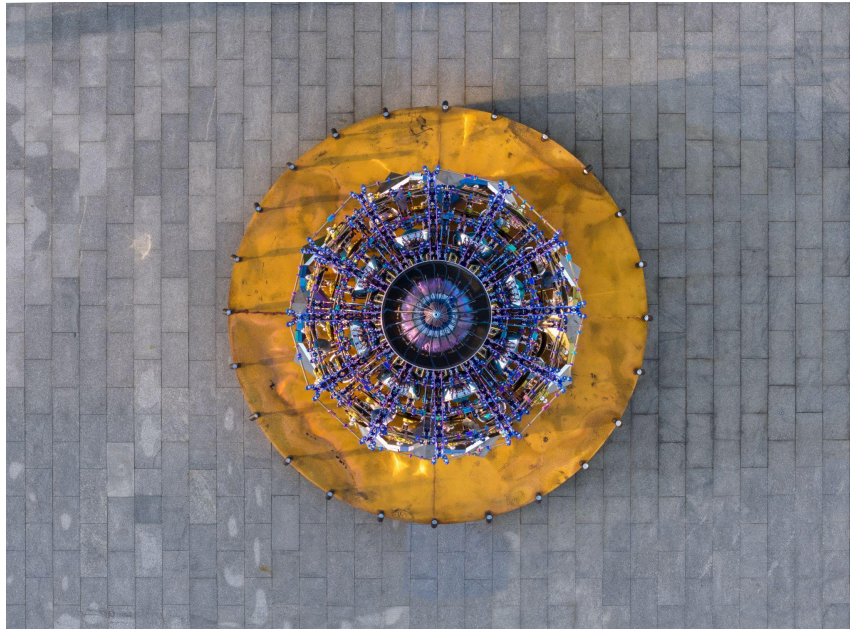


Wallace Chan: Vessels of Other Worlds
A Monumental Dual-Site Exhibition Across Venice and Shanghai
Presented during the 61st Venice Biennale

*Premiering at the Chapel of Santa Maria della Pietà, Venice,
and later in parallel at the Long Museum, Shanghai*



Wallace Chan, *Vessels of Other Worlds*, aerial view, 2025. Photo: Tian Fangfang

15 April 2026 - Renowned artist **Wallace Chan** will unveil ***Vessels of Other Worlds***, his most ambitious and visceral project to date, in a landmark **dual-site exhibition across Venice and Shanghai** in 2026, coinciding with his 70th birthday. Curated by James Putnam, this major exhibition introduces a striking new series of monumental titanium sculptures, expanding both the spatial and conceptual dimensions of Chan's practice.

The first exhibition **opens on 8 May 2026 at the Chapel of Santa Maria della Pietà**, coinciding with the **61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia 2026**. The second and parallel exhibition will open at the **Long Museum (West Bund), Shanghai, on 18 July 2026**.

Following the success of his three previous exhibitions during the Venice Biennale – *Titans* (2021) and *Totem* (2022) at Fondaco Marcello, and *Transcendence* (2024) at the Chapel of Santa Maria della Pietà, *Wallace Chan: Vessels of Other Worlds* marks a bold new chapter in the artist's oeuvre.

The exhibition is intrinsically tied to Venice, as the three featured titanium sculptures are inspired by the three sacred oils used in the Catholic Church for blessing rituals –the Olea Sancta. Surrounding the three central works, a constellation of suspended titanium sculptures

suggests oil drops in motion, imbuing the chapel with a sense of fluidity. Symbolising the three stages of life – birth, growth, and rebirth – these intricate, fantastical forms also draw inspiration from Hieronymus Bosch's *The Garden of Earthly Delights*.

The exhibition's threefold structure unfolds further within the Pietà Chapel, where three video screens are positioned on the altar to form a triptych, acting as a secret portal to reveal the monumental counterparts to be on view at the Long Museum. This dialogue forges a connection between the distinct cultural heritages of the two cities, each shaped by its relationship to water, while prompting contemplation of the relationship between the tangible and the transcendental, extending the 'presence' of the sculptures across space and time.

Wallace Chan's work has long been defined by a pursuit of innovation. He has pioneered the use of titanium, a material synonymous with advancement and technology. This dedication to inventions underscores his visionary approach, transforming industrial materials into poetic, ethereal forms of art.

In July 2026, at the **Long Museum (West Bund), Shanghai**, visitors will encounter the same three vessels on a dramatically larger scale, standing at seven, eight, and ten metres high. The central sculpture will feature a doorway, inviting audiences to step inside and experience its kaleidoscopic interior, with mirrored apertures referencing Chan's celebrated illusionary carving technique, the Wallace Cut. Works from Chan's earlier Venice exhibitions, including the Brian Eno-soundscaped *Transcendence (2024)*, as well as *Titans (2021)* and *Totem (2022)*, will also be presented, creating a dialogue that connects the two cities.

Wallace Chan says, "*I am deeply grateful to the Long Museum for its support in realising this major dual-site exhibition. The dialogue between Venice and Shanghai allows these works to exist within different cultural and architectural contexts, extending their presence across space and time.*"

Also on view in Venice, Scala Contarini del Bovolo presents *Wallace Chan: Mythos*, open daily from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM (last admission 5:30 PM), from 4 April to 18 October 2026. A site-specific project also curated by James Putnam, it unfolds within the tower's spiralling architecture as a complementary encounter with Chan's sculptural language.

Wallace Chan: Vessels of Other Worlds

Pieta Chapel, Venice | 8 May – 18 October 2026

Long Museum (West Bund), Shanghai | 18 July – 25 October 2026

Wallace Chan: Mythos

Scala Contarini del Bovolo, Venice | 4 April – 18 October 2026

Please [click here](#) for the press kit.

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About the Artist

Wallace Chan (b. 1956) is a Hong Kong-based, self-trained artist whose practice spans sculpture, jewellery, and carving. His works are held in major institutional collections, including the Shanghai Museum (2024), the Victoria and Albert Museum, London (2024), the Long

Museum, Shanghai (2023), the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2023), the British Museum (2019), the Capital Museum, Beijing (2010), and the Ningbo Museum (2010).

A carver since the age of 16, Chan's early development was shaped by nature and Chinese cultural traditions, as well as a formative study of Western marble statuary in Christian cemeteries. Following a period of monastic retreat in the early 2000s, during which he relinquished all possessions, he began working with modest materials such as concrete, copper, and stainless steel. This period of constraint led to sustained experimentation and ultimately to his pioneering use of titanium—first in jewellery art and later in monumental sculpture.

Chan has presented major solo exhibitions internationally, including at the Long Museum (West Bund), Shanghai (2026), Scala Contarini del Bovolo (2026), Annabel's, London (2024), the Shanghai Museum (2024), the Pietà Chapel, Venice (2024, 2026), Christie's (London, Hong Kong, Shanghai), Fondaco Marcello, Venice (2021, 2022), and Asia House, London (2019), among others.

He has delivered lectures and talks at leading institutions including Harvard University, Victoria and Albert Museum, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Royal College of Art, and Sciences Po.

About James Putnam

James Putnam is an independent curator and writer. He founded and was curator of the British Museum's Contemporary Arts and Cultures Programme from 1999 to 2003. Since 1994, he has organised a number of critically acclaimed exhibitions for major museums, such as the 'Time Machine' exhibition at the British Museum and *Daydreaming with [Stanley Kubrick](#)* at Somerset House. In the last decade, he has regularly curated projects for biennials, both in Asia and Venice.

Putnam studied Art History at London University, was Visiting Scholar in Museum Studies at New York University, and Senior Lecturer in Curating at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London (2004-2011) and Senior Research Fellow: Exhibitions at University of the Arts, London (2010-2021). His book 'Art and Artifact – The Museum as Medium' (Thames & Hudson, 2000/10) surveys the interaction between contemporary artists and the museum.

About the Long Museum

The Long Museum is a private art museum founded by husband-and-wife art collectors, Mr. Liu Yiqian and Ms Wang Wei. The museum is located in three iconic sites in the city of Shanghai and Chongqing – the Long Museum Pudong, the Long Museum West Bund, and the Long Museum Chongqing. They form a unique ecosystem of "one museum, two cities, three locations." The Long Museum is one of the finest private art museums in China and houses a large collection of artworks spanning across countries and generations.

As world-renowned art collectors, Liu and Wang's collection at the Long Museum covers multiple categories, including traditional and contemporary Chinese art, Chinese revolutionary art, as well as other contemporary artworks that originate from the various parts of the world, including Asia, Europe, and the United States. The collection is all-encompassing and vast in number. The Long Museum is committed to art exhibitions, research work, collecting, and the promotion of public education. The museum believes that it is its responsibility to advance the

development and legacy of art. At the same time, they focus a large part of their research on the exciting connections that emerge between ancient and modern art, eastern and western art, presenting the nuanced diversities found in art from a global perspective. The museum aims to show the brilliant achievements of Chinese art history alongside the new perspective that contemporary Chinese art brings to the world. Their endeavours have made the museum a world-class private museum.

About Santa Maria della Pietà

The Church of Santa Maria della Pietà was designed by Giorgio Massari and built between 1745 and 1760. It is also known as “Vivaldi’s church”, as Antonio Vivaldi composed some of his world-famous music there. The Chapel of Santa Maria della Pietà is one of the four spaces in the Pietà Complex which regularly host exhibitions during the Venice Biennale.

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