

**ZIYANG WU**  
**ARTIST STATEMENT**

I have noticed a force in contemporary China (the politics of feudal empire and the power of capitalism business culture), which enables individuals' values and rationality to almost disappear in the details of everyday life. I call this phenomenon 'micro-alienation' and try to express my complicated feelings toward it through my work. My work is a meditation on current, specific and everyday narratives, mixed with personal experiences, self-hallucinations and cultural readings. I make it a point to differentiate my work from the heavy approach that most older generation Chinese artists take and instead draw on themes of absurdity and the carnival to propose this culturally specific critique. In *The Facekini Series*, for example, I express the spiritual alienation of ordinary people in the form of farce. These paintings, sculptures and video installations combine saturated color, exaggerated character design, complex dialogue and background sound effects. My audiovisual carnivals allow me to create environments of humor and anxiety. I see these works as "heretical" samples of Chinese culture in the context of globalization and a subversion of the elegant bourgeoisie and elite. The carnival not only destroys but also builds, eliminating the old while giving birth to the new.

While my undergraduate and graduate degrees have been in the specialization of painting, I have also made installation, sculpture, video, animation and performance. I grew up in the context of significant cultural change and the development of the Internet. The conflict between the old and the new accelerated my wide-ranging exploration. I'm always dissatisfied by a single visual form and seek to include different elements in my works such as technology, drama and visual samples from different cultures. I believe that the era of globalization should have a particular discourse of its own, which is bonded with cultural communication and interactive media. My works sits at the edge of many disciplines, giving me more possibilities to find a unique form that reflects contemporary reality.