twenty-first-century/s10/liu-xiaodong-in-beijing-segment/>

























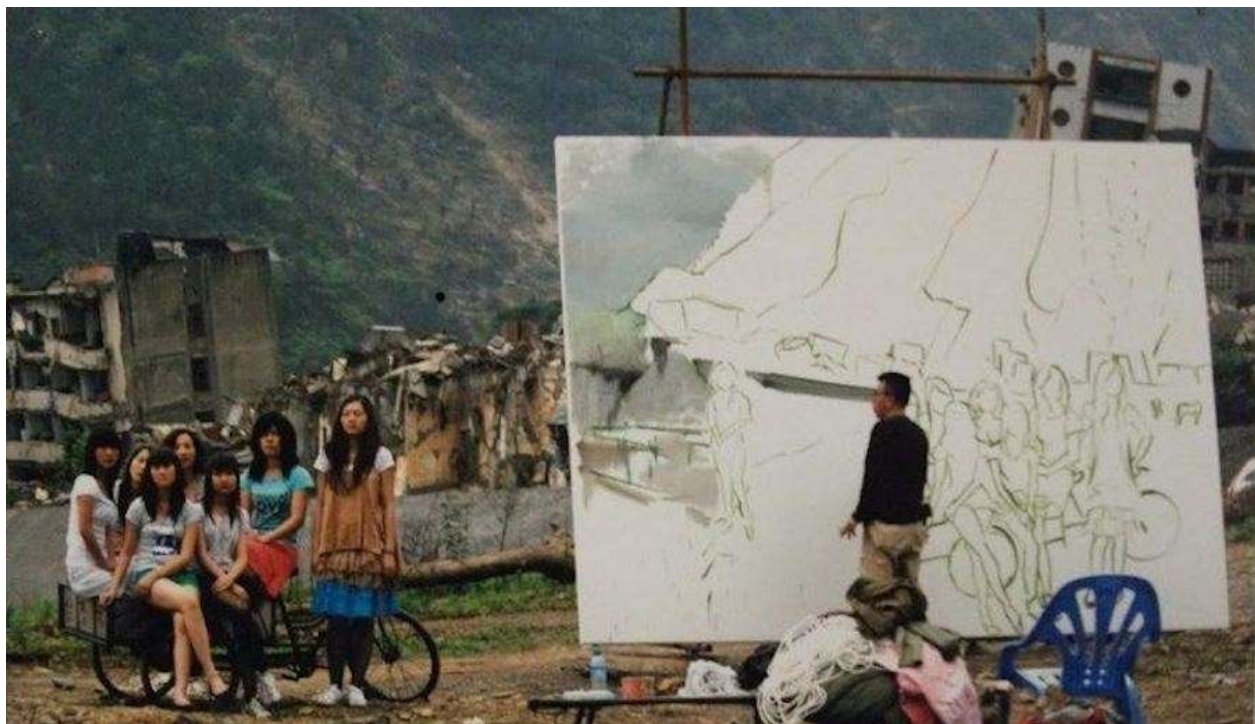


A leading figurative painter, Liu Xiaodong creates large-scale works that dramatize the lives of everyday people: migrants, laborers, and others on the economic and geographic margins. Best known for his live, *en plein air* process, Liu travels to Eagle Pass, Texas, a city on the United States-Mexico border, to paint a county sheriff, his friends, and colleagues. As he works outdoors, Liu contends with the natural elements to complete his ambitious mural-size work, composed of loose brushstrokes and rich colors. The artist considers this process a meditative one that allows him to soften the harsh edges of the world. Reflective of the rise of China to prominence on the world stage, Liu discusses his humble origins as a boy raised in rural China, which inspired him to depict real and relatable people, and his international success, working across cultures and continents. Ultimately, Liu hopes, “Audiences will look at my art and think of themselves.” His paintings are at once tenderly realized portraits of specific people and places and also universalizing scenes from our globalized lives.



















# Zeng Fanzhi

[Zeng Fanzhi](#) (1964) is one of **the most popular** Chinese contemporary painters and one of Asia's **most commercially successful** artists, recognized for his exceptional paintings heavily influenced by his physical and emotional circumstances. Fanzhi grew up during the China's Cultural Revolution, and in the late 1980s attended the Hubei Academy of Fine Art where he was greatly influenced by **German Expressionism**. After his move to Beijing in 1993, Fanzhi's career exploded, and since then he has been regularly exhibiting his artworks all over the globe in some of the most respected contemporary art galleries and venues. In 2008, Fanzhi set **a world auction record** when his *Mask Series 1996 No. 6* piece was sold at Hong Kong auction for mind-boggling \$9.6 million.

<https://www.hauserwirth.com/ursula/22376-zeng-fanzhi-studio> (3.5 mins)





































# Li Jin

Born in Tianjin in 1958, Li Jin is one of the best-known and most unorthodox ink painters in the so-called New Literati group. Before his study in the Painting Department at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, Li trained in dyeing and weaving at the Tianjin Academy of Arts and Crafts, which partly explains his mastery of pattern and colour. He is currently teaching Chinese painting at the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, which is one of the pre-eminent centres of current literati painting. Li Jin gradually formed his uniquely playful style in the early 1990s, and is now famous for his seductive depictions of the good life. In contrast to the formality and stereotyped subjects of historical literati art – often derived from famous texts, pictures by earlier masters, or both – food and wine and the simple things in life are Li's subject matter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZXZFj53bmA> (4 mins good)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=9&v=WhCF-DbtTXQ&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=WhCF-DbtTXQ&feature=emb_logo) (good)

<https://www.dubnermoderne.ch/artists/li-jin> (no words 8 mins)

<https://www.inkstudio.com.cn/video/10-li-jin-being-and-painting/> (7 mins no words)

<https://www.cobosocial.com/benjamin-sigg/li-jin/> (short)





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亦然

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佛皆充

聲海普

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如是最勝莊嚴

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夜太漫長  
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# Liu Wei

Liu Wei is a Chinese artist based in Beijing. He works in varied media – video, installation, drawing, sculpture, and painting – with no unifying stylistic tendency, though the Saatchi Gallery finds a unifying theme of "a sentiment of excess, corruption, and aggression reflective of cultural anxiety"

- <https://www.christies.com/features/Liu-Wei-6486-3.aspx>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mll1HC5C5I&t=5s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3dri7ECm1c> (24 mins)



























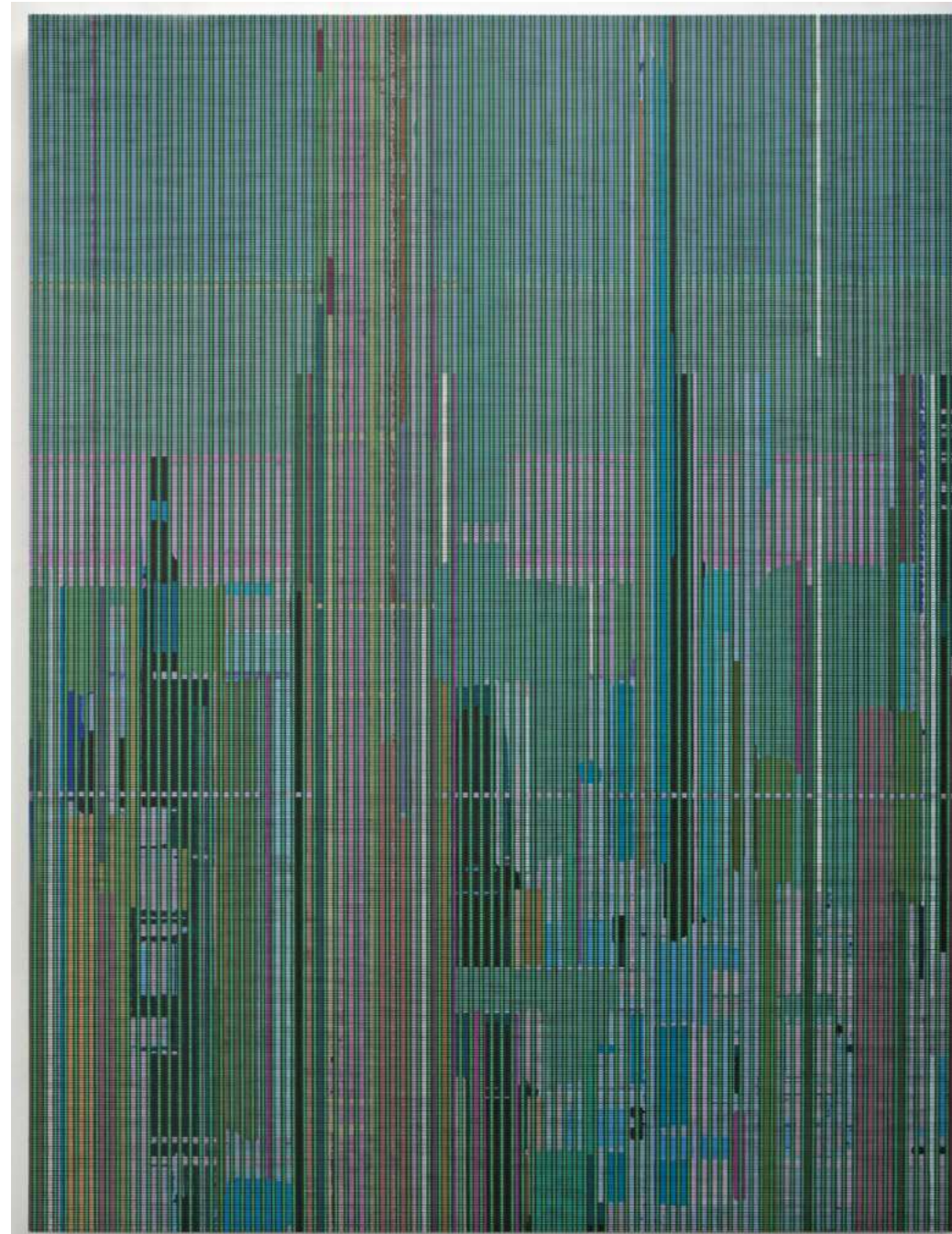
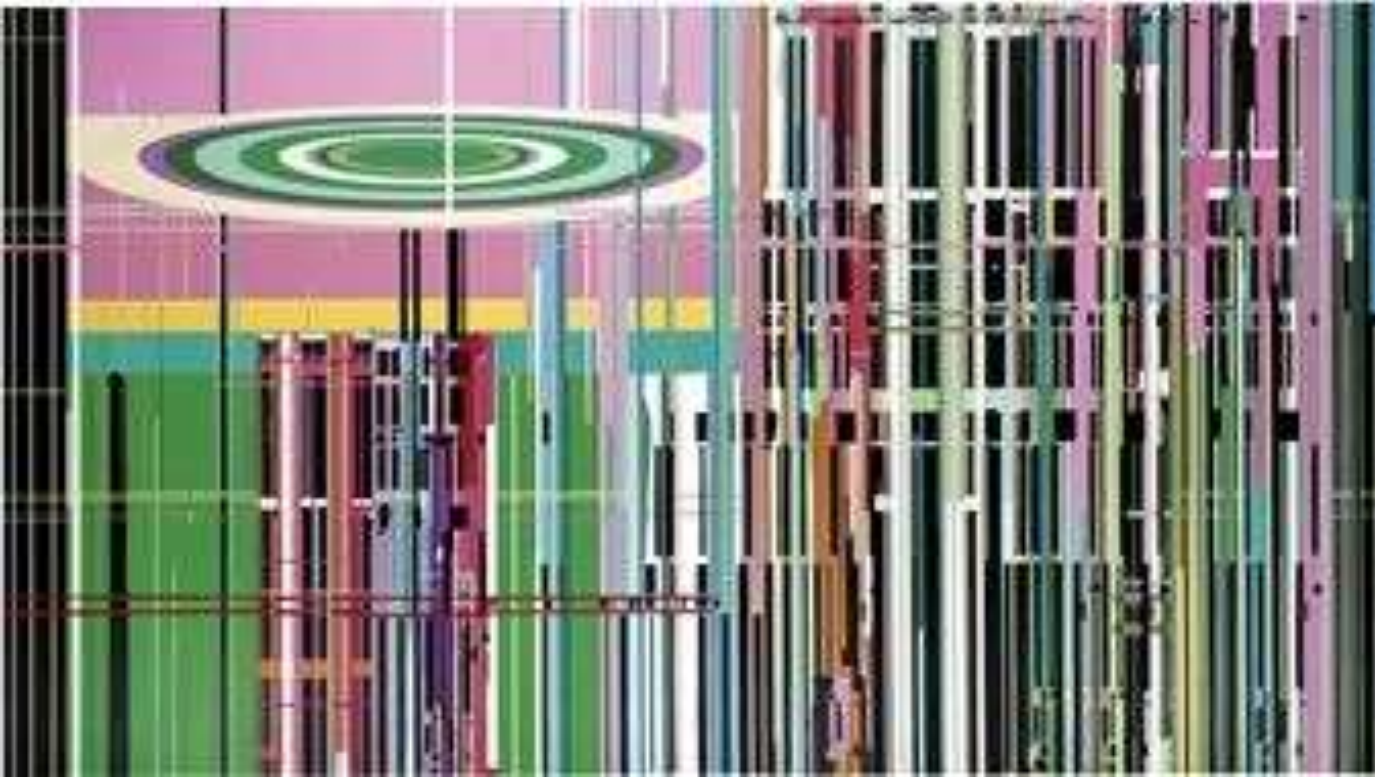




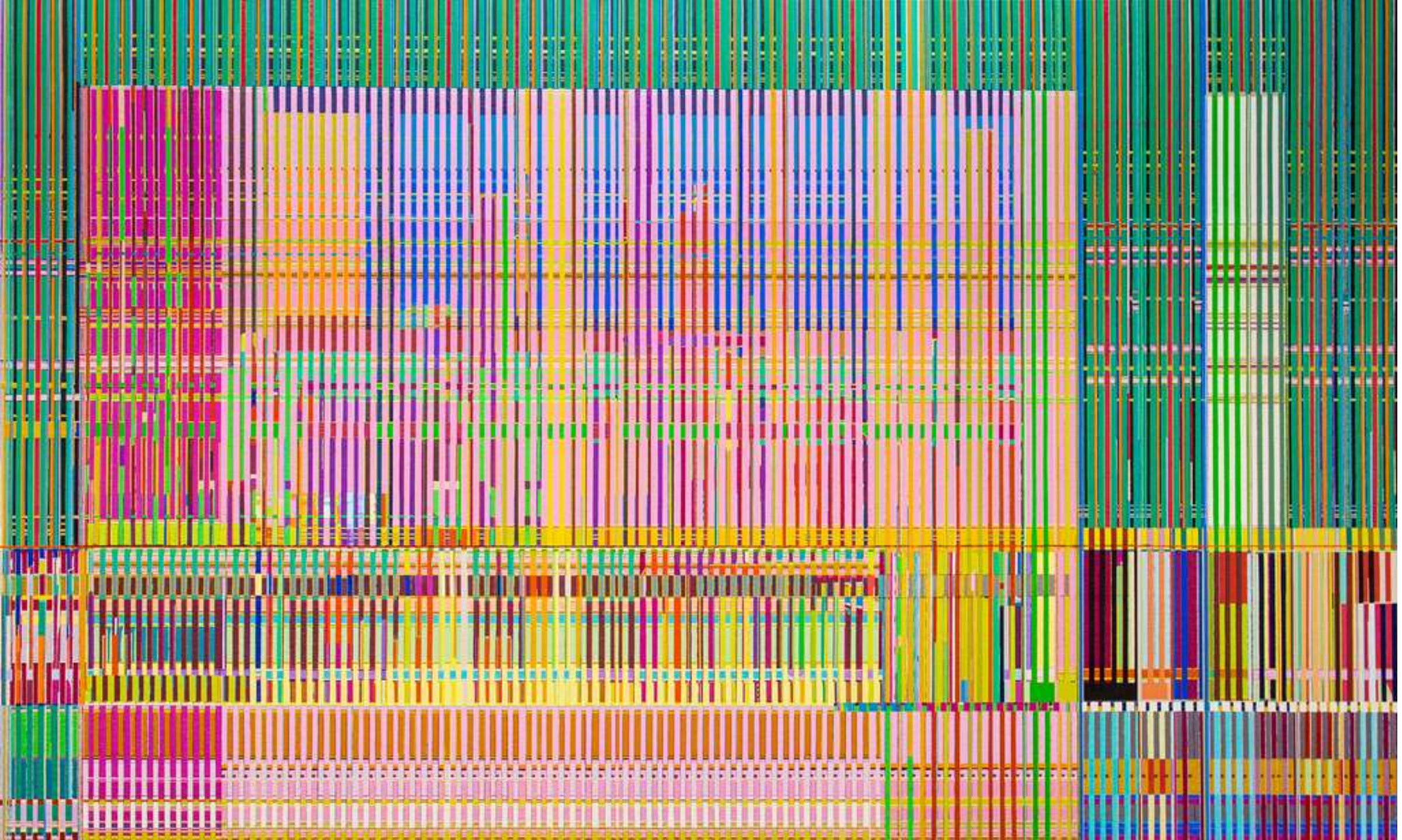


















# Assignment Suggestions...

- Create a large-scale artwork
- Create an artwork that plays with perception—something that tricks the eye or is not what it seems at first glance
- Play with your food and then photograph it
- Artistically arrange the contents of your laundry basket and create a painting, drawing or photograph of it.