Jinya Zhao

Holding Air, Holding Light

This is the first monograph on Jinya Zhao, a London- and China-based artist working primarily with glass, but whose practice also encompasses sculpture, installation and research.

Key Points

Jinya Zhao's glass installation *Non-Existent Existence_The Two of Us No.9* is displayed in a new exhibition at the V&A: *Dimensions: Contemporary Chinese Studio Crafts*, which opens on 28 October 2025 and runs until September 2026.

This book includes 50 full-colour images of Zhao's blown-glass works, spatial installations and process-based experiments.

Also features new writing by arts journalist, critic and author Emma Crichton-Miller and a conversation with curator Dr Xiaoxin Li of the V&A offering critical and curatorial perspectives on Zhao's work.

Specifications

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Description

Holding Air, Holding Light explores the sculptural and perceptual practice of artist and researcher Jinya Zhao. Combining blown glass with drawing, installation and spatial choreography, Zhao's work occupies a liminal space between fragility and presence, memory and light. Rather than present objects as finished forms, she creates conditions for perception – inviting viewers to pause and inhabit moments of perceptual suspension. 'Glass is not what I make, but how I listen to time,' she writes. Integrating theory and practice, Zhao transforms glass into an artistic language that connects memory, perception and experience. This book features an essay by arts writer Emma Crichton-Miller and a conversation with Dr Xiaoxin Li of the Victoria and Albert Museum. *Holding Air, Holding Light* is both a meditation on perception and a space to dwell within.

This book is part of the **Hurtwood Contemporary Artist Series**, which aims to spotlight a talented and diverse range of artists, whether established or early in their careers. It has been published in collaboration with **Taste Contemporary** in Geneva, a gallery that showcases dynamic and compelling contemporary and 20th-century works by artists who excel in material-driven expressions of form, including Jinya Zhao, one of its represented artists.

Artist

Jinya Zhao is an artist whose practice explores the fluid thresholds of perception, memory and material presence. Working with blown glass, layered transparencies and site-responsive installation, she investigates how vision, sensation and time overlap. She has recently completed her PhD at the Royal College of Art; her research centres on synaesthetic touch – the convergence of visual, tactile and emotional experience. Her work has been exhibited internationally and is held in collections such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, Prague Gallery of Czech Glass, Qingdao Art Museum and Ulster Museum.

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Come Back Again, 2023
Glass, 51.5 x 25.5 x 25.5 cm



Floating Memories, 2023
Glass, 41 x 30 x 30 cm



Galactic Imagination, 2023
Glass, 46 x 31 x 31 cm



Non-Existent Existence_The Two of Us No.9, 2021
Glass, 50 x 28 x 28 cm



Rose and its Thorns, 2022
Glass, 32 x 32 x 53 cm



Erhai 18:37, 2022
Glass, 28.5 x 28.5 x 41 cm



Before the Twilight Fade, 2022
Glass, 24.5 x 24.5 x 42.5 cm



Non-Existent Existence_The Two of Us No.5, 2021
Glass, 39.5 x 25 x 25 cm



Whispering through the Echoes of Ancient Dreams, 2024
Glass, 49 x 30 x 30 cm

Download press images HERE.

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