

**PRESS KIT**

DU 13 JUIN  
AU 26 OCTOBRE 2025



**LES COLLAGES  
DE DING LIREN**

**COLLECTION  
DE L'ART BRUT  
LAUSANNE**

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2019  
13

Preview guided tour  
for the press

Wednesday 11 June 2025, 3 :30pm  
By Sarah Lombardi, curator  
With Ding Liren in attendance by 4:15pm  
Booking : [sophie.guyot@lausanne.ch](mailto:sophie.guyot@lausanne.ch)

Adresse

Collection de l'Art Brut      Tél. +41 21 315 25 70  
Avenue des Bergières 11      [art.brut@lausanne.ch](mailto:art.brut@lausanne.ch)  
CH – 1004 Lausanne  
[www.artbrut.ch](http://www.artbrut.ch)

# **DING LIREN'S COLLAGES**

## **13 JUNE - 26 OCTOBER, 2025**

The Collection de l'Art Brut is holding its first solo show of works by Chinese artist Ding Liren. The exhibition will feature a large selection of collages, none of which have been shown in Europe before.

Ding Liren was born in 1930 and grew up in a rural area of Jiangsu province in eastern China. At the age of five, he developed a passion for insects, especially grasshoppers, mosquitoes, bees, butterflies, dragonflies and locusts. He would spend time observing the way they flew and listening intently to their calls, buzzes and whistles. He and his school friends also hunted for beetles and made little wooden shelters for them.

Ding's curiosity for nature led him to study biology, although he harboured an obvious interest in fine art. In the late 1950s, he joined an entomology research centre, where he devoted his time to painting insects. Insect painting is a fully fledged genre of traditional Chinese art: entomology labs commonly hire artists to produce scientifically accurate depictions of insects, and the resulting works may be displayed in natural history museums. Ding spent several years producing standardised, naturalistic paintings of dried specimens, working eight hours a day.

Ding later taught decorative arts: first at a school in Shanghai, and then at a university in Guangdong. When he retired, he reconnected with his first love: insects. He no longer seeks to reproduce them faithfully, but instead to capture their movements and their vital energy. He uses collage, a technique he taught himself, as his medium of expression, working with illustrations and advertising images cut out from magazines.

The 39 works on display at the Collection de l'Art Brut, all on loan from the artist, depict beetles and grasshoppers. Their varied forms, postures and colours reflect the distinctive features of each subject.

Ding's works are held in the collections of several museums in China, including the Power Station of Art in Shanghai.

Curated by Sarah Lombardi, director of the Collection de l'Art Brut, in collaboration with Yang Yang, assistant curator at the Power Station of Art and chief coordinator of the Shanghai Biennale.

## PUBLICATION



*Two Insects*, Platform China  
Contemporary Art Institute, 2021,  
133 pages, bilingual edition  
chinese, english



Portrait of Ding Liren. Courtesy of Power Station of Art, Shanghai

## EXCERPTS FROM DING LIREN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

In 1930, I was born in Haimen Town, Huangyan County, Zhejiang Province. I began drawing at the age of six.

In 1937, when the War of Resistance Against Japan began, my parents formed the "Chunye Salvation Drama Society" and toured around Taizhou with performances. My mother, my younger brother, and I all participated in the society and took on roles.

In 1943, I entered Fuya Middle School. Together with my classmates, I founded a literary society and published a school magazine.

In 1947, when I was in my first year of high school, I became interested in beekeeping and planned to improve the native Chinese bees by replacing round barrels with square hives.

After high school, I entered the Department of Biology at Nanjing University, but after one year, I found it rather dull. I was admitted to the Painting Department of the East China Branch of the Central Academy of Fine Arts. After studying there for a while, I still felt uneasy and transferred the following year to the Department of Aquatic Biology at Shandong University.

In 1959, I joined the Shanghai Institute of Entomology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and worked at an outdoor research station. I frequently conducted insect surveys and visited many rural homes, which exposed me to local customs and folk art.

I often visited older artists and visited most frequently Mr. Liu Haisu's home, where I met Mr. Zhang Ding, who encouraged me to draw inspiration from folk art.

During the "Cultural Revolution," the Red Guards stormed into Mr. Liu Haisu's home and burned his collection of ancient masterpieces. As students, we were deeply pained by this, and we tried to save these artworks, which was a dangerous act that could even risk our lives.

In 1975, I transferred to the Shanghai Education Publishing House and became involved with the China Folk Arts and Crafts Association

In 1980, I began exhibiting my works in various cities across China, including Shanghai, Beijing, Fuzhou, Nanjing, Xiamen, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Zhengzhou, and Guangzhou.

In 1985, *Jiangsu Art Journal* published a series of my paintings. At that time, there were few art magazines, and the publication of my works in this journal had a significant impact.

In 1989, I joined the Shanghai Publishing and Printing College, where I taught creative courses in the art department and took students on field trips to collect materials.

In 1993, I was invited to participate in a national calligraphy and painting event at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Comrade Mao Zedong.

In 1994, I was appointed as a part-time professor at Guangdong University of Technology.

In 1998, I moved into a new home with a larger studio and began painting oil paintings. After a period of time, I started working on large-scale oil paintings and produced several paper-cut works, which were selected for the *Chinese Opera Paper-Cut Collection*.

# THE COLLECTION DE L'ART BRUT AT THE POWER STATION OF ART, SHANGHAI

Echoing the exhibition *Les collages de Ding Liren*, the Collection de l'Art Brut presents in Shanghai, in partnership with the Power Station of Art, the exhibition *A Walk on the Wild Side: Artworks from the Collection de l'Art Brut and Elsewhere*, from 12 July to 12 October 2025.

For the first time, Art Brut works drawn exclusively from the Lausanne museum's collections will be on show at the Power Station of Art, China's largest state-run museum dedicated to contemporary art. Following an invitation to collaborate on a project devoted to Art Brut, 234 works from the Collection de l'Art Brut were selected. The presentation is rounded off by works by five Chinese authors of Art Brut brought together by the Power Station of Art.

These works highlight the relationship between these self-taught creators and the world around them, between the intimacy of their practices and the universality of the messages conveyed by works produced on the fringes of the official art world.

The exhibition is accompanied by photographic portraits of Art Brut artists by Swiss photographer Mario Del Curto, and photographs of Art Brut environments in Europe and the United States from a variety of sources. Archives also accompany a chronological section on Art Brut.

With works by : Josep Baqué, Baya, Kōmei Bekki, Daniele Bertanzetti, Gregory Lee Blackstock, Benjamin Bonjour, Ignacio Carles-Tolrà, Gaston Chaissac, Aloïse Corbaz, Michel Dave, Diego de Mauri, Paul Duhem, Samuel Failloubaz, Guo Fengyi, Jill Galliéni, Madge Gill, Ted Gordon, Guyodo, Emile Josome Hodinos, Danielle Jacqui, Anne-Lise Jeanneret, Benno Kaiser, Davood Koochaki, Hans Krüsi, Joseph Lambert, Raphaël Lonné, Félix Martin, Gene Merritt, Ezekiel Messou, Daniel Miller, Hidenori Motooka, Helmut Nimczewski, Alain Pauzié, Jean Pous, Marco Raugei, Heinrich Reisenbauer, Antonio Roseno de Lima, Chiyuki Sakagami, Judith Scott, Pascal Tassini, Gaston Teuscher, Johann Trösch, Oswald Tschirtner, Pascal Vonlanthen, Alois Wey, Adolf Wölfli, Anna Zemánková, Rosa Zharkikh, Carlo Zinelli.

The exhibition is curated by Gong Yan, Director of the Power Station of Art, and Sarah Lombardi, Director of the Collection de l'Art Brut, in collaboration with Astrid Berglund, Curator, and Emilie Cleeremans, Assistant Curator at the Collection de l'Art Brut, as well as Huang Mi, Head of the Exhibitions Department at the Power Station of Art, and Yang Yang, Assistant Curator and Chief Coordinator of the Shanghai Biennale.

In conjunction with this event, a bilingual exhibition catalogue (English and Chinese) is being published by Shanghai Culture Publishing House.

A project in partnership with the Power Station of Art

 上海  
当代艺术  
博物馆  
Power  
Station  
of Art

## **MUSEUM NIGHT PROGRAMME IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DING LIREN EXHIBITION**

27 September 2025 (admission with Nuit des Musées ticket, all favours suspended)

### *Workshop Insectes en folie*

With artist Anouchka Burysek, come and make collages in the style of Ding Liren and cut out illustrations that you can assemble to give life to creatures from your imagination!

Schedule: 3pm to 6pm, non-stop

### *Il était une fois...des insectes fabuleux*

Storytelling for children aged 3 to 6

Duration: 20 min.

Schedule: 3.30pm and 4.30pm

By Elena Gilardoni, cultural mediator for the *Fragments* association.

### *La Danse du Lion - Chinese choreographic performance*

For the general public

Duration: 20 min.

Times: 2.30pm and 7pm

By the association The Funky Lion Dancers



## MEDIA VISUALS: ART BRUT CUBA

All images : Atelier de numérisation – Ville de Lausanne (AN)



*Locust in Black And White T-shirt, 2020*  
coloured pencil and collage on paper  
42 x 29,6 cm

Courtesy of Power Station of Art



*Purple-eyed Locust, 2019*  
coloured pencil and collage on paper  
42 x 29,6 cm

Courtesy of Power Station of Art



*Rose Silk Locust, 2019*  
coloured pencil and collage on paper  
42 x 29,6 cm

Courtesy of Power Station of Art



*Beetle of Mingzhuli, 2020*  
coloured pencil and collage on paper  
42 x 29,6 cm

Courtesy of Power Station of Art

## EXHIBITION EVENTS

Sneak preview guided tour **Wednesday 11 June 2025, 3:30pm**  
for the press **By Sarah Lombardi, exhibition curator**  
**With Ding Liren in attendance by 4:15pm**  
At the Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne  
registration: [sophie.guyot@lausanne.ch](mailto:sophie.guyot@lausanne.ch)

Public opening **Thursday 12 June 2025, 6:30pm**  
**With Ding Liren in attendance**  
Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne

Free guided tours **Sunday 7 September, 2:30pm**  
**Saturday 25 October, 2:30pm**

Specially adapted tour for visually impaired visitors **Saturday 18 October, 2:30pm**

Free guided tours for teachers **Tuesday 9 September, 6pm (45 min)**

Ateliers jeune public **Saturday 6 September, 2pm**  
Pour les enfants 6 - 12 ans **Saturday 20 September, 2pm**  
**Saturday 4 October, 2pm** **Durée : 1h45**  
**Prix : 10.-/enfant**

Passeport vacances **Wednesday 2 July, 2pm**  
Pour les enfants de 9 à 12 ans **Friday 4 July, 2pm**  
**Wednesday 9 July, 2pm**  
**Friday 11 July, 2pm** **Durée : 2h30**  
**Prix : 10.-/enfant**  
sur inscription via le site [apvrl.ch](http://apvrl.ch)

*Les insectes de la Lune* **Sunday 5 October, 5pm**  
lecture de contes By Elena Gilardoni, cultural mediator for  
Storytelling for children aged 3 to 6 the *Fragments* association.  
Duration: 20 min. Schedule: 3.30pm and 4:30pm

Every first Saturday of the month The guides of the Collection de l'Art Brut invite you to a meeting with a work at 2:30pm and 3:30pm (20 min).  
Free admission and tour.

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Private tours **Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 6pm**  
Advance booking required for School groups can also book for Thursdays at 9:30am  
groups of six and more 

- School, preschool and extracurricular groups
- Tertiary students
- Adults

Guided tours **Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 6pm**  
Advance booking required School groups can also book for Thursdays at 9:30am  

- School groups age 6+
- Tertiary students
- Adults

  
Languages: French, German, English, Italian

Contact and ticketing for all tours and workshops [www.artbrut.ch](http://www.artbrut.ch) > tickets or 021/ 315 25 70 subject to availability

## USEFUL INFORMATION

**Press material** download visuals and the press kit: [www.artbrut.ch](http://www.artbrut.ch), menu: press

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Tel. +41 21 315 25 70  
[art.brut@lausanne.ch](mailto:art.brut@lausanne.ch)

**Opening hours** Tuesday–Sunday: 11am – 6pm  
including public holidays  
Admission free the first Saturday of each month

**Entrance fee** Fr. 12.-  
Concessions: Fr. 6.-  
Groups of 6: Fr. 6.-  
Jobseekers and under-16s: free  
No entrance fee the first Saturday of every month

**Access** **Bus**  
From St-François: Line 2, get off at Beaulieu-Jomini.  
From the CFF station: Lines 3 and 21, get off at Beaulieu-Jomini.  
**On foot:** 25 min. from the station, 10 min. from Place de la Riponne.  
**By car:** autoroute, exit Lausanne-Blécherette, follow Palais de Beaulieu. Parking lot Beaulieu.  
**Reduced mobility:**  
The Collection de l'Art Brut has an elevator  
All the temporary exhibitions are accessible for people with reduced mobility

THE COLLECTION DE L'ART BRUT  
THANKS FOR THEIR SUPPORT :

Fondation  
Guignard