

Sun Yan



- Artist, Designer, Educator
- MFA, Central Academy of Fine Arts
- PhD, Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University
- Assistant Professor and Graduate Supervisor, Faculty of Humanities and Arts, Macau University of Science and Technology

His works have been exhibited at institutions including the Yokohama Museum of Art, Fukuoka Museum of Art, Centre Pompidou, University of Porto Museum, NABI Art Center, Ox Warehouse Macau, Beijing Exhibition Center, Today Art Museum, Artron Art Center, Zhejiang Art Museum, China Design Museum, Shaanxi Provincial Art Museum, Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, and Courtyard Gallery.

Recently, his AI and contemporary imaging works were selected for the LensCulture Art Photography Awards, PH Museum Curator Pick (AI Image), and the Athens Photo Festival Main Exhibition Shortlist (AI Image). His works were also included in major exhibitions such as TOP 20 China Contemporary Emerging Photography Exhibition and the Beijing International Art Biennale. His AI image series Still Life from the Shadows was featured on the cover of China Photography magazine (Issue 11, 2025). In 2025, he held the AI imaging solo exhibition Shadow of the Shadow at Sihexuan Gallery in Beijing. In 2026, he was invited to serve as an international jury member for the AI Short Film Competition section of the Asian Art Film Festival.

Research Areas

- Digital media art and design; digital cross-media art
- AIGC and media archaeology
- Moving image and 3D animation

- Spatial narrative and digital sculpture
- Contemporary photography and contemporary applications of traditional photographic processes
- Digital media theory, history of photography, and contemporary image theory

Education

- PhD, Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University, Department of Information Art & Design, Contemporary Digital Imaging and Cross-media Studies
- MA, Central Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design, Digital Media Studio
- BA, Renmin University of China, School of Arts, Digital Media Studio

Academic Appointments

- 2005 – 2008 — Lecturer, Digital Media Studio, School of Arts, Renmin University of China
- 2008 – 2018 — Lecturer, Digital Media Program, Faculty of Arts and Design, Macau Polytechnic University
- 2023 – 2024 — Visiting Graduate Supervisor, Centre for Arts and Design, University of Macau
- 2024 – Present — Assistant Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Arts, Macau University of Science and Technology
- 2026 – Present — Vice President, Macau Contemporary Art Promotion Association

Solo Exhibitions

- Shadow of the Shadow / Courtyard Gallery / Beijing / 2025 (AI Imaging)
- Warner / Yokohama Museum of Art / Japan / 2007 (3D animation, video installation, interactive installation, photography)

Major Group Exhibitions

1. Light Objects / Beyond Viewing: From Postmodernism to the Digital Generation / Three Shadows Photography Art Centre / Xiamen / 2026
2. Shadow of the Shadow No.2 / Beyond Viewing: From Postmodernism to the Digital Generation / Three Shadows Photography Art Centre / Beijing / 2026
3. Shadow Theater No.2 / The 10th Beijing International Art Biennale / Beijing Exhibition Center / Beijing / 2025
4. Shadow Theater No.1 / The 3rd Lianzhou International Image Biennale / Huaguang Photography Art Museum / 2025
5. Thousand Birds Pine Forest / The 11th Silk Road International Art Invitational Exhibition / Shaanxi Provincial Art Museum / Xi'an / 2025
6. Shadow Theater No.1 / Sensibility VS Intelligence: AI Art Exhibition / CAFA School of Design / Beijing / 2025
7. Still Life from the Shadows / TOP 20 China Contemporary Emerging Photography Exhibition / Zhejiang Art Museum / Hangzhou / 2025
8. Still Life from the Shadows No.6 / Developing / Zhejiang University of Finance & Economics Art Museum / 2025
9. Boy No. 1, Girl No. 3, Virtual Surface Series / Wanxiang International University Photography Art Invitational Exhibition / China Academy of Art / Hangzhou / 2024
10. Girl No. 2, Virtual Surface Series / Asian Art Biennale – Image Exhibition / Fukuoka Asian Art Museum / Japan / 2024
11. The Photographer / White Time / Artron Art Center / Beijing / 2024
12. Memory of Trees / Heritage and Innovation: Historical Cultural Heritage Image Exhibition / Red Cube Art Museum / Shenzhen / 2023
13. Boys and Girls / Jimei x Arles International Photo Festival / Three Shadows Photography Art Centre / Xiamen / 2023
14. Hidden Landscape / Yangshuo Sugar House Gallery / Guilin Yangshuo / 2022
15. Digital Surface / Beijing International Photography Week / China Millennium Monument / Beijing / 2020

16. Untitled / University of Porto Museum / Portugal / 2017
17. 9,999 Roses / Macau Polytechnic University Faculty Exhibition / Macau / 2017
18. Hengqin New Works Photography Exhibition / Ox Warehouse / Macau / 2017
19. Virtual Surface / Macau Polytechnic University Gallery / Macau / 2016
20. New Village / LANGE Image Center / Zhuhai / 2015
21. New Garden / Tunghai University Joint Exhibition / Macau & Taiwan / 2015
22. Under the Brain Mountain / Ox Warehouse / Macau / 2014
23. Disappearing Neighboring Villages / Ox Warehouse / Macau / 2011
24. Ruihe Scroll / Historical Figures and Images / Today Art Museum / Beijing / 2008
25. Olympic 8002 / DE-DAY Summer Digital Entertainment Festival / 798 Art District / Beijing / 2007
26. Double Cells / Digital Art in China / Centre Pompidou / France / 2006
27. Taxi Driver / NABI Art Center / Korea & Beijing / 2005

Awards and Nominations

1. Athens Photo Festival, Shortlist / 2026 (AI Imaging)
2. Beijing International Art Biennale / Finalist Exhibition / 2025 (AI Installation)
3. TOP 20 China Contemporary Emerging Photography Exhibition / 2025 (AI Imaging)
4. PH Museum Grant, Curators Pick / 2025 (AI Imaging)
5. Athens Photo Festival, Shortlist / 2024 (Photography)
6. LensCulture Art Photography Awards, Finalist / 2024
7. Excellence Award / Fukuoka Asian Image Art Biennale / 2024
8. China DV Competition First Prize / 2008
9. Outstanding Graduate Work Third Prize, Central Academy of Fine Arts / 2007
10. DGMC China College Student Digital Media Arts Competition Gold Award for Best Experimental Film / 2004

Publications and Writings

1. Sun Yan, "Shadow Theater No. 2," in *Symbiosis: The 10th Beijing International Art Biennale*, forthcoming, 2026.
2. Sun Yan, "The Shadow of a Shadow," *China Photography Press*, issue 1, 2026, full-page feature.
3. Sun Yan, "Still Life from the Shadows," cover of *China Photography*, issue 11, 2025. Beijing: China Photography Publishing House, 2025. (The work was featured on the cover and accompanied by interior text and images. This marked the first time since the journal's founding in 1957 that an AI-generated image appeared on its cover.)
4. Sun Yan, "Still Life from the Shadows," in *TOP 20 China Contemporary Photography New Talent Exhibition Catalog*. Hangzhou: Zhejiang Photographic Press, 2025.
5. Sun Yan, "The Absence of Real Objects," in *Wanxiang International University Photography Art*. Hangzhou: China Academy of Art Press, 2025.
6. Sun Yan, "Still Life from the Shadows," published on the Phmuseum website, Bologna, Italy, 2025.
7. Sun Yan, "Digital Surface," in *Asian Image Art Biennale*. Fukuoka, Japan: Fukuoka Art Museum, 2024.
8. Sun Yan, "The Person Taking Photos," in *White Time*. Beijing: Artron Art Center, 2024.
9. Sun Yan, "Old Friends, Mountains and Rivers," interview by Magali Duzant, published on the Lensculture website, San Francisco, CA, 2024.
10. Sun Yan, "Girl No. 3," in *Jimei × Arles International Photo Festival*. Xiamen: Three Shadows Art Centre, 2023.
11. "Mountains and Rivers," in *The Best of Lensculture Vol. 5*. Amsterdam: Schilt Publishing, 2024.
12. Sun Yan, "Case Study and Analysis of Industry Practices in the Digital Media Sector," in *Macau Cultural Industry Development Analysis Report*, edited by

- Xiang Yong. Macau: Cultural Industry Committee of the Macau SAR Government, 2018.
13. Sun Yan, "Thinking and Concepts of Higher Design Education," in *Perspectives on Higher Education in Macau*, edited by Dai Dingcheng. Guangzhou: Guangdong Higher Education Press, 2011.
 14. Sun Yan, Li Ruifen, et al., *Backhill Dust: Hengqin Photography Collection*. Macau: Macau Foundation, 2017.
 15. Sun Yan, "Three Years and Another Three Years: A Record of Hengqin Image Creation," *Miscellany* magazine, Macau, 2017.
 16. Sun Yan, "A Brief Introduction to the Application Principles of Render Farm in Animation and Film Production, and Practical Achievements of the Polytechnic University's Animation Course," *Macao ICT* magazine, Macau, 2016.
 17. Sun Yan, "Preliminary Thoughts on Establishing a Cultural and Creative Industries Centre at Macau Polytechnic Institute," *Macau Daily News*, 2013.

Selected Design and Research Projects

1. Research on the Aesthetic Style of AIGC (AI-Generated Content) Images / FRG Individual Project, Macau University of Science and Technology / 2026
2. City Light & Shadow Project / Joint Project between Output Company and Macau University of Science and Technology / 2025
3. The 2nd China World Cultural Heritage Image Invitational Exhibition / Exhibition Space Design / 2024
4. East Meets West / Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Xiamen / Exhibition Space Design / 2023
5. Cultivating the Mind and Observing the Way / King & Wood Mallesons Art Centre, Beijing / Exhibition Space Design / 2023
6. Non-Fungible Digital Collections App / Planning, Design, and Development / 2022–2023
7. Beijing Winter Olympics – China Grand Canal Intangible Cultural Heritage Exhibition Centre / Digital Content Lead / 2022

8. Beijing Digital Longfusi / Animation and Video Lead / 2021
9. Cross-Platform Digital Design for the National Art Museum of China / Design Lead / www.namoc.org / 2017
10. Beijing Minsheng Art Museum Website / Design Lead / www.msam.cn / 2016
11. Website for the 34th International Congress of Art History / Design Lead / www.ciha2016.org / 2016
12. Website for the First Beijing International Photography Biennale / Design Lead / www.photobiennial.com / 2013
13. China Internet Information Center (State Council Information Office) / Lead Designer for English Homepage / China.org.cn / 2008, 2009 Editions
14. China Central Television (CCTV) – "Fortune Hand in Hand" Programme ID / Title Sequence Design / 2008
15. Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Secondary Logo Animated Short Film / Planning and Design / 2008
16. Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Mobile Interactive Flash Lite Platform / Design and Development / 2007
17. Beijing Travel Channel Virtual 3D Studio / Comprehensive Design / 2007
18. Central Academy of Fine Arts, School of Design Website / Lead Designer / 2007
19. Contemporary Artists Wang Gongxin and Lin Tianmiao's Personal Websites / Design and Production / 2005–2008

Curating and Jury Work

1. International Jury Member, Asian Art Film Festival – AI Short Film Competition / 2026
2. Curator, Drift of the Copy / Lishui International Photography Festival / 2025
3. Forum Speaker, "Doctoral Inquiry into the Way" / Image Beijing Forum, Beijing International Photography Week / 2022
4. Co-curator, Digital Media Course Premiere, Macau Polytechnic University / 2015–2018

5. Co-curator, Graduation Exhibition, Faculty of Art and Design, Macau Polytechnic University / 2015–2017
6. Curator, Design + Media Exhibition / Macau Polytechnic University Gallery / 2017
7. Co-curator, Experiment = Exercise + Creativity Exhibition / Creative Macau / 2017
8. Curator, Macau Science and Technology Week – Student Works Exhibition from the Design Programme / Fisherman's Wharf, Macau / 2016
9. Judge and Mentor, Macau Image New Force Animation Competition – Open Category / Macau Cultural Centre / 2015
10. Judge and Mentor, Macau Basic Law Promotional Short Film Competition / Macau Basic Law Promotion Association / 2015–2017
11. Judge and Mentor, Present–Future Film Festival / National Taiwan University of Arts & iCenter Education Centre / 2014, 2016
12. Judge, Comic and Animation Competition on Respecting Teachers and Valuing Education / Macau Education and Youth Development Bureau / 2013
13. Judge, 48-Hour Short Film Competition / Macau Cultural Centre / 2011
14. Judge and Mentor, Alice Interactive Programming Competition / Macau / 2008–2018

Lectures, Forums, and Workshops

1. Workshop Leader, AI + Art and Design / AI Literacy Enhancement Series for Faculty and Staff: How AI Empowers Art and Design Teaching / Macau University of Science and Technology / Macau / 2026
2. Lecturer, AI + Art / University-wide Lecture Series / Macau University of Science and Technology / Macau / 2025–present
3. Workshop Tutor, Great Bay Area Youth Film and Television Training Camp / 2025
4. Training Participant, National Arts Fund Talent Training Programme: "Digital Art and Intelligent Design" / Central Academy of Fine Arts / Beijing / 2025

5. Forum Speaker, "The Carnival and Boundaries of Images: A Multi-dimensional Dialogue on AI Cinema" / 7th Hainan International Film Festival / 2025
6. Forum Speaker, "Sensory Training in Artificial Intelligence Art" / The 3rd Quanzhou Huaguang International Image Biennale / Fujian Huaguang Photography Art Museum / 2025
7. Forum Speaker, "Everyday Experience and Media Self-awareness" / Zhejiang Art Museum / Hangzhou / 2025
8. Forum Speaker, "Brackish Turbulence and Algorithmic Landscapes" / Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts Art Museum / Guangzhou / 2025
9. Forum Speaker, "The Absence of Real Objects" / Wanxiang International University Image Art Forum / China Academy of Art / Hangzhou / 2024
10. Forum Speaker, "Models in Images" / Doctoral Inquiry into the Way / Image Beijing Forum, Beijing International Photography Week / Beijing / 2022
11. Lecturer, "The Dimensions of Portraiture" / Doctoral Programme, Faculty of Humanities and Arts, Macau University of Science and Technology / Macau / 2024
12. Forum Speaker, "Memory of Trees" / Shenzhen Red Cube Art Museum / Shenzhen / 2023
13. Forum Speaker, "Models in Images" / Image Beijing Forum, Beijing International Photography Week / Beijing / 2022
14. Lecturer, "The Boundaries of Images" / Sugar House Gallery / Yangshuo, Guilin / 2022
15. Lecturer, "Figuration and Abstraction in Images" / Sugar House Gallery / Yangshuo, Guilin / 2022
16. Lecturer, "The Human Landscape of Contemporary Photography" / National Geographic Classic Image Exhibition / Yintai Centre / Beijing / 2022
17. Workshop Leader, Camera Techniques in 3D Animation / Faculty of Applied Sciences, Macau Polytechnic University / Macau / 2017
18. Workshop Leader, Computer Animation / Faculty of Applied Sciences, Macau Polytechnic University / Macau / 2016

19. Workshop Leader, Introduction to Computer Animation / Faculty of Applied Sciences, Macau Polytechnic University / Macau / 2011
20. Workshop Leader, Macau-wide Alice 3D Programming Game Competition / Macau / 2008–2018

Selected Media Coverage

1. Still Life from the Shadows / China Contemporary Photography New Talent Exhibition / Text and images on China Photography magazine official website / 2026
2. Top 20-2025 / Zhejiang Photographers Association official website (text and images) / 2026
3. The Shadow of a Shadow / Sihe Xuan Gallery official WeChat public account (text and images) / 2026
4. What Does AI Art Teach in Universities? / Video interview on Photography Friends official website / 2025
5. Using AI for Art Is Not Just About Creating Spectacles / Video interview on Photography Friends official website / 2025
6. The Shadow of a Shadow / Sugar House official WeChat public account (text and images) / 2026
7. Still Life from the Shadows / China Contemporary Photography New Talent Exhibition / Text and images on Zhejiang Art Museum official website / 2025
8. Still Life from the Shadows / TOP20 China Contemporary Photography New Talent Exhibition / China Photography official WeChat public account / 2025
9. Is It Technology or Institutions That Rewrites TOP20's "New Talent"? / China Photography official WeChat public account / 2025
10. Still Life from the Shadows, Phmuseum Curators Pick Awards / Phmuseum.com / 2025
11. What Has the Photography Exhibition Evolved Into? / Fine Arts Weekly / 2025

12. Exhibition Works from "Sensory vs. Intelligent: AI Art Exhibition" | Shadow Theater / Digital Art and Intelligent Design / Video work and text with images on official WeChat public account / 2025
13. Rivers and Mountains / Lensculture Art Photography Awards / Lensculture.com / Interview by Magali Duzant / 2024
14. Memory of Trees / Inheritance and Innovation: Academic Invitational Exhibition on Historical and Cultural Heritage Themed Creation / Southern Plus / 2023
15. Boys and Girls / 2023 China Rhythm / Three Shadows Art Centre / Video report and text with images on official website / 2023
16. Models in Photography / Beijing International Photography Week / Zhongyi Image / Video report and text with images on official WeChat public account / 2022
17. Sun Yan: Image, a Medium and a Boundary / Yangshuo Sugar House / Video report and text with images on official WeChat public account / 2022
18. Three Years and Another Three Years / Hengqin New Works Exhibition / Macau TV / 2016
19. The Future and Development of Design Programmes at Macau Polytechnic University / Macau TV / 2016
20. Preliminary Thoughts on Establishing a Cultural and Creative Industries Centre at Macau Polytechnic Institute / Macau Daily News / 2013
21. The Animation Aesthetics of Along the River During the Qingming Festival / Lotus TV / 2011
22. The Animation Aesthetics of Olympic 8002 / Popular DV magazine / 2008
23. Digital Creations by Chinese Artists in Yokohama / Asahi Shimbun (Japan) / 2007

Recent Student Awards and Exhibitions

1. The 4th Lingyuan AIGC Art Exhibition of China Academy of Art / Finalist / 2026 (Animation + AI-generated image, 4-person team)

2. Da Show International Digital Art Lenovo Competition / First Prize / 2026
(Animation + AI-generated image, 4-person team)
3. Hengqin-Macau International Digital Art Expo + Venice Life Art Festival / Top
30 Finalist, exhibited in Venice, Italy / 2026 (Animation + AI-generated image,
4-person team)
4. "A Panorama of Taishan, A Myriad of Hometown Sentiments" / Humanistic Bay
Area, Impression of Taishan / Aired on CCTV program "Roots of China" and
Yangshipin / 2026 (Film promotional video, 6-person team)
5. The 29th National Photographic Art Exhibition / Finalist in Art Category / 2023
(1 person)
6. 2023 Sony World Photography Awards / Shortlist in Professional Competition /
2023 (1 person)
7. 2023 IPA International Photography Awards / Honorable Mention / 2023 (2
people)
8. 2023 Monochrome Awards / 2023 (1 person)
9. 2023 Lensculture Black & White Photography Award / Nomination / 2023 (1
person)
10. 2023 The 20th International Photography Awards (USA) / 2023 (1 person)
11. 2023 American Annual International Photography Award / 2023 (1 person)
12. 2023 Neutral Density International Photography Award (USA) / 2023 (1 person)
13. 2023 ND International Photography Award / Honorable Mention / 2023 (2
people)
14. 2023 Tokyo International Photography Award / Honorable Mention / 2023 (1
person)
15. 2023 Macau Orient Foundation / Plastic Arts Award / 2023 (1 person)