

ZHANG RUO

Born 1982, China, Hebei,
Based in Berlin, Germany

Not long ago, Zhang Qiang was known as Zhang Ruo, and his name change from "strong" to "weak" is a candid reflection of his recent sense of vulnerability.

Zhang Ruo's creations evoke a sense of whimsy, akin to tales from fairytales and fables. His artworks take on endearing forms, crafted from diverse materials such as bronze, ceramics, found objects, and more. At times, he ventures into the realm of the unexpected by using old history books and stacks of discarded science textbooks, transforming them into thought-provoking sculptures, installations, and intriguing oddities. While his work lacks overt aggression, it quietly poses profound questions to society. The juxtaposition of books, tightly stacked with minimal space between them, reveals Zhang Ruo's meticulous attention to even the smallest issues, approached with unwavering seriousness.

Zhang Ruo is a perpetual creator and an eternal questioner, in a continuous quest to find himself.

In the grand narrative of human history's ever-evolving course, art meanders and wavers, much like a river changing its course. Amid this journey, there lies a subtle melancholy—a striving to embody a form that endures and perpetuates itself, resonating with profound meaning. Hence, Zhang Ruo frequently creates heartwarming pieces, emanating warmth and tenderness. Zhang Ruo's artistic repertoire extends beyond sculpture. When his art serves as a conduit for emotions, it exudes an undeniable and potent presence. This intense ambiance, when conveyed to those who resonate with feelings of sorrow and vulnerability, ignites a profound resonance from their eyes to their hearts. The term "intense" does not imply flamboyance but rather a quiet yet profoundly powerful existence. This is the essence of Zhang Ruo's work.

His creations are not mere artworks; they are an embodiment of his spirit and a reflection of his emotions.



Animal Master(2013-2017)

Zhang Ruo's art is whimsical yet thought-provoking. He crafts sculptures and installations from a variety of materials, including bronze, ceramics, and old books. While his creations appear charming and playful, they subtly challenge societal norms and question the world around us. His work often features animals standing opposite antique chairs, symbolizing a world on the brink of change.

Zhang Ruo's life is closely intertwined with nature, which he believes allows for a more authentic connection with the world. His "Animal Home" series, featuring animals on benches, reflects the resilience of nature in the face of adversity.

These sculptures, seemingly innocent and romantic, conceal deeper messages about the humor and absurdity of human society. Like fables, they serve as mirrors, prompting introspection. Zhang Ruo's art is a reflection of our world, inviting us to see ourselves more clearly.



Animal master-cat, 2013, Kupferguss, Acrylfarbe, 54x40x17cm

候鳥
空間

Migrant
Bird
Space



Animal master-horse, 2013, Kupferguss, Acrylfarbe
145x110x33cm

候鳥
空間

Migrant
Bird
Space



Animal master-monke, 2013, Kupferguss, Acrylfarbe, 53x39x28cm

Contact

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Migrant Bird Space is a Berlin & Beijing-based art foundation and gallery, providing a showcase for artists as well as art agency services in China & Europe. Working out of the gallery space at Koppenplatz in the heart of Berlin, the foundation offers a professional platform for cross-cultural communication between China and Europe with a focus on contemporary Chinese art. Promoting both established and emerging artists, Migrant Birds provides gallery spaces for exhibitions in Beijing and Berlin, an artist-in-residence program, regular talks and lectures, as well as support in liaising with Museums, universities, private institutions and more.

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Animal master-Pig, 2013, Kupferguss, Acrylfarbe, 64x60x25cm