

# VALERY GUO

## *Oxygen* (wall sculptures)

From 19 January to 19 March 2023

*Opening with the presence of the artist  
Thursday 19 January from 6pm to 8.30 pm*

Born in France, Valery spent 15 years in Beijing and is currently based in Paris.

A graduate of a School of Expertise in Works of Art in Paris, Valery began his career in the modern and contemporary art industry in China. Later, he was discovered for his acting talent and was notably named "China's Most Influential Foreign Actor" in 2018.

It is only once back in France that Valery begins his reflections and artistic experiences from which the 怪 is born.



Valery Guo  
October 22, 2022  
Mixed media  
Cm 150x150x30

The 怪 has a short life span.

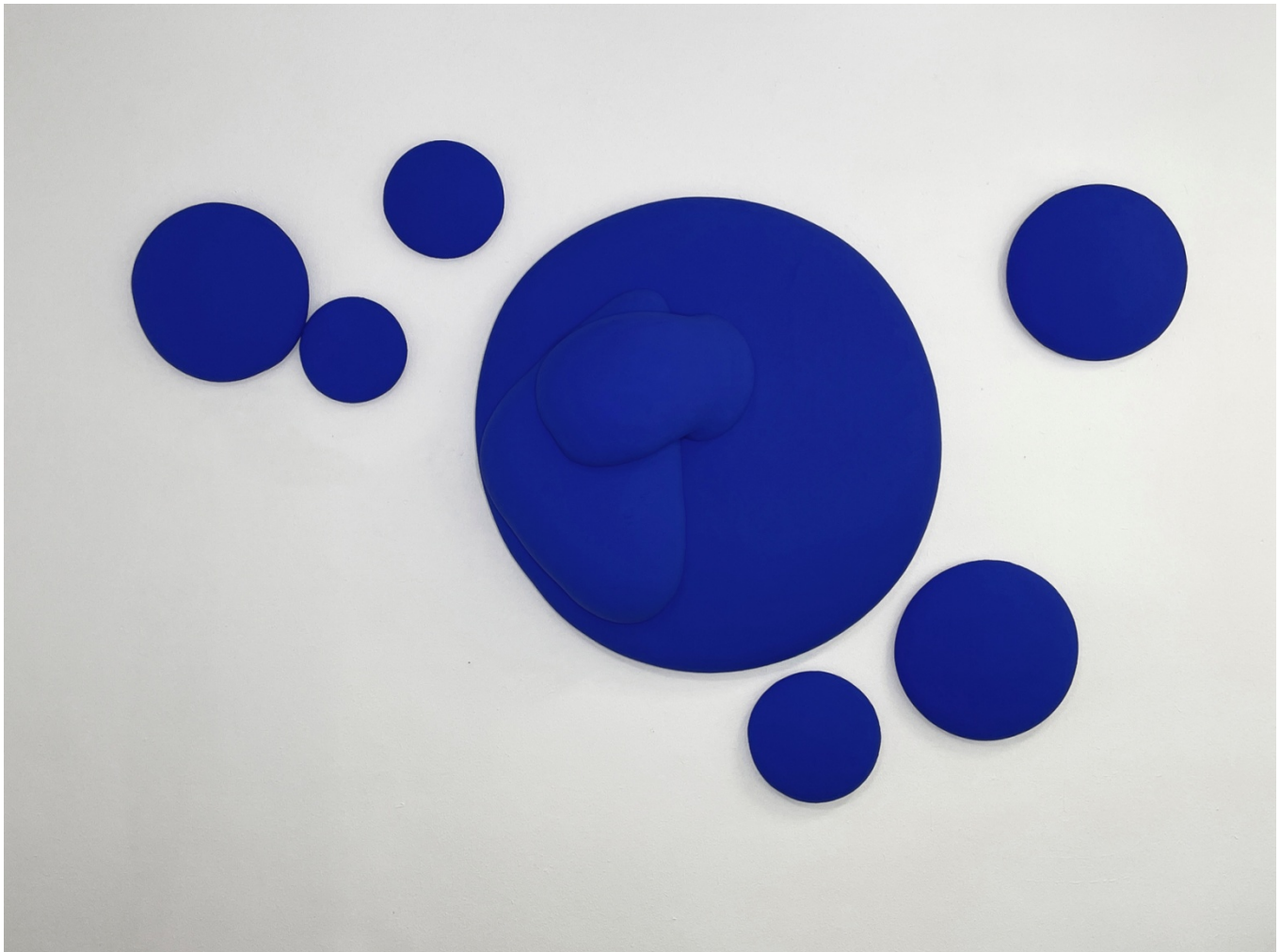
It takes birth by capturing the oxygen around itself, puffs up instantly and then expands briefly to ultimately petrify in a few seconds.

The creative ritual is repeated until the 怪 reaches its full maturity, then ends with its embalming in a colored concrete shell.

怪 [gwaii]

3 characters compose this ideogram: 亠 [xin] + 又 [you] + 土 [tu] = 怪 [gwaii]

It can be interpreted as: using your heart 亠, your hand 又 and a raw material 土 to create the 怪



## INSPIRATION

### #BIRTH

Emerging from a liquid matrix, the 怪 [gwaii] takes its first breath at birth, feeding on the surrounding oxygen to carefully grow.

### #TRANSFORMATION

It develops through a series of transformations which, like life experiences, slowly shape the unique character of 怪. The wounds mark its skin, the difficulties its flaws. Tenderness gives her beauty and gravity her curves. Each graft is the memory of a moment of transformation, such as the different stages of life.

### #DEATH

When it matures, the 怪 is mummified according to ancient Egyptian rituals, forever wrapped in layers of colored concrete. At the end of the process, the 怪 is ready to regain its eternal life somewhere in the outside world.



Valery Guo  
September 22, 2022  
Mixed media  
Cm 170 x 130 x 30

## ABOUT THE GALLERY

Founded in 1988 as PIECE UNIQUE, its original concept was to exhibit each time a single work of art created especially for the space by a contemporary artist.

In February 2000, the gallery expanded to a new space at 26, rue Mazarine in order to permanently display the works of the artists represented and to organize special events throughout the year.

Since February 2020, Marussa Gravagnuolo and Christine Lahoud have concentrated their activities at 26, rue Mazarine in the space now called "MAZARINE VARIATIONS".

**Galerie Mazarine Variations** – 26, rue Mazarine, 75006 Paris  
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Heures d'ouverture : Mardi – samedi 14h30 – 19h et sur rendez-vous

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MazarineVariations>

**Instagram:** [mazarine\\_variations](https://www.instagram.com/mazarine_variations)