

2025 Shanghai International Paper Art Biennale “PAPER & WATER”

OPEN CALL FOR ARTWORKS
FOR BIENNALE EXHIBITION AT
FENGXIAN MUSEUM, SHANGHAI, CHINA

November 1st, 2025 – February 28, 2026



Between November 1st, 2025 and February 28, 2026, the 2025 Shanghai International Paper Art Biennale, titled “PAPER & WATER”, will be held in the coastal city of Shanghai, China, a city between history and tradition, modernity and high tech – a city surrounded by a river on all sides, with trade links in the south of the Yangtze River and the East China Ocean.

Shanghai International Paper Art Biennale has been held in Fengxian District of Shanghai for the past nine years. The year 2025 will usher in the “Ten years of progress, ten years of spring and autumn” international Paper Art exhibition. In this regard, IAPMA Congress 2025 is intended to be held concurrently in Shanghai, China 2025. We welcome everyone to actively participate and witness this glorious moment together with the organizers of the biennale.

The exhibition will be juried by the Organizing Committee, consisting of officials from Shanghai Fengxian Museum and the Shanghai International Paper Art Biennale’s Organizing team.

The submitted artworks can be two- or three- dimensional paper artworks. All paper-related techniques are accepted such as casting, folding, papier-mâché, pulp painting, encaustic, etc. All kinds of paper artworks are accepted, including book art, paper collage, paper fashion, paper jewelry, paper installations and more. Artists can submit up to 3 artworks. The Organizing Committee of Shanghai International Paper Art Biennale would appreciate receiving your artwork as a donation to the museum when the exhibition is over.

Priority submission deadline: August 15, 2025

Regular submission deadline: September 3, 2025

---- Please note: The number of selected artworks is limited! ----

Eligibility:

The submitted artworks can be two- or three-dimensional paper artworks. All paper-related techniques are accepted such as casting, folding, papier-mâché, pulp painting, encaustic, etc. All kinds of paper artworks are accepted, e.g., book art, paper collage, paper fashion, paper jewelry, paper installation and more. Please avoid political, religious and anti-Chinese content. Artists can submit up to 3 artworks.

*Please avoid political, religious and anti-Chinese content as well as local language content in each country. If there are textual expressions other than English in the work, please provide an explanation and creative concept of their meaning in English in the submission form.

Exhibition venue:

Fengxian Museum, Shanghai, China

<https://www.fxbwg.cn/English/>

Exhibition organizer:

www.paperartbiennale.org.cn

Exhibition Schedule:

Final submission deadline:	September 10, 2025
Jury Notice for Priority Submission:	August 20, 2025 – September 1, 2025
Jury Notice for Post Submission:	September 5, 2025 – September 10, 2025
Deadline for artwork arrival:	September 25, 2025
Exhibition dates:	November 1st, 2025 – February 28, 2026
Return of artworks:	From April 2026 onwards

Theme:

“Paper & Water”

Water covers more than 70% of the earth's surface and is the basis of our existence. In traditional Chinese philosophy, water represents the cycle of life as one of the five

elements. With its powerful Yin energy, the element of water symbolizes purity, transformation, clarity and calm. Water symbolizes fertile life and longevity. Like flowing water, all living things on this planet are in constant motion, leading to constant change and renewal.

Water is a fundamental element in nature, but also for hand papermaking and for creating works of art. The flow of water is invisible and it is important in the production and creation of handmade paper. It washes, soaks, decomposes and fuses paper fiber raw material and allows artists to maintain the variability of their works in the creation of handmade paper and paper art, thus creating a variety of possibilities for this artistic discipline. The theme of 2025 Shanghai Paper Art Biennale is “PAPER & WATER” which has both a historical and humanistic meaning and reflects the local nature of contemporary art creation.

*Please avoid political, religious and anti-Chinese content in your work and any local language content in each country. If there are textual expressions other than English in the work, please provide an explanation and creative concept of their meaning in English in the submission form.

Artwork Size, Weight, Packaging:

- 2-dimensional: MINIMUM: 50 x 50 cm (20 x 20 inches), exceptions can be made, large-scale artworks welcome
- 3-dimensional: MINIMUM: 50 x 50 x 50 cm (20 x 20 x 20 inches), exceptions can be made, large-scale artworks welcome
- Paper Installation: Size is not limited and the packaging needs to be convenient for transportation.
- All artworks should arrive ready for display, either framed or with any special hooks or hardware needed and a manual on installation / handling / care instructions.
- All works must arrive in secure and reusable packaging.

Submission Guideline:

- Fill the entry form (template provided) -- the title, dimensions, medium, description, and intent of your work. We also accept beautiful small works while welcoming large paper art installations
- Please provide at least 3 digital pictures of your work - 600-800 dpi in .jpg or .tif format
- CV in Chinese and English - brief, A4 size in .doc format. The information is important for the catalog and web presentation, but will not affect the selection process.
- Personal portrait photo - 400*600 dpi in .jpg format
- Label your images: Surname_Artwork title_Number listed on Entry Form

- If the paper artworks contain the characters of various languages, please include separate sheets of paper to the package and clearly mark their creativity or the meaning to be expressed in English language.

You will be informed by E-mail on or before August 30, 2025 if your works are selected for the exhibition.

Application documents should be sent to Anson Ou at

ansonou@feastsonpaper.com

racheljin@feastsonpaper.com

Terms and Conditions:

The artist is responsible for wrapping their artwork, with packaging that can be easily reused for return and for providing clear directions for its re-packing. Any damages to the artwork caused by insufficient packing by the artist will not be insured. Shipping of the artwork to the exhibition venue in China, the professional packing, any insurance and correct filling of customs forms to avoid import fees is the responsibility of the artist.

All artworks must include a hanging system prepared by the artist. If a suitable hanging system is not provided, the organizers reserve the right to display the work as best as possible within their means. The organizers accept no responsibility if this method of display is not in keeping with the artist's intent. Furthermore, if the absence of a proper hanging system causes inconvenience to or endangers other works, the organizers reserve the right not to display the affected artwork.

Works must arrive in Guangzhou, China, no later than the **deadline (September 25, 2025 - deadline to arrive in Guangzhou)**. Originals arriving after this date will not be included in the exhibition. The organizer is not responsible for any loss or damage sustained during transportation.

During the exhibition, the tax for a sold work will be borne by the artist. The exhibition will be featured by media outlets. Art critics, curators, collectors and paper art lovers will be invited to the exhibition. The organizer will take a 20% commission on the purchase price of the sold work. The artist will be informed if his/her work is sold, and the money will be transferred to his/her bank account after deduction of 10% VAT and tax.

Activities such as forums and workshops will be organized during the exhibition.

Please inform the organizing committee in advance, if you, as the artist of an exhibit, would like to attend the exhibition in person.

The return transport will be the responsibility of the exhibition organizer. Neither Shanghai Fengxian Museum, nor the exhibition organizer will pay any customs fees for receipt to the venue, or for receipt upon return shipping of the artwork.

If the artist would like to donate his/her work to the organizer, this should be stated on the application form by checking YES. The organizer will present selected donations in exhibitions in other cities in China. The selection will be made according to the requirements of the exposition space and context of the event. The purpose of this exhibition is to show different directions and styles.

The artwork will be insured during the exhibition to the extent possible by each venue. The artist acknowledges that any venue that cannot provide insurance will do their best to provide secure exhibition and safe handling.

The exhibition organizer will return the artwork to the artist safely and will take care of the return shipping costs. In case of loss or damage to the artwork, the artist must give proof of the actual market value of their work and provide photo documentation of original secure packaging. If the paper works and installations are naturally damaged due to long-term hanging or because of the fragility of the material itself during the exhibition period, the exhibition organizer and the curatorial team shall be exempt from liability.

The exhibition organizer will prepare posters and fliers for the exhibition. By submitting work, the artist agrees that images of the accepted artworks may be used for promotional purposes.

Publication

Feasts On Paper - Catalog of the 2025 Shanghai International Paper Art Biennale

Organization Structure

Supervisors

Government of Fengxian District, Shanghai

Shanghai Municipal Administration of Culture and Tourism

Hosts

Culture and Tourism Bureau of Fengxian District, Shanghai

Organizer

Shanghai Fengxian Museum

Fibre Art Committee, China National Arts and Crafts Society

Paper Art Research Committee, Industrial Art Design of Shanghai Association

Paper+ Studio

Supports

Shanghai Intangible Cultural Heritage Preservation and Promotion Center

Industrial Art Design of Shanghai Association

Institute of Handmade Paper, University of Science and Technology of China

The Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University

Institute of Handmade Paper and Paper Art, Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University

Institute of Chinese Paper Art, Jilin Normal University

International Association of Hand Papermakers and Paper Artists e.V.

Shanghai Art & Crafts Magazine

Curator: Anson Ou

Benefits for Participants

- The selected works will be subsequently exhibited and sold at the annual charity fair organized by an art foundation.
- Participants will receive a catalog of the exhibition and a certificate awarded by the Culture and Shanghai Fengxian Museum.
- Artists and their works will enjoy extensive exposure by renowned media.
- Artists may be invited to give talks at colleges, or be engaged as an art adviser by the local government.
- Selected works will be housed by local museums in Fengxian District or museums of paper art.

Review of Past Biennale

Review of 2019 Paper Art Biennale

Link of online Exhibition :

https://720yun.com/t/ddvkibpyrb?scene_id=37089449

Video link:

<https://youtu.be/dYDIHSJT4uQ>

Review of 2021 Paper Art Biennale

Video link:

<https://youtu.be/ttzAEaJAsog>

Review of 2023 Paper Art Biennale

Video link:

<https://youtu.be/Gl4Ao49RBUQ>

The Congress Convenors would appreciate receiving your artwork as a donation for the museum when the exhibition is over.

GDPR Acknowledgement

The processing of personal data from this application form takes place exclusively for the purpose of the proper processing of the Open Call, for the selection for participation in the project. The legal basis for this is para. 2 DS-GVO (GDPR) in conjunction with. §3 BDSG

(Federal Data Protection Act of the Federal republic of Germany) for the purpose of data processing just described. Your personal data will be stored at IAPMA e.V. and at the devices of the exhibition organizer. Your personal data will not be passed on to third parties. By participation of the open call and submission of artworks, the artist agrees to these conditions.

Contact:

Questions about the exhibition:

Curator Anson Ou ansonou@feastsonpaper.com

Rachel jin racheljin@feastsonpaper.com

Accepted works must be sent to the address below:

Person: Anson Ou

Address: Room 301 , 3F No.1 Shabei street ,Baiyun District, Guangzhou, China

Postcode:510168

Tel: +86 18824102779