

DONGLAI MENG

Born 1994, Dalian, China.

Living and working between the Netherlands and China

"Urban legends are strange, terrifying, or mysterious stories that circulate in contemporary society. They often take place in urban settings and feature distinctly modern elements, which set them apart from traditional folklore. The study of urban legends is multidisciplinary, intersecting anthropology, sociology, psychology, and literature. These stories are passed down through oral tradition or spread online, constantly reshaped as they travel. While their details may vary, many share the same emotional core—fear of unknown creatures, environmental pollution, racial prejudice, or rapid social change. They reveal how collective anxiety spreads through imagination, embedding itself in the fabric of everyday life.

In the Broodje Aap series, I translate these narratives into immersive visual experiences, constructing dreamlike and unsettling scenes where reality blurs with fiction. Through figurative painting, I explore the psychological weight carried by these myths, capturing their eerie familiarity and quiet unease. The works invite viewers into a liminal space—neither fully real nor entirely imagined—where the mundane is subtly transformed into something uncanny."

- Donglai Meng

DONGLAI MENG – CV**STUDIES**

- 2017 - 2019 MA Fine Art, Master Institute of Visual Cultures AKV St.Joost, Den Bosch, the Netherlands
- 2013 - 2017 BA Oil Painting, Academy of Fine Arts of Rome, Rome, Italy

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**SOLO SHOWS**

- 2026 Untitled, KennaXu Gallery, Shenzhen, China (upcoming)
- 2026 Tiger's Not Home, AN-Gallerie, Ningbo, China (upcoming)
- 2025 "Ha-ha", Lychee One, London, the UK
- 2024 What A Windy Day!, KennaXu Gallery, Shenzhen, China
- 2024 The Moon Slides Over the Sea, Willem Twee Kunstruimte, Den Bosch, the Netherlands
- 2022 Oh! My Dog!, Cha x Art, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2022 The Baron In The Trees, Foundation B.A.D, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- 2021 A Porn Writer, OAZO AIR, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2021 Make Lemonade, AAIE Center, Rome, Italy
- 2021 A Murder Case, Nieuw en Meer, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2020 Four States, Funspace Gallery OnlineRoom, Rome, Italy (Online)
- 2020 Midday Dreaming, WitteRook, Breda, the Netherlands
- 2019 Hairy Legs Shrine, Studio Kura, Fukuoka, Japan
- 2017 Poetic Game, Palazzo Velli Expo, Rome, Italy

GROUP SHOWS

- 2026 HALLELUJAH GOD IS A WOMAN VOL.2, Valerius Gallery, Luxembourg (upcoming)
- 2026 Rolling Snowball 19, ARS LONGA Contemporary Art Museum, Djupivogur, Iceland (upcoming)
- 2025 Rolling Snowball 18, Powerlong Art Center, Xiamen, China
- 2025 Summer School Show, Turps Gallery, London, the UK

- 2025 Three Thresholds, IM Gallery, Guangzhou, China
- 2024 Zomer salon, Westerkadekunst, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- 2024 Just tell me a story, Migrant bird space, Berlin, Germany
- 2024 Magnifica, AAIE Center, Rome, Italy
- 2024 A Touch, A Glance, Hexagon Gallery, K11 MUSEA, HongKong, China
- 2024 Abstracte Narratieve Vormen, Galerie Ecker, Breda, the Netherlands
- 2024 FLYFLYFLY, KennaXu Gallery, Shenzhen, China
- 2024 '2024', Moosey Gallery, London, the UK
- 2023 Koortsdroom (Fever Dream), FRANS HALS Museum, Haarlem, the Netherlands
- 2023 A piece of angel cake, What Art Can Do project space, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2023 DIONYSUS, DAKE Art Museum, Chengdu, China
- 2023 One day I'll fly away, Galerie SANAA, Utrecht, the Netherlands
- 2023 Atari, No Man's Art Gallery, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2023 Venti Sussurranti, AAIE Center, Rome, Italy
- 2023 Spring Musings & Muddy Feet, Galerie SANAA, Utrecht, the Netherlands
- 2023 Launch show of Curated By, Huis Vasari, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2022 Draw the Line II- The Female Gaze, Wobby.club, Kunstpodium T, Tilburg, the Netherlands
- 2022 Pets and Animals, Kollektion Kitsch, WORM, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- 2022 Abitudine Artistica Ideologia Eccellente, AAIE Center, Rome, Italy
- 2022 In a pig's whisper, De Vishal, Haarlem, the Netherlands
- 2022 The Shadow Of The Void, AAIE Center, Rome, Italy
- 2022 Crisis Kunst, Niffo Galerie, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- 2022 Prospects 10th, by Mondriaan Fonds, Art Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- 2022 We are all guests#8, Foundation B.A.D, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|--|
| 2022 | Biennale di Todi, Tower Gallery by AAIE Center , Todi, Italy | 2024 | West Bund Art&Design, Shanghai, China (with KennaXu Gallery) |
| 2021 | Needles in the hay, The curators room, Amsterdam, the Netherlands | 2024 | Swab Art Fair, Barcelona, Spain (with Cha x Art) |
| 2019 | Dream Power, Theater Vascello, Rome, Italy | 2024 | Affordable Art Fair, Hong Kong, China (with AAIE Center) |
| 2019 | Percorso d'Arte a Castiglione III edizione, Palombara Sabina, Italy | 2023 | Big Art, Amsterdam, the Netherlands |
| 2018 | Transition, Eye Research Lab, Eye Filmmuseum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands | 2023 | Springboard Art Fair, Utrecht, the Netherlands |
| 2018 | What Do We Dance For? Gallery Nectar, Tbilisi, Georgia | 2022 | Dead Darlings, Amsterdam, the Netherlands |
| 2017 | TRACCE 2017, San Domenico, Italy | 2022 | THIS Art Fair, Amsterdam, the Netherlands |
| | | 2021 | THIS Art Fair, Amsterdam, the Netherlands |
| | | 2021 | CONTEMPORARY VENICE 2020 - ITSLIQUID International Art Fair, Venice, Italy |

ARTIST RESIDENCY

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2026 | EKWC, Oisterwijk, The Netherlands (upcoming) |
| 2026 | KennaXu Gallery residency program, Shenzhen, China (upcoming) |
| 2026 | Chemin Art Space, Chengdu, China |
| 2025 | Summer School, Turps Art School, London, the UK |
| 2022 | Foundation B.A.D, Rotterdam, the Netherlands |
| 2021 | OAZO AIR, Amsterdam, the Netherlands |
| 2021 | Nieuw en Meer AIR, Amsterdam, the Netherlands |
| 2020 | WitteRook, Breda, the Netherlands |
| 2019 | Studio Kura, Fukuoka, Japan |

AWARDS/GRANTS

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2026 | Seed grant, Stichting Stokroos |
| 2025 | Artist Project grant, Mondriaan Fonds |
| 2024 | Seed grant, Stichting Stokroos |
| 2023 | Artists Start 2023-24, Mondriaan Fonds |
| 2021 | Artist Project grant, Mondriaan Fonds |
| 2020 | Stipendium Emerging Artists, Mondriaan Fonds |

ART FAIRS / AUCTIONS / EVENTS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2025 | Art Shenzhen, Shenzhen, China (with KennaXu Gallery) |
| 2025 | Art Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands (with Kalashnikovv Gallery) |
| 2024 | Art Shenzhen, Shenzhen, China (with KennaXu Gallery) |
| 2024 | Moordn Art Fair, Shenzhen, China (with KennaXu Gallery) |