

Nguyen Wahed

For Immediate Release

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Nguyen Wahed Presents Black and White Karma – Turning by DOKU

May 12, 2025, London — Nguyen Wahed Gallery is pleased to announce "Black and White Karma – Turning", a solo exhibition by avatar artist DOKU, opening May 21, 2025 at Nguyen Wahed Gallery, New York and simultaneously at NADA Villa Warsaw 2025



Black and White Karma – Turning I #01, 2025. Courtesy of Nguyen Wahed and the artist.

DOKU the Creator: Black and White Karma – Turning is a new series created by DOKU - a virtual artist and avatar from the DOKU series of Lu Yang. Through meditative simulations in a virtual void and rooted in the structural system of the Bhavacakra (Wheel of Life), the 24 unique digital works visualize two karmic directions in samsara: the ascending white path (śukla-mārga) and the descending black path (kṛṣṇa-mārga).

These dual karmic streams emerge from the wheel's center, guiding beings through cyclic existence. DOKU enters observation, not judgment—witnessing how karma arises from mind, appears as solid, yet remains empty in essence. The 24 works reflect the 24-hour cycle—not as timekeeping, but as the ceaseless rhythm of thought, craving, fear, and becoming. Karma forms not only through action, but through the subtlest turn of mind. Each piece is a fragment of karmic motion, glimpsed in meditative stillness—a flicker of becoming within illusion. All appearance is movement within emptiness. Karma is the mind tracing itself. To see is to enter. To intend is already to turn.

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Each unique work comes with a physical vajra with the inscribed hash.



金刚杵 (*Vajra*, accompanying *DOKU's* digital work), 2025. Courtesy of the artist.

Collection and Physical Exhibitions

Black and White Karma – Turning is a series of 24 digital artworks. Each is released as a unique NFT, accompanied by a physical *vajra* and optional print.

The exhibitions at Nguyen Wahed gallery in New York and NADA Villa Warsaw will present immersive large-scale screening of the DOKU film of Lu Yang: DOKU the Creator, the latest chapter of their ongoing work DOKU. Named after the phrase “Dokusho Dokushi” meaning “We are born alone, and we die alone,” the character DOKU is a digital shell, a virtual human whose digital assets the artist has been building for nearly five years, as a reincarnation of himself in a parallel universe - an extension of his soul into the digital realm. Building upon his ongoing interest in the digitization of the human body and mind, Yang’s own body provides the template for this virtual human whose “creations” form the core of DOKU’s third narrative film and the NFT collection. The NFT digital works created by the avatar DOKU are released in collaboration with the online platform Fellowship.

Following the exhibition of DOKU with the screening of the “DOKU the Creator” chapter in Nguyen Wahed Gallery, the film, together with the previous DOKU chapters will be on view in the upcoming exhibition of Lu Yang in Amant Foundation in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn in fall 2025.

Exhibition Details

- Opening Date: May 21, 2025
- Location 1: Nguyen Wahed Gallery, New York City, May 21-June 19, 2025
- Location 2: NADA Villa Warsaw, May 21-25, 2025

Notes to Editors

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About DOKU

DOKU is a digital avatar developed and operated by Lu Yang since 2020, a project that integrates digital art, AI, CG technology, and virtual reality. The name is derived from the Buddhist teaching "Dokusho Dokushi" (独生独死), which means "We are born alone, and we die alone," signifying that life remains solitary across all dimensions, whether in the real world or virtual space. DOKU shares Lu Yang's facial expressions and features while being a non-binary character generated by combining the movements of multiple dancers and musicians. It was collaboratively created with a team of 3D animators, digital technicians, and scientists, utilizing the latest motion capture technology. Lu Yang presented DOKU The Creator at Art Basel Hong Kong and Art Dubai 2025 as a virtual artist and avatar, exploring themes of digital consciousness and the intersection of art, gaming, and virtual existence.

About Nguyen Wahed Gallery

Nguyen Wahed is a contemporary art gallery dedicated to exploring the relationships between human, natural, and digital realms. The program features artists whose practices span multiple media and conceptual frameworks through idiosyncratic commentaries on societal changes. Whether through algorithmic constructs, painterly or enveloping installations, we cultivate a space where established narratives are deconstructed, and new dialogues emerge.