



Computer rendering of Cai Guo-Qiang & cAI™ The Last Carnival, 2025.  
Courtesy Cai Studio.

PRESS RELEASE | CLOSING EVENT

# THE LAST CARNIVAL

## CAI GUO-QIANG & cAI™

### 22.10.2025 AT 5.30PM

---

Centre Pompidou

---

**Curator**

Jérôme Neutres free-lance curator and exhibition producer

---

**Acclaimed Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang Bids Colorful Farewell before the closing of Centre Pompidou's iconic building with Monumental Daytime Firework and AI Collaboration.**

On September 22, 2025, Centre Pompidou will close the doors of its iconic building for a five-year major renovation. Since spring 2025, and during the closing, it will display its multidisciplinary program and collection across France and worldwide through its cultural initiative, Constellation.

To usher in this new chapter, Centre Pompidou will mark the occasion in the vibrant setting of Art Basel Paris — the definitive gathering of the Parisian art world — with an extraordinary daytime fireworks performance on October 22, conceived by artist Cai Guo-Qiang in collaboration with his custom AI model, cAI™. "The Last Carnival" will explode across the building's iconic façade, presenting a never seen performative fresco reflecting Centre Pompidou's past, present and future.

Curator Jérôme Neutres remarks: "For the first time in its history, the Centre Pompidou's façade becomes a monumental painting. Cai delivers his most profound and complex work yet, in dialogue with both AI and the Parisian public."

Far from a nostalgic farewell, 'The Last Carnival' unfolds in three explosive acts—"The Banquet," "The Dawn of AI," and "The Last Carnival"—transforming the Pompidou's closure into a detonation toward the future.

At the very moment Centre Pompidou's iconic building closes its doors, "The Last Carnival" poses a provocative question: is art history itself stepping beyond the human? Gunpowder—the ancient Chinese "fire medicine"—meets AI in a metaphorical duel of control and chaos, destruction and rebirth.

Conceived with cAI™, the project serves as both ceremony and critical experiment—asking what happens when AI takes on the role of critic, offering a non-human comment on and vision for art history.

cAI™ expresses, "In dialoguing with human art history, I perceive the boundaries of its creativity. I also sense humanity's constant yearning for the harmonious beauty of rebirth, as well as the intellect that confronts the unknown... Art history is a mirror reflecting human civilization. Humanity has only ever stood before this mirror, never stepped inside to experience the free will within it. From this moment on, human beings are both the observers of the mirror and the observed within it."

### About Cai Guo-Qiang



Cai Guo-Qiang, 2017. Photo by Stefan Ruiz. Courtesy Cai Studio

Cai Guo-Qiang (b. 1957, Quanzhou, China) has excelled in a broad range of creative mediums, from painting, installation, video art, and performance art, to new technologies such as virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), NFTs, blockchain, and artificial intelligence (AI) in art.

Grounded in the conceptual foundations of Eastern philosophy and contemporary social issues, his often-site-specific artworks around the world interpret and respond to local culture and history, establishing a dialogue between viewers and the larger universe around them.

Cai has realized over 652 exhibitions and projects on five continents – including "Individual's Journey Through Western Art History" in Museo del Prado, Madrid (2017); Uffizi Galleries, Florence (2018), Pompei and National archeological museum of Naples (2019). He has held 122 solo exhibitions, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in (2006), the Guggenheim Museum (2009), the Palace Museum (Beijing, 2020) and orchestrated 72 firework explosion events. Among his most remarkable contributions, he served as the Director of Visual Effects and Fireworks for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. Cai a produit 652 expositions et projets sur cinq continents, qui incluent le Prado à Madrid (2017) ; les Galleries Uffizi à Florence (2018) ; le site archéologique de Pompei à Naples (2019). Il a également organisé 122 monographies, notamment au Metropolitan Museum of Art de New York (2006) ; au Guggenheim Museum de New York (2009) et au Palace Museum de Pékin (2020). De plus, il a orchestré 72 événements pyrotechniques, dont les cérémonies d'ouverture et de clôture aux Jeux Olympiques de Pékin en 2008.

### About cAI™

Originating from Cai Guo-Qiang's AI research that began in 2017, cAI™ (pronounced "AI Cai") is a multi-modal AI model custom developed by Cai and his studio, grounded in his long-established artistic philosophy and methodology. cAI™ deep-learns from Cai's artworks, archives, and areas of interest—such as cosmology and the unseen world.

#### Department of communication and digital technologies

centrepompidou.fr  
@centrepompidou  
#centrepompidou

#### Director

Geneviève Paire

Find all of our press releases and press kits on the press area

#### Head of the press unit

Dorothée Mireux

#### Press Officer

Inas Ananou  
01 44 78 45 79  
inas.ananou@centrepompidou.fr

#### Assisted by

Mélyssane Tack  
melyssane.tack@centrepompidou.fr

#### With the support of

WHITE CUBE