

symbiosis
Zhang Shujian

opening reception September 23rd, 2025
24.09.2025 - 29.11.2025

Influenced by Chinese and European masters, *Zhang Shujian* focuses on the human face. But unlike traditional portraitists, his aim is not idealization; instead, he turns his gaze to what is often hidden or ignored—the awkward, the asymmetrical, the imperfect.

The first encounter with a work by *Zhang Shujian* is often a turmoil, our eye finds itself confronted with imperfection, even ugliness.

His portraits, sometimes bordering on the grotesque, depict not only real individuals but also imagined figures, each brought to life through meticulous detail and emotional depth.

He gives pictorial space to the flaws in our faces, to the elements we consider awkward or deformed.

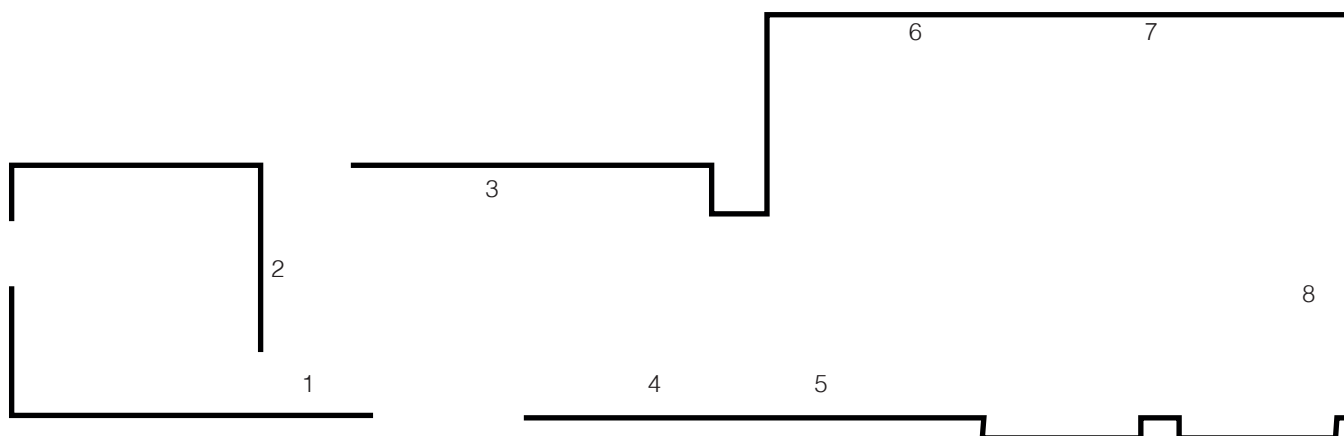
His highly detailed works are a quest for hyperrealism and photorealism. Using pencil on paper or thin layers of oil paint he creates works that give imperfection a value as an expression of life and truth.

His works often mix in the making references from real portraits by old masters with actual photographs shots taken from the Internet, or mixing Eastern and Western features, in images that might look familiar or repulsive by the fluidity of the stream of visual inputs we have in our daily, global and connected, routine.

Zhang Shujian (b. 1987, Hunan Province, CN).

Zhang Shujian lives and works in Beijing. In 2010 he graduated from the Oil Painting Department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts of Beijing.

Recent solo exhibitions include: Mad Genius, CLC Gallery Venture, Beijing, (2023); Face, Parts Project, the Hague (2021); Story and Feed - Zhang Shujian's Recent Works, CLC Gallery Venture, Beijing (2020); Skin Weave, C-Space, Beijing (2018). Recent group exhibition includes: Engaging with the World, Taikang Art Museum, Beijing, The Evolution of Chinese Paintings Since 2000, Shanxi Provincial Museum of Contemporary Art, Taiyuan (2023); SITE OF TRANSITIVITY, 69CAMPUS Art Centre, Beijing, Let Painting Talk, Taikang Space, Beijing (2021); Under the sign of the internet-connections and double meanings, CLC Gallery Venture, Beijing, The Hidden Ghost, Platform China Contemporary Art Institute, Beijing (2019) among others.

**1***Skin Weave-2025-3, 2025*

Oil on wood
30 x 30 cm

2*Skin Weave-2025-2, 2025*

Oil on wood
40 x 30 cm

3*Skin Weave-Picasso, 2025*

Oil on wood
50 x 40 cm

4*Skin Weave-28, 2018*

Pencil on paper
110 x 76 cm

5*Skin Weave-29, 2018*

Pencil on paper
110 x 76 cm

6*Skin Weave-Durer, 2025*

Oil on wood
60 x 80 cm

7*Symbiosis, 2025*

Oil on wood
60 x 80 cm

8*Skin Weave-Trinity, 2025*

Oil on wood
60 x 50 cm