

Introduction to Exhibition

Theme: The Shape of Language

Exhibition Time: September 21, 2026 10AM—September 26, 2026, 4PM

Introduction to the theme:

Language has a ubiquitous presence. It's in street signs, newspapers, in between the pages of books, on phone screens. It also exists within conversations—a greeting, a hesitation, a pause.

We use languages every day, but we don't always try to “see” language. If we slow down our pace, we'll find their hidden artistry: languages are not just meanings, they're shapes. They have form, rhythm, and a distance that's not visible to the eye.

We see it in different languages—Chinese, Japanese, English, Arabic—words are illustrated with different structures, different rhythms. It's in different mediums—calligraphy, posters, books, newspapers, screens—words become different in their forms. It's in different stages of our lives—childhood, teenage years, adulthood—words transform in their weight.

This exhibition invites you to reflect on your daily experiences with languages, and explore it in a way you have not before. We're not just *reading* words, we're *looking at* them. Through this process, we might find the shapes within our languages.

For this call for submission, we welcome works from a variety of mediums, including but not limited to: painting, calligraphy, ceramics, sculpture, photography, etc. For digital works and photographic works, please make physical prints for exhibition. For video and short films, please prepare your own monitor and power supply.

We wish to create a confrontation of different artistic expressions, and we hope that our artists will create unrestrained artworks regarding the “shape of language.”

***Note: unfortunately, we cannot accept artworks containing fresh flowers and degradable materials.**

Prompts for inspiration:

1. **Language in the daily:** languages exist within our daily lives. Casual conversations, chat histories, shop signs, advertisements, street signs, books and newspapers.... Not limited to the documentation of words and languages, use your art to explore what they bring to your life, the shapes they hold, their order, the atmospheres they create.
2. **Different shapes, different languages:** different languages have different structures and rhythms. The frames of Chinese characters, the composition of Japanese characters, the transformations of Latin words, the rhythm of Arabic script. Combining different cultures, use your art to express your understanding of languages.
3. **Languages in the stages of life:** the shape of languages change with age. The stumbling over words in our childhood, to the intricate casual conversations in adulthood, to the documentations and reflections in your elderly. Languages are different in all these stages: the way they feel, the way they're seen. Describe the current stage of your life and how it affects the way you see language.

- 4. Language in literature:** turn poetry and prose into visual artworks. Compose, create rhythms, create compositions, use images to express your understanding of the language of literature.
- 5. Different mediums, different languages:** the same words will look different within different mediums: the way calligraphy flows, the structures in graphic design, the systems in digital pixels. Use different mediums to contrast the same words, explore the visual potentials of languages.

The above are simply provided for inspiration. We welcome many more interpretations and creative expressions.