

## Press Release

**Exhibition Title:** *Luminous Time: From River Seine to the Yellow River*

Exhibition Time: November 18, 2023 (Saturday) to December 17, 2023 (Sunday)

Opening: November 18, 2023 (Saturday)

Organizers: Changzhou Art Gallery, Liu Haisu Art Museum

Supporting: W.Ming Art

Curator: Zhang Xiaoming

Exhibition Location: 3F Changzhou Art Gallery, A-Building No.7, Cultural Square. No.2 Jinxiu Rd., Xinbei Dist., Changzhou

**Changzhou, China, November 18, 2023** - On Saturday, November 18th, jointly hosted by the Changzhou Art Gallery and the Liu Haisu Art Museum, supported by W Ming Art, Yang Kai's solo exhibition, "Luminous Time: From River Seine to the Yellow River," will grandly open on the 3rd floor of the Changzhou Art Gallery. "Luminous Time" marks not only another significant milestone for Yang Kai since his solo exhibition at the China Art Museum in 2006 but also a profound retrospective of his artistic career. Following in the footsteps of his predecessor and fellow alumnus of the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, Mr. Liu Haisu, Yang Kai arrives at the Changzhou Art Museum and the Liu Haisu Art Museum. This not only pays deep respect to his many predecessors who studied in France but also showcases how a modernist painter born in the 1950s and studied in France, through the exchange of culture between China and France, freezes the wheel of time in beautiful moments through modernist oil paintings, crafting compelling landscapes.

The exhibition "Luminous Time" is divided into two parts: "Passing on the Torch" and "Clarity of Mind Leads to Far-reaching Ambitions," showcasing the artist's works from two periods, from 1984 to 2008 and from 2009 to 2023. The entire exhibition features a total of 56 oil paintings and 20 early works on paper. Over two years, from 1985 to 1987, the artist traveled to Gansu, Qinghai, and southern Anhui for sketching and completed numerous landscape sketches. These encompassed a series ranging from market scenes at Kumbum Monastery to portraits of pastoral people and scenes from grazing areas. In 1987, Yang Kai went to Paris, France, for further studies. Over the subsequent decade and a half, centered around Paris and following the footsteps of the Impressionist painters, he extensively created oil paintings from Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris to the Côte d'Azur of the Mediterranean Sea. In 2008, Yang Kai returned to his homeland,

engaging in heartfelt dialogues with nature, exploring peaks and valleys, experiencing mountain streams and pastoral scenery. He candidly expressed his sentiments, using a previously unprecedented painting style to vividly capture landscapes on large canvases, his artistic journey spanning from the Gannan grasslands to the waters of Mount Wuyi.

In his self-narrative, Yang Kai mentioned, "Due to the profound influence of pioneers, I harbored the idea of studying in France. With Chinese Economic Reform in 1987, my dream finally came true. I fulfilled this wish and embarked on the path to study and explore art in Paris, France, entering the relay race of the older generation of artists studying in France at the Écoles des Beaux-Arts in Paris." Yang Kai has been profoundly nurtured by both French and Chinese cultures, possessing not only a pure language of oil painting but also the imagery of traditional Chinese painting. Amidst the overwhelming influence of AI technology, commercial culture, and the changes of the times, he still guards his own pure land within, exploring different regions and temporal contexts. With an implicit strength, he steadfastly upholds the contemporary inheritance of oil painting, painting landscapes of the soul.

**Acknowledgments:**

Chief Advisor: Yin Fu

Academic Director: Li Qing

Academic Support: Huang Heqing, Li Wenjun

Exhibition Director: Fang Zhengyu

Curator: Zhang Xiaoming

Curatorial Assistance: Wang Wenjia, Hu Xinyin, Fan Junyi

Graphic Design: Wei Jie, Che Yiwen

**About the Artist:**

Yang Kai, born in 1956 in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China, is a renowned painter in the international art world. His artistic career spans both Eastern and Western cultures, amalgamating diverse artistic styles. In 1987, Yang Kai pursued advanced studies at the Écoles des Beaux-Arts in France, studying under the tutelage of the internationally acclaimed artist and Academician of the Académie Française, Professor Pierre Carron, and subsequently became a member of the French Artists Association. Yang Kai has received widespread acclaim internationally, having held solo exhibitions at prestigious institutions such as the China Art Museum, the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, and the Chinese Cultural Center in Paris. His artworks are collected by numerous public and private collections worldwide, including the China Art Museum, Shijiazhuang Art Museum, Gansu Provincial Museum, Gansu Provincial Art Museum,

Anhui Yaming Art Museum, as well as private collectors from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Iceland, France, the UK, Australia, and the United States, among other places.

**About the Curator:**

Zhang Xiaoming starts her art career in 1996 when she joined the curatorial team at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. She was involved in curating significant exhibitions, including the "Chinese Civilization: 5000 Years," held jointly with the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, showcased at the Guggenheim in New York and Bilbao. Zhang also co-curated the film series "Dawn: Early Chinese Cinema 1926-1949". From 2003 to 2005, she worked in the Director's Office Special Projects at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. From 2005 to 2008, she served as Vice President, Senior Specialist of Contemporary Asian Art at Sotheby's New York, setting several world auction records for Chinese contemporary artists. Presently, she operates as an independent international consultant for top auction houses and founded the Lotus Art, dedicated to promoting international contemporary art. Zhang holds a M.A from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and an MBA from the Stern School of Business at New York University. Additionally, she successfully completed an independent curatorial project under the Helen Frankenthaler Curator's Award at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Between 2005 and 2007, she was recognized as one of the global art authorities by the Art + Auction.

**About Liu Haisu Art Museum and Changzhou Art Gallery:**

Liu Haisu Art Museum, established in 1994 by the Government of Changzhou to promote Liu Haisu's art and patriotic spirit, is a municipal-level art museum located at No. 52 Shuanggui Fang in Changzhou. The name of the museum was personally inscribed by Liu Haisu and, in 2004, the museum sign was also put up as the Changzhou Art Museum.

To better meet the public's demands for a refined cultural spirit in the new era and fully utilize the museum's public cultural service functions, under the vigorous promotion of the municipal government, after years of planning and construction, the Changzhou Art Museum officially opened to the public on June 28, 2020, situated within Changzhou Cultural Square. The museum covers a total area of over 20,000 square meters, spanning ten floors above ground and two floors underground. The third, fifth, seventh, and ninth floors serve as exhibition areas open to the public. It also includes a large main exhibition hall, a climate-controlled boutique exhibition hall, large and small reception halls, as well as a professional lecture hall and public educational classrooms that can accommodate hundreds of people, providing diverse spaces that greatly cater to the evolving exhibition experience needs of the citizens of Changzhou.

Situated in the popular tourist spot, Changzhou Cultural Square, the Changzhou Art Museum stands as a proud cultural landmark in Changzhou city. The Cultural Square comprises a complex of public buildings, including the art museum, library, art center, office spaces, hotels, and commercial facilities. Drawing inspiration from typical stone arch bridges in the Jiangnan region, the architects created a series of arch structures. These arches not only reflect the charm of traditional Chinese architectural culture but also symbolically connect the independent buildings in the Cultural Square, forming a comprehensive cultural exchange space. The Changzhou Art Museum, as a core component of this cultural complex, provides a modern and traditional platform for exhibitions and exchanges, meeting the citizens' pursuit of a refined cultural life and significantly contributing to the improvement of Changzhou's public cultural facilities and comprehensive service capabilities.

Both the second floor of Liu Haisu Art Museum and the fifth floor of the Changzhou Art Gallery house permanent exhibitions titled "A Grain of Sand in the Vast Sea, A Magnificent Life - Liu Haisu's Exhibition," showcasing Liu Haisu's artworks from different periods alongside a series of precious documentary materials. The exhibited works cover calligraphy, oil paintings, among other forms.

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**【新闻稿-供及时发布】**

杨凯「时光心迹」—从塞纳河到黄河源

展览名称：杨凯「时光心迹」—从塞纳河到黄河源

展期：2023年11月18日（周六）至2023年12月17日（周日）

开幕式：2023年11月18日（周六）

主办单位：常州美术馆，刘海粟美术馆

支持单位：莲艺

策展人：张晓明

展览地点：常州美术馆3楼，常州市新北区锦绣路2号文化广场7号楼A座

11月18日（周六），由常州美术馆，刘海粟美术馆主办，莲艺支持的杨凯个展《「时光心迹」—从塞纳河到黄河源》将在常州美术馆3楼隆重开幕。“时光心迹”不仅是继2006年中国美术馆个展后杨凯的又一重要历程，也是其艺术生涯的一次深刻回顾。杨凯追随其在巴黎高等美术学院的前辈校友刘海粟先生的脚步来到常州美术馆，刘海粟美术馆，不仅是对其众多旅法前辈的深深敬意，也展示了一位20世纪50年代出生的留法艺术家，在中法两国文化交流中如何通过现代主义的油画，将时间之轮定格在美好的瞬间，书写出动人的风景画卷。

本次展览“时光心迹”分为两部分，“薪火相传”与“澄怀致远”，分别展出了艺术家从1984年至2008年与2009年至2023年两个时间段的作品。整个展览共展出56幅油画以及20幅早期的纸上作品。从1985年到1987年的两年间，艺术家在甘肃、青海、皖南一带采风写生并完成了大量的风景速写，囊括了一系列从塔尔寺的集市到牧区人民肖像和牧马场景的展现。1987年，杨凯前往法国巴黎进行深造，在随后的十几年间，从巴黎圣母院到地中海沿岸的蔚蓝海岸，他以巴黎为中心，沿着印象派画家的足迹进行大量油画创作。2008年，杨凯回到祖国，与大自然真诚对话，搜尽奇峰，感受高山流水，田园风光，直抒胸意，以之前未有的绘画方式大尺幅现场书写风景，他的艺术之旅遍及甘南草原至武夷山水。

杨凯在自述中提到，“由于深受先驱们的影响，在此背景下我萌生留学法国的念头，1987年改革开放后终于梦想成真，实现了这一愿望踏上前往法国巴黎求学探艺之路，「薪火相传」进入了法国巴黎国立高等美术学院接起了老一代留法艺术家的接力棒！”杨凯饱受法兰西与华夏文化漫润滋养，既有纯正的油画语言又有中国传统绘画的意象。在充斥着AI科技，商业文化冲击以及时代变迁的纷繁当下，他仍然守护着内心的一方净土，在不同地域和时空语境中探索，以含蓄的力量坚定地守护着油画在当下的传承，画出心灵风景。

#### 展览鸣谢

总顾问：殷福

学术主持：李庆

学术支持：黄河清，李文君

展览总监：方正煜

策展人：张晓明

策展协助：王文佳，胡馨尹，范君逸

平面设计：魏杰，车艺文

## 关于艺术家

杨凯，1956年出生于中国甘肃省兰州市，是一位在国际艺术界享有盛誉的画家，其艺术生涯跨越中西文化，融会了丰富多样的艺术风格。1987年，杨凯前往法国国立高等美术学院深造，师从国际著名艺术家，法兰西学院院士，皮埃尔·卡隆（Pierre Carron）教授，并成为法国艺术家协会会员。杨凯在国际上广受赞誉，他曾在诸如中国美术馆，香港大会堂，巴黎中国文化中心等机构中开设个展。同时他的作品也被世界各地众多公共和私人收藏机构收藏，包括中国美术馆、石家庄美术馆、甘肃省博物馆、甘肃省美术馆和合肥亚明艺术馆，以及来自香港、台湾、冰岛、法国、英国、澳大利亚和美国等地的私人收藏家。

## 关于策展人

策展人张晓明的艺术生涯始于1996年，当时她加入了所罗门·R·古根海姆博物馆的策展团队。她参与策划的重要展览包括《中华五千年文明艺术展》——这是与中华人民共和国文化部联合举办的展览，分别在古根海姆纽约和毕尔巴鄂展出。张晓明还共同策划了电影系列《黎明：早期中国电影 1926-1949》。2003年至2005年，她在所罗门·R·古根海姆博物馆馆长办公室特别项目组工作。2005年至2008年，她担任了纽约苏富比的副总裁、全球高级专家及亚洲现当代艺术主管，期间为中国现当代艺术家创造了多项世界拍卖记录。目前，她作为一名独立国际顾问，为国际顶尖的拍卖行服务，并创立了莲艺艺术，致力于推广国际现当代艺术。张晓明拥有纽约大学蒂施艺术学院的艺术硕士学位和纽约大学斯特恩商学院的商业管理硕士学位，与此同时她还成功完成了美国惠特尼艺术博物馆的海伦·赫莲娜策展人奖项下的独立策展项目。在2005年至2007年间，她被《艺术+拍卖》杂志评为全球艺术权威之一。

## 关于刘海粟美术馆，常州美术馆

刘海粟美术馆，是常州市人民政府为弘扬海粟艺术和爱国精神，于1994年建成开馆的市级美术馆，位于常州市双桂坊52号，馆名由刘海粟先生亲笔题写，2004年增挂常州美术馆的牌子。

为了更好满足新时代公众对美好精神文化的需求，发挥好美术馆的公共文化服务职能，在市政府大力推动下，经过多年筹备建设，2020年6月28日位于常州市文化广场内的常州美

术馆正式对外开放。馆内总面积2万多平方米，共分地上10层和地下2层，其中第三、五、七、九层为对外开放的展览区域，另外还设有大型主展厅、恒温恒湿精品展厅，大、小开幕厅及可容纳上百人的专业报告厅、公共教育教室等多元空间，能极大地满足常州市民不断提升的观展体验需求。

常州美术馆坐落于热门的网红打卡地——常州文化广场，这里是常州市引以为傲的文化地标。文化广场是一组集美术馆、图书馆、艺文中心、办公空间、酒店和商业设施于一体的公共建筑群，设计师从江南地区典型的石拱桥中汲取灵感，创造了一系列拱形结构。这些拱形不仅体现了中国传统建筑文化的韵味，也象征性地连接了文化广场中的各个独立建筑，形成了一个整体的文化交流空间。常州美术馆正是这一文化综合体的核心组成部分，提供了一个既现代又传统的展览与交流平台，满足了市民对美好精神文化生活的追求，同时也为常州市的公共文化设施水平和综合服务能力的提升做出了重要贡献。

刘海粟美术馆二楼和常州美术馆五楼均有常设展“沧海一粟 壮丽一生——刘海粟精品展”，展出刘海粟先生在不同时期的作品与一系列珍贵的文献资料。作品涵盖了书法、油画等。

#### 媒体洽询

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