

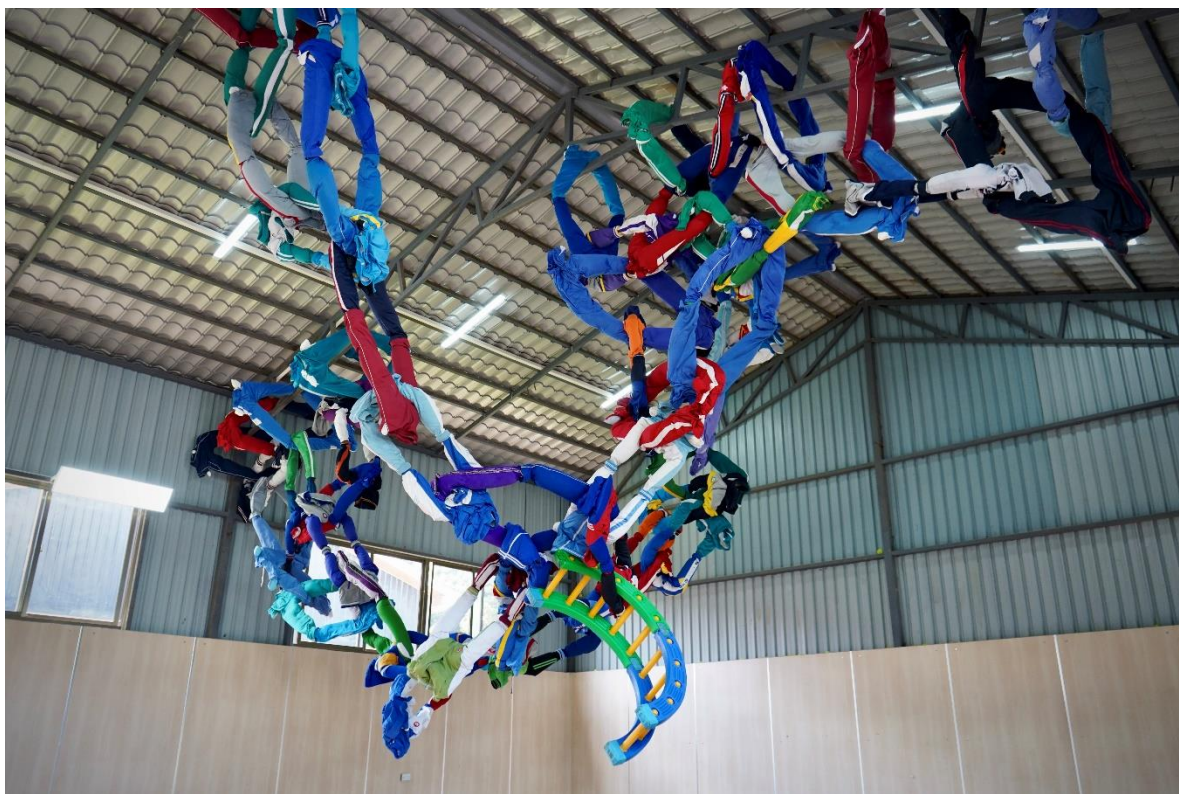


**Yang Mai Solo Exhibition: 怀抱 (Hold Me in Your Arms): 在非洲 - Held by Africa**  
**Exhibition date:** January 2024 - Ongoing  
**Venue:** Erdemann Chinese School, Laikipia Rd, Kileleshwa, Nairobi, Kenya

To celebrate artist Yang Mai's six-month experience in Nairobi, Kenya, this long-term exhibition features his large-scale installation created in Africa.

Mai's art practice has been marked by an exploration of identity, freedom of expression, and beauty norms, topics that have garnered discussion across the United States, China, and beyond. Since July 2023, Mai has moved to Nairobi to continue his artistic journey by creating a new body of work inspired by the search for the joy of nature and intricate cultural relationships.

'怀抱 (Hold Me in Your Arms): 在非洲 - Held by Africa', created in 2023-24, is the latest and fourth edition of the '怀抱 (Hold Me in Your Arms)' series, created in 2021 for the first time. In Mai's Nairobi studio, he transformed over 200 Chinese school uniforms, sourced from hustle Kenyan markets, into a majestic, suspended structure. Some uniforms, a canvas of personal narratives - names, ambitions, secret yearnings, and defiant doodles - subtly rebel against the stitched school slogans that echo a monotonous chorus of conformity. Through filling, connecting, and stitching, Mai's work blends local elements with his signature reinterpretation of functional industrials, bridging dialogues on identity and societal structures.



## About the Artist

**Yang Mai** is an artist born and raised in Guangzhou, China, and currently based in New York and Beijing. Mai holds a Master's degree from the *School of Art Institute of Chicago* and a Bachelor's degree from the *Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology*. He was awarded the *National Endowment for the Arts Award* in 2021. Mai was featured in solo exhibitions including 好! (*SAY-SO*), *Three Shadows Art Centre*, Beijing, 2023; 怀抱 (*Hold Me in Your Arms*), *National Agriculture Exhib. Center*, Beijing, 2021; 如果我能说 (*If I May Say*), *COMMON PLACE*, Beijing, 2021-22; *Good Morning, China!* (早上好, 中国!), *CUE Art Foundation*, New York, 2020, which travels to *ChaShaMa*, New York, 2021; and *Made in China* at *ChaShaMa*, New York, 2017; His work has been presented at *Artsy Foundations*, New York, 2023; *Li Tang Gallery*, New York; *201 Art Space*, Beijing; *Taihe Art Center*, Beijing; *LATITUDE Gallery*, New York; *New York Fashion Week*, 2018-19; *Art Miami Fair*, 2018; *The 2016 Design Show*, Chicago; *Sage Studio*, Chicago, 2016. His works were featured in *El País*, *The New York Times*, *Artnet*, *Artforum*, *Contemporary Art Daily*, *VOGUE*, and more.

## Support By

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Story by the artist Yang Mai

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