

# CALL FOR SUPPORT

Three projects – one shared journey:

Stéphane Geiser – Emerging Artist – Valais, Switzerland – 2026

## SPIRITUAL ALCHEMIST

Born out of a collaboration with Taiwanese artist Abin Chang, \*Spiritual Alchemist\* explores the opening of the mind to the self through a dialogue in paintings featuring seven guardian animals. These works and our exchanges have given rise to a grimoire-style book as well as an exhibition in Taiwan (February 7 to April 8, 2026).

The goal now is to bring the exhibition back to Switzerland so that its message resonates on our soil. Main needs: logistical and financial support.



## ORIGINE – L'EMPREINTE AU CENTRE

This new artistic exploration is a direct follow-up to \*Spiritual Alchemist\*. \*Origine\* was born in Sion and aims to establish itself on the Swiss art scene.

Whilst \*Spiritual Alchemist\* is about self-discovery, \*Origine\* is a journey through the veils of one's existence...

Key requirements: distribution network, galleries and exhibition spaces.

## ARTS NETWORK SWITZERLAND – TAIWAN

This third project provides the initiative with its structure and future direction: laying the groundwork for a sustainable artistic exchange between Swiss and Taiwanese artists, in partnership with the Taipei Cultural Office in Geneva. What two artists have sketched out, a community can now build upon—through networking, establishing a shared framework, and an open, reciprocal multidisciplinary project.

Key needs: structuring, networking, and implementing joint multidisciplinary projects.



At the beginning of every work, there is a common gesture: searching within ourselves for what connects us to others. Three projects, three movements, a single journey—from the intimate to its artistic expression—a lasting bridge is built between two lands, Switzerland and Taiwan.

Each stage transforms the one before it. What emerges from an encounter becomes a work; what becomes a work calls for dialogue; and this dialogue, in turn, demands to endure.

## 1 SPIRITUAL ALCHEMIST

A year ago, I flew to Taiwan. What was supposed to be a simple cultural exploration turned into a life-changing encounter that completely transformed my view of art. While there, I crossed paths with ABin Chang, an artist whose brush seems to follow its own path.

Without speaking the same language, we established an invisible dialogue: the pure act of creation. What was meant to be a simple artistic exchange turned into a journey of self-discovery—one animal and two intentions for each painting. Through our correspondence, we found ourselves exploring, between East and West, the hidden legends and metaphors of a soul in search of itself. Thanks to ABin Chang, our collaborative work gave rise to a book and an international exhibition in Taiwan. This grimoire has become a testament to a friendship born of silence and raw expression.

### **The work**

\*Spiritual Alchemist\* is not merely an exhibition catalogue. It is a grimoire in which alchemy engages with Asian spirituality through seven themes, each of which we have painted.

- The Fox – Adventure & Insight
- The Bat – Luck & Happiness
- The Pangolin – Fierce & Calm
- The Doe – Freedom & Home
- The Tiger – Strength & Invisibility
- The Dragon – Gaze & Royal Aura
- The Bear – Death & Rebirth

### **The exhibition**

The "Spiritual Alchemist" exhibition opened at the Dazao Art Gallery (大灶美術館) in Puli, Nantou, from February 7 to April 8, 2026. The reception was warm, and our work deeply moved many people. Each painting became a mirror for the visitors. Our message and our interactions touched many people. The self-published bilingual book in English and Traditional Chinese found many new owners (ISBN 978-2-8399-4878-4).

### **The Call of Switzerland**

This project now needs to move forward and put down roots here in Switzerland. My hope is to share the richness of this experience and to ensure that our works resonate on home soil. This exhibition is a universal invitation to come together, across cultural boundaries.

Spiritual Alchemist will be funded through a crowdfunding campaign on Wemakeit, which will cover the costs of shipping the paintings back, travel expenses required to find the venue for this second exhibition, the costs of the opening reception, as well as the expenses already incurred for self-publishing the grimoire.

# 1 BUDGET

This campaign, which is open to everyone, will also help raise my profile throughout Switzerland. Everyone is therefore welcome to support my efforts to expand my artistic reach.

(lien Wemakeit)

Budget	CHF
shipping costs, customs duties on paintings	CHF 1400
Communication, exhibition promotion	CHF 300
10x Travel expenses, based on a daily allowance of CHF 39	CHF 390
Exhibition Hall Rental	CHF 1000
Opening	CHF 400
Commission Wemakeit 10%	CHF 388
<b>Total</b>	<b>CHF 3880</b>

Cost / Personal investment	CHF
Cost of the book already incurred	CHF 1600
<b>Total</b>	<b>CHF 1600</b>

The minimum goal of CHF 4,000 covers most of the project budget as well as part of the personal funds I have already committed.

Minimum	CHF 3880
Optimal	CHF 5590

# 1 PHOTOS



## 2 ORIGINE – L'EMPREINTE AU CENTRE

Whilst *\*Spiritual Alchemist\** is a universal invitation – that of the soul, conveyed through seven guardian animals – *\*Origine\** is a personal representation. Whilst the former is a celebration of the world's legends, the latter is an inner journey.

Together, they form a diptych: one is the compass, the other the epic.

*\*Origine\** is a series of 36 acrylic paintings on traditional Taiwanese paper. It draws directly on my experiences in Taiwan – this dialogue has opened a door to my roots.

Who are we? It is a mind-boggling question with infinite answers. Sometimes we hide ourselves, and finding ourselves becomes a quest. *\*Origin – the imprint at the centre\** explores a path in search of its epicentre, through primary mandalas, which come together as a kind of global ethnic art.

### **Specifique needs**

Unlike *Spiritual Alchemist*, *Origine* was founded in Switzerland and relies primarily on a network – galleries, exhibition spaces and cultural institutions willing to embrace an approach that is both intimate and universal.

I need support in finding a venue in Switzerland to showcase my work, whether that involves hiring a space, organising a private viewing, or meeting with arts organisations. In addition, I need funding to prepare the works for display – framing the 36 pieces, which is essential for their presentation.

## 2 BUDGET

The budget is divided into two phases: preparing the artworks and searching for a venue (initial costs), followed by organizing the exhibition itself once a venue has been secured (contingent costs).

Initial costs	CHF
Framing of 36x paintings: CHF 50	CHF 1800
10x Travel expenses, based on a daily allowance of CHF 39	CHF 390
<b>Total</b>	<b>CHF 2190</b>

Contingent costs	CHF
Communication, exhibition promotion	CHF 300
Opening	CHF 400
Transportation of the artworks to the exhibition venue	CHF 350
<b>Total</b>	<b>CHF 1050</b>

The minimum goal of CHF 2,190 covers the bulk of the project's physical implementation, as well as its presentation to various institutions throughout Switzerland.

Minimum	CHF 2190
Optimal	CHF 3240

2 PHOTOS



## 3 ARTS NETWORK SWITZERLAND – TAIWAN

« *Act locally, build globally* »

This third project provides the initiative with structure and a future: laying the groundwork for a sustainable artistic exchange between Taiwanese and Swiss artists, in partnership with organizations such as the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Geneva.

What two artists have sketched out, a community could build upon—by fostering connections and establishing a shared framework around international multidisciplinary projects. ABin and I already have the opportunity to bring together various art forms—music, writing, painting...

In this kind of project, the language barrier becomes a driving force rather than an obstacle. How we understand one another becomes a fundamental question in our society. While artificial intelligence has made it possible to interpret our collaboration, it is above all our paintings that have conveyed the intentions and narratives of our stories. Art, like science, possesses this unique ability to create a shared dialogue where distances separate us.

### **The proposed structure**

What began as a friendship and a collaborative project could evolve into a regular forum for exchange—joint exhibitions, residencies, and multidisciplinary projects involving artists from both countries. In practical terms, this would involve:

- The creation of two sister organizations, one in Switzerland and one in Taiwan, whose primary purpose would be to facilitate meetings and collaborations among artists from both countries, to connect them, and to support their artistic expression.
- The creation of a network of galleries and exhibition spaces to showcase the works produced.

### **Specific needs**

This initiative is still in its early stages. At this point, I have neither established a network nor identified any institutional partners for this project. Initial contact has been made with the Taipei Cultural Office in Geneva.

The core objectives of this project are to build a network among artists, establish a lasting collaboration between arts institutions in each country, and create two sister organizations.

From there, we can develop a broader vision: to build a network of financial partners, launch artistic projects, and promote a culture of international expression.

## 3 BUDGET

The budget is divided into two phases: the initial structuring of the network—including the establishment of the Swiss association and initial meetings with institutions (upfront costs) — followed by the network’s international expansion once this first phase is complete (contingent costs).

Phase 1 – Initial Costs		CHF
Travel expenses for institutional meetings (5x AG)		CHF 195
Document Translation (French/English/Chinese)		CHF 600
Communication costs and project presentation		CHF 300
Establishment of the Swiss association (administrative fees)		CHF 1000
<b>Total</b>		<b>CHF 2095</b>

Phase 2 - Contingent Costs		CHF
Legal fees for setting up the two associations		CHF 600
Bilingual/trilingual website (hosting, domain name)		CHF 750
Seeking sponsors and funding		CHF 500
Start-up budget — first pilot project		CHF 1500
<b>Total</b>		<b>CHF 3350</b>

The minimum goal of CHF 1,745 covers Phase 1 — the initial setup of the network in Switzerland.

Minimum CHF 1745

Optimal CHF 3350

