



Installation view *Miao Ying: Come, Sit, Stay*
Photo: Johannes Stoll / Belvedere, Vienna

Vienna, July 9, 2026

Belvedere 21

Arsenalstraße 1
1030 Vienna

Opening hours

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11 am to 6 pm.
Thursdays: 11 am to 9
pm.
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MIAO YING COME, SIT, STAY

July 10 to October 4, 2026, Belvedere 21

In her first solo museum exhibition in Europe, Miao Ying draws an unusual analogy between artificial intelligence (AI) and animals. At Belvedere 21, the Chinese artist investigates society's relationship with AI-driven systems both critically and playfully, offering a fresh perspective on a group of technologies that are increasingly permeating our day-to-day lives.

For nearly two decades, Miao Ying (born 1985 in Shanghai) has been interrogating the social impacts of digital infrastructure in her art. Her generation came of age with the early internet, the one-child policy, and digital censorship in China, and her work deeply engages with mechanisms of surveillance, control, and media manipulation. In recent years, her artistic practice has increasingly centered on AI. Even as algorithmic systems become commonplace, their inner workings remain largely concealed. Miao Ying responds to these developments with questions of her own: How are these technologies influencing our perceptions? What ideas and expectations are we projecting onto them?

Stella Rollig, General Director explains: With Miao Ying, we are showcasing an international artist at the crossroads of art, technology, and digital culture. Her multimedia works vividly illustrate the scope of AI's interventions in our everyday lives, while also presenting a nuanced and unexpectedly funny view of a technology that is significantly shaping our present and future. The exhibition invites us to observe the often-hidden mechanisms of digital systems and their social effects.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The spatial installation developed specifically for Belvedere 21 centers on the artwork *Perfect Sameness Makes Difference, live simulation on PC* (2026). Two large LED screens display abstract visual worlds that are generated continuously in real time by AI systems using parameters defined by Miao Ying. This data-intensive process relies on a technical framework developed in collaboration with scientists at Cornell University. Using these images as its input, a second AI generates and plays an ever-evolving sound composition in real time. Arranged like a stage set, the gallery space combines paintings and sculptural elements to form an immersive installation: a physical, spatial counterpart to digital processes.

The exhibition title—*Come, Sit, Stay*—invokes standard commands from dog training, a reference to the human desire to control and dominate complex technologies. With this unconventional analogy, Miao Ying introduces a new angle into contemporary discourse around AI. This comparison proves to be a calculated artistic intervention, making AI's underlying mechanisms more accessible while considering how we can play more active and accountable roles in shaping technological developments.

Since 2019, the artist has also drawn on historical imaginaries around magic, alchemy, and wizardry. The exhibition places these themes in dialogue with the enigmatic processes of artificial intelligence. Now that the complexity of algorithmic systems defies even experts' grasp, public discourse frequently treats these systems as mysterious or even magical.

In the words of curator Sergey Harutoonian, *Rather than treating AI as a purely technological phenomenon, Miao Ying investigates the cultural narratives, hopes, and fears bound up with it. In the process, she merges supposed opposites: magic and algorithms, digitally generated images and handmade paintings, control and unpredictability. Her works open up new ways of thinking about how we want to coexist with intelligent machines.*

Linking digital technologies with traditional media is a hallmark of Miao Ying's work. By translating algorithmic processes into physical form, she reconsiders society's relationship with AI through a new lens. Instead of framing human and machine as opposites, *Come, Sit, Stay* considers their reciprocal relationship and calls attention to the qualities that distinguish human behavior: imperfection, creativity, and the capacity to cope with uncertainty.

BIOGRAPHY

Miao Ying (born 1985 in Shanghai) is among the first generation of Chinese artists to have grown up with the internet, the one-child policy, and the tightening grip of digital censorship. As a digital native, she lived through the gradual transformation of an initially open internet into a system regulated by China's "Great Firewall."

The interdisciplinary artist began her training in a traditional mode, receiving professional instruction in drawing and painting to prepare for art school. She then attended the China National Academy of Arts in Hangzhou—one of the first institutions in China dedicated to digital art—where she graduated in 2007 with a major in New Media Art. In 2009, she earned an MFA in Electronic Integrated Arts at Alfred University in New York.

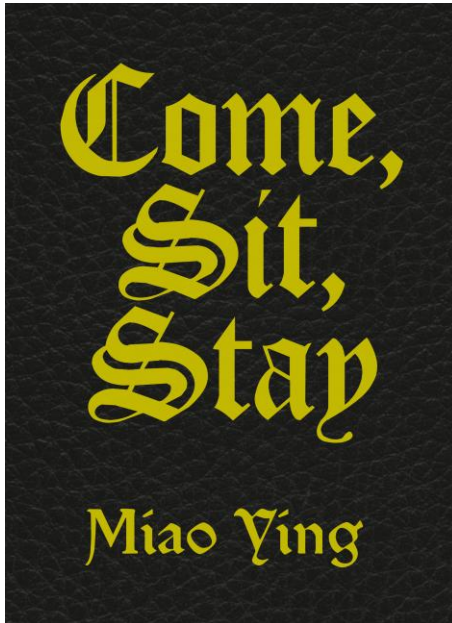
In her research-based practice, which combines painting, video, sound, and installation, Miao Ying examines the technologies and sociopolitics of both a globalized world and contemporary China, exposing the mechanisms of digital surveillance, state censorship, and social media. Her recent work engages artificial intelligence and machine learning, imagining modes of coexistence between humans and algorithms. Taken together, her body of work stands as a testament to a profound technological upheaval.

Miao Ying lives and works in New York.

Her work has been presented in solo exhibitions at major international art institutions, including the Art Museum at the University of Toronto (2022); M+ Museum, Hong Kong (online, 2020); London Art Night (2018); New Museum, New York (2016); Goethe-Institut Beijing (2016); MoCA Pavilion, Shanghai (2016); and the Venice Biennale (Venice and online, 2015). Her selected group exhibitions and projects include the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (upcoming); MoMA PS1, New York; Auckland Art Gallery; Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong; Hawaii Triennial 2020; Castello di Rivoli, Turin; Gwangju Biennale 2018; and KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, among others. Her work is also held in the collections of major international museums and institutions, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Belvedere 21; and M+ Museum.

Miao Ying was the recipient of the 2019 Porsche "Young Chinese Artist of the Year"; she was also short-listed for the Sigg Prize 2023, M+ Museum, Hong Kong.

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE



Miao Ying

Come, Sit, Stay

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PRESS IMAGES

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition title	<i>Miao Ying: Come, Sit, Stay</i>
Duration	July 10 to October 4, 2026
Curator	Sergey Harutoonian
Assistant Curator	Vasilena Stoyanova
Graphic Design for the Exhibition	Hannah Sakai
Venue	Belvedere 21 Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening hours	Tuesday to Sunday: 11 am to 6 pm. Thursdays: 11 am to 9 pm. Closed on Mondays except on public holidays.
Tickets	belvedere.at/en/go/tickets
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