

Hu Qinwu

Biography

Born in 1969, Shandong Province,
China . Lives and Works in
Hangzhou, China .

The artistic practice of Hu Qinwu originates from a sustained engagement with Chinese classical culture and contemporary art, through which he identifies critical “questions” that inform his creative thinking. His work emerges not from emotional outpouring or subjective expression, but rather from a conscious suppression of personal sentiment. Through a process of de-personalization and de-emotionalization, Hu seeks to detach the work from individual identity, enabling it to enter into a prolonged dialogue with the world, space, and time . This intentional withdrawal of the self fosters an open-ended dynamic, whereby the artwork becomes a site for continual transformation and mutual interaction . His practice resists narrative content, instead approaching the work as a form akin to the readymade, in which meaning is shaped through context and process rather than representational intent.

Hu does not begin with predetermined conceptual frameworks; instead, his works evolve organically as responses to lived

experiences and the problems they pose. His approach is reactive rather than prescriptive, rooted in a philosophical inquiry into the contingencies of existence .

In his most recent series on paper pulp. Hu undertakes annual residencies at a Xuan paper factory in Jingxian,

Anhui Province . He aims to integrate the act of art-making with the process of papermaking itself. This immersive engagement produces a reciprocal relationship between image and material: the material is not merely a passive substrate but an active agent in the formation of meaning. Variations in pulp thickness, moisture levels, drying time, and the incorporation of pigments generate atmospheric uncertainties that enrich the visual experience with a sense of mystery and depth.

In Hu's practice, the material serves not simply as a medium for image production, but as the very condition through which the

image emerges. The sensitivity to material behavior is thus of paramount importance. From this perspective, the image functions as a medium for the expression of materiality—an inversion of the traditional hierarchy in which material is subordinate to image. Hu's work is fundamentally concerned with this subtle and complex interplay between image and matter, where meaning is not imposed but discovered through process.

Solo Exhibitions

2025 Record Records Moods Gallery

2025 YiPu Jiayuan Gallgery

2023 Medium of phenomena Le Rime Gallery Beijing

2022 Live In illusion Muum Art Space

2022 Hu QinWu Niagara Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

Selected group exhibitions

2023 Falling Mist Mix Art ShenZhen

2023 Writing and Boundary 6 Kunming Art Biennale Yunnan Art Museu2022 Heaven And Earth On Paper Wuhu Museum

2022 Sonnet Bo Space hangzhou

2021 Shanghai Internartiondal Paper Art Biennale Shangha