



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Qiuwang Wang, *Cocoon Pulse* (left) and Gavin Chai, *Female Dancer* (right)

Image courtesy of the artists.

UXBRIDGE 2026 exhibition programme opens with Qiuwang Wang and Gavin Chai

UXBRIDGE Arts and Culture is pleased to announce the launch of its 2026 programme of exhibitions in the Malcolm Smith Gallery with *时雨 Showers of Spring*, a new project featuring paintings and sculpture by Qiuwang Wang and Gavin Chai. The exhibition showcases a selection of paintings across Wang's career and Chai's new series of *陶俑 Tao Yong* ceramic sculpture. The exhibition will be on view over the summer, between 2 February and 14 March 2026.

时雨 Showers of Spring is rooted in ancient Chinese philosophy and centres around *时雨 shí yǔ*, the belief of trusting the universe to bring what is needed, when it is needed.

The term loosely translates to ‘timely rain’ and is often represented in traditional Chinese literature as the fleeting spring showers that refresh the landscape after winter. These spontaneous rain spells remind us that not everything is within our control, as much as we would like to believe otherwise.

In an age shaped by science, we tend to disconnect ourselves from the undercurrent of oneness that permeates throughout humanity, framing the material world as all things tangible and rejecting the intangible as less than or entirely unreal. UXBRIDGE Visual Art Coordinator and exhibition curator Zoë May comments on the interesting interplay between Qiuwang Wang’s paintings and Gavin Chai’s ceramics, “Despite the artworks being created without influence, Chai’s sculptures seem to be leaping forth from the universe Wang has created. The figure is a prominent subject for both artists. It becomes not only a visual link between the two mediums, but a symbol of the interconnectedness the artists are trying to capture.” Through a collection of allegorical yet vulnerable creations, the artists engage with this forgotten undercurrent and pose the poignant question, “What is our purpose?” Each artist uses their medium to explore the human condition, revealing the inner landscapes that influence our lives through enigmatic subjects and surreal, dreamlike worlds.

As part of the exhibition, Qiuwang Wang & Gavin Chai will lead an artist talk and tour of the exhibition on Saturday 28 February, 10 am. This event will be held in Mandarin as part of the UXBRIDGE Chinese Community Workshop series. This event is free (koha appreciated) with booking required. Bookings can be made at UXBRIDGE or online: www.uxbridge.org.nz

About the Artists

Qiuwang Wang is a figurative painter living in East Auckland. Through symbolic forms and multi-layered compositions, his work explores the relationship between humanity, nature, and consciousness – feeling the resonance between spirit and nature and sensing the unity of all things within the flow of existence and transformation. His paintings seek to reveal the invisible currents of emotion, the inner landscapes, and the dimensions that surround and shape us. Since moving to New Zealand in 2014, he has lived and worked in Auckland, where he continues to explore painting and its relationship with contemporary thought and perception.

Gavin Chai is a figurative painter living in East Auckland. His work is poetic in nature, reflecting on the human condition and our search for meaning in an ever-shifting world. In 2025, Chai began experimenting with ceramics, inspired by the ancient Chinese style of 陶俑 Tao Yong ceramic figurines. Bringing together realism with elements of the fantastic, he draws inspiration from European and Chinese artistic traditions. He completed his Bachelor of Visual Arts at AUT in 2020, and is currently represented by

Föenander galleries, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, and Page Galleries in Te Whanganui-a-tara Wellington.

UXBRIDGE Exhibitions in 2026

The Malcolm Smith Gallery programme continues in 2026 with solo exhibitions by emerging and established artists alongside the 20th annual Estuary Art and Ecology Awards. Interdisciplinary artist Olivia Asher, whose practice explores materiality, memory and language through intimate visual and written form, presents *by the time I noticed* in March. Tony Clarke's exhibition *Interwoven*, a celebration of the ecological richness of the Tāmaki Estuary through detailed depictions of local birdlife and habitats, opens in May and is the first of UXBRIDGE'S exhibitions expanding on themes derived from the longstanding Estuary Art and Ecology Awards. The awards themselves follow in July, celebrating 20 years as Aotearoa's contemporary art project dedicated to ecological themes. The programme continues in October with Sahana Rahman whose work across painting, textiles and participatory practice explores diasporic identity, memory and healing, offering a reflective close to the year.

Located adjacent to the Malcolm Smith Gallery, UXBRIDGE's Wall exhibition space presents a series of exhibitions by senior secondary school and early tertiary study artists from East Auckland. The 2026 programme features work by Abi Chambers (University of Auckland), Charlotte Steel (Manukau Institute of Technology), Yoyo Zheng (Macleans College), and Layce Duplessis (Howick College). Now in its third year, the initiative supports emerging East Auckland artists by providing early exposure to professional exhibition practices.

UXBRIDGE Director Paul Brobbel says the 2026 programme has been a pleasure to watch take shape: "We've developed a programme that is clear in its focus on local contemporary artists and confident in presenting established practices alongside new."

UXBRIDGE is currently finalising the exhibition programme for 2027. Artists from East Auckland and the wider Auckland region interested in participating in the programme from 2028 onwards can submit a proposal via the website:

<https://uxbridge.org.nz/galleries/opportunities/>

For more information on the exhibitions and accompanying events, email info@uxbridge.org.nz or visit our website www.uxbridge.org.nz/galleries/exhibitions/

UXBRIDGE Arts and Culture

UXBRIDGE Arts and Culture is East Auckland's creative hub. Annually around 100,000 people make use of the Centre, participating in classes, workshops, programmes, events, and exhibitions or using UXBRIDGE as a base for community activities and hire.

UXBRIDGE is located just 50 meters from the centre of Howick Village on Uxbridge Road, next to the library. Howick is connected to Auckland's CBD via bus and ferry, with bus stops located on either end of Picton Street. There are also bus connections from Manukau & South Auckland, and local services within East Auckland.

Disability assistance dogs are welcome. There are two disabled parking spots in the car park. The car park is accessible via the driveway to the right of UXBRIDGE and leads to the back entrance of the building. The centre is wheelchair accessible and has an accessible, gender-neutral bathroom.

www.uxbridge.org.nz

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