

# XIAO FAN RU X COLAAB

**COLAAB**  
ART+FONCTION



**AURÉLIE SARALLIER,**  
FOUNDER OF COLAAB



© Andréa Valienne

Founded by Aurélie Sarallier, ColAAb draws upon her expertise in contemporary art, culture, and exceptional furniture design.

***“I would like to thank the artists for their involvement and trust, and the artisans for their expertise and ingenuity.”***

## COLAAB

**While many talk about bridging art and design, ColAAb takes it further. Since 2022, we have been exclusively challenging contemporary artists to push past the boundaries of their practice by creating extraordinary, never-before-seen art furniture. Here, art is not just observed—it is lived. Each piece we curate extends an artist’s vision, bringing their sculptural language into a functional realm without compromising artistic integrity.**

Owning a ColAAb piece means acquiring an artwork by a widely recognized artist, whose work is featured in museum collections and major exhibitions worldwide. It’s an invitation to experience art differently, to interact with it, and to become part of an exclusive circle of discerning collectors.

Each project is an invitation to shift the artist’s practice toward functional forms: seating, tables, lighting, mirrors, curtains, and bookshelves. Supporting artists throughout

the creative process, ColAAb funds, produces, and promotes their work. Each piece is either unique or part of a limited edition of eight, crafted by exceptional French artisans with a responsible approach, giving shape to a singular artistic vision.

Since 2022, ColAAb has established its presence on the international scene through major events, and institutions such as Labò Cultural Project during Milano Fuorisalone, Art Genève, Collectible NYC as well as curatorial exhibitions like Private Choice, Hypnotic, ColAAb x the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris, and Unique Design x Mexico Zona Maco.

ColAAb represents eight renowned artists embracing a wide range of art medium, and will welcome new international talents in 2025.

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Vue d'installation, French Design, Paris, France, 2024 © Aurélien Mole

## THE GOLDEN PATH

COFFEE TABLE, 2022

Base in bronze, aged gold patina, glass or travertine top.

H 36 x ø 115 cm  
H 14 x ø 45 in  
variable dimensions.

Signed, numbered, limited edition: 8 + 4 A.P.  
Top available in travertine, marble, glass or wood.



# XIAO FAN RU

(1954, NANJING, CHINA). LIVES AND WORKS IN PARIS.

Xiao Fan's dual artistic and cultural education infuses his work with bridges between tradition and modernity, East and West. He describes himself as "a man before nature," whether human or not. When he is not creating hybrid flowers with organic appearances, he paints canvases filled with iconic consumer objects. Some of these, titled *Poubelles (Garbage Bins)*, criticize cultures that are open to the outside world but searching for a sense of identity.

The theme of flowers runs through his work like a red thread, deeply rooted in his Chinese heritage, where flowers symbolize both timeless poetry and historical wounds—particularly those linked to the Maoist slogan "Let a hundred flowers bloom." Still life is a constant presence in his creations. Toys, crustaceans, or bouquets—all these elements seem interconnected by a discreet yet essential vital thread.

Born into a family of scholars, Xiao Fan Ru was introduced to calligraphy at an early age. After studying at the Nanjing Academy of Fine Arts (1977–1982), he moved to France and continued his education at the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, graduating in 1986.

Xiao Fan Ru was awarded residencies at the Casa Velázquez in Madrid (1988 and 1990). His works have been exhibited in France at the Centre Pompidou (1989), MAC Lyon (2005), the Cernuschi Museum (Paris, 2011), the Guimet Museum (Paris, 2020), and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Saudi Arabia (2024). In China, monographic exhibitions have been dedicated to him at the Shanghai Art Museum (2005), and the Rong Kun Fine Art Museum in Beijing (2014), while the Suzhou Museum hosted a retrospective of his work in 2017.

***For ColAAb, Xiao Fan Ru conceived The Golden Path, a collection of furniture objects that harmoniously blend fragility and resilience, grace and gravity.***



Installation, view Private Choice, Paris, France, 2023 © Theo Baulig

XIAO FAN RU X COLAAB  
**COLLECTION “THE GOLDEN PATH”**

In China, bamboo has traditionally been one of the favorite subjects of artists, poets, and philosophers. It has become a recurring motif in the paintings and sculptures of Xiao Fan Ru, who is captivated by its simplicity, the elegance of its lines, its resilience, and its ability to bend without breaking, reaching skyward towards the light, encircling, and protecting through its enduring cycle of renewal. The artist also references its deeper, metaphysical, and spiritual significance, rooted in the Confucian tradition of seeking balance and harmony. For Xiao Fan, bamboo symbolizes an infinite spiral of growth, aligning with nature, and the world. Reflecting these principles, the open circle shape represents a path (the Tao), where emptiness invites

inner resonance and the flow of energy. Cicadas, whose molts serve as another metaphor in ancient Chinese culture, rest on the bamboo as symbols of life, death, and rebirth. This golden balance becomes a guiding ; it is this philosophical foundation that inspired the title of the sculpture series, which includes the coffee table, and the side table: *The Golden Path*. “*The Golden Path* is a bronze table that harmonizes fragility and strength, grace and weight. It is an invitation to shed the burdens of the world through the balanced rhythm of everyday use,” explains Xiao Fan Ru.





### THE GOLDEN PATH

SIDE TABLE, 2022

Base in bronze with aged gold patina, glass top.

H 55 x ø 40 cm  
H 22 x ø 16 in  
Variable dimensions.

Signed, numbered, limited edition: 8 + 4 A.P.

Base available in bronze with aged gold, red or green patina  
Top available in travertine, marble, glass or wood



### THE GOLDEN PATH

SIDE TABLE, 2022

Base in bronze with aged red patina, glass top.

H 55 x ø 40 cm  
H 22 x ø 16 in  
Variable dimensions.

Signed, numbered, limited edition: 8 + 4 A.P.

Base available in bronze with aged gold, red or green patina.  
Top available in travertine, marble, glass or wood



### THE GOLDEN PATH

SIDE TABLE, 2022

Base in bronze with aged green patina, bronze top.

H 55 x ø 40 cm  
H 22 x ø 16 in  
Variable dimensions.

Signed, numbered, limited edition: 8 + 4 A.P.

Base available in bronze with aged gold, red or green patina  
Top available in travertine, marble, glass or wood



**THE GOLDEN PATH**

MIRROR, 2024

Aged gold patina, mirror.

ø around 55 cm / ø around 115 cm  
ø around 22 in / ø around 45 in

Signed, numbered, limited edition: 8 + 4 A.P.



**THE GOLDEN PATH**

MIRROR, 2024

Aged gold patina, mirror.

ø around 55 cm / ø around 115 cm  
ø around 22 in / ø around 45 in

Signed, numbered, limited edition: 8 + 4 A.P.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## XIAO FAN RU

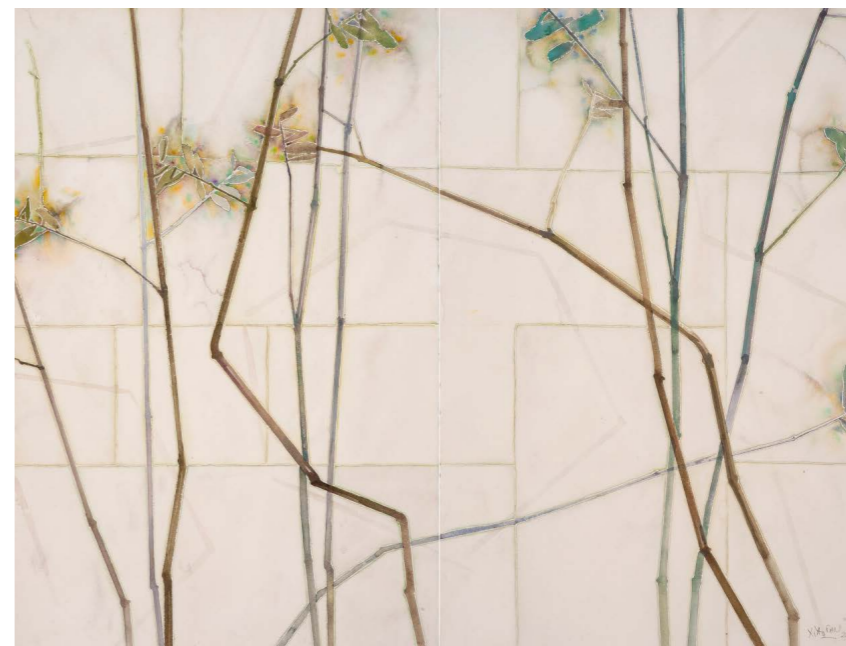


1. *Zen meditation*, 2014  
Bisque ceramic.  
45 x 30 x 30 cm / 18 x 12 x 12 in



View of permanent installation, Château de la Haute Borde, Rilly-sur-Loire, France, 2020.

2. *Voie d'or*, 2020  
Golden bronze.  
diameter 150 cm / 59 in



3. *Les saisons des bambous*, 2023  
Watercolors on paper.  
107 x 134 cm / 42 x 58 in

*“ColAAb is carried by the work of all those who have undertaken to connect the art and design since the late of 19th century. By those of the Nabis, the Bauhaus, De Still and Atelier A by the creation of Dalí and Picasso, the New Realists, then Rougemont, Rancillac, Franchen or the Lalanne. Contemporary and embracing all trends, from the most minimal to the most baroque, ColAAb supports today’s artists in their deepest desires, and perspective.”*

**PASCALE LE THOREL**

DIRECTOR OF BEAUX-ARTS DE PARIS PUBLISHING

**COLAAB  
PUSHES THE  
BOUNDARIES OF ART  
BY PRODUCING AND  
PUBLISHING FUNCTIONAL  
ARTWORKS CREATED  
BY CONTEMPORARY  
ARTISTS.**

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