



Conceive: 怀耘构月

A Curated Group Exhibition

Jan. 23rd- Feb. 18th, 2022

EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE

(For Immediate Release)

Opening Reception: Feb 3rd, 2022 , 6pm- 8 pm

Location: 64A Bayard Street, New York, NY 10013

Artists: Ye Cheng, Stanley Chen, Fang Yuan, Yirui Jia, Jinyi liu, Xing li, Jialin Ren, Xiong Wei

LATITUDE Gallery presents you with our new group show *Conceive: 怀耘构月*. Opening on January 23rd, 2022, this show will be on view during the Chinese lunar new year in Chinatown at the heart of New York. Curated by Shuang Cai and the gallery team, *Conceive* invites eight emerging Asian artists to reflect on their experiences during the “post-pandemic” year. The physical exhibition will be open till February 18th and the online version on Artsy will close at the end of February.

Inspired by surrealism—works that investigate the subconscious dreamscape and unveil the poetic or even the absurd, this show represents the creative attempt of contemporary Asian artists to materialize and tame the uncanny minds. In the context of *metaverse*—a decades old term—coming into trend over the past months, we believe that the works of art we present in this show vitalizes the

digital world. Those artworks inject livelihood into the seemingly intangible world of imagination and offer access to each and every one of the audience. *Conceive* presents you with the testimony of the otherworld and shows the conceived spaces that were embryonated by artists' prolific minds.

Other than the shared theme, our eight young artists also share the common thread of having boundary experience in their personal lives: the generation they were born into, the social culture they inhabit and the times they live in. Living in between cultures in contemporary American society at the time of the pandemic, these young Asian artists' shared experiences create synergies among their practices. This then allows our curatorial team to investigate the rawness and uniqueness in those words by juxtaposition, mirroring and deflecting with humor.

With *Conceive*, LATITUDE Gallery invites you to a voyage on the edges of the physical limbo between realities and imaginations, in search of the tangible beauties in the multifarious familiarities and estrangement.

At the beginning of the lunar new year, coincidentally the two year anniversary of LATITUDE Gallery, we, along with the talented and resilient artists, present you with the incredible works of Asian artists in the historical Chinatown neighborhood. We welcome all with our bright and warm new location and our diaspora fellows to convene and celebrate the lunar new year. It is our sparkling shared recollections and dreams that the artists at *Conceive* are attempting to knead and shape. *Conceive* is, then, alluding a warm and stuffed dumpling that animates the linkage between the awakened and dozed.

Ye Cheng

Ye Cheng was born in China and lived in five cities of three countries. She immigrated to the United States to pursue a career as an artist. Ye Cheng graduated with a BFA degree in painting from Maryland Institute College of Art in 2016 and continuing her Master's degree in Fine Art from Parsons, New York. Ye Cheng exhibited in Pantocrator Gallery in Shanghai, China, Palazzo Jules Maidoff in Florence, Italy as well as TAG gallery in Los Angeles.

Fang Yuan

Fang Yuan 方媛 (b. 1996, Shenzhen, China) is a visual artist who lives and works in New York City. She graduated from the Visual and Critical Studies Program at the School of Visual Arts (BFA) with Rhodes Family Award for Outstanding Achievement. Her works have been exhibited in the United States and China. She is currently an MFA candidate at the School of Visual Arts who is expected to graduate in 2022. Fang's practice began with a self-detachment from the external environment while maintaining a rebellious posture of exile. Throughout her upbringing, she has been constantly experiencing a lack of belonging and displacements reflected by her surroundings. For her, desire, emotions, and memory are not concepts, but unsteady and tangible experiences. As an Asian woman living in the context of cosmopolitanism, she attempts to explore her own vulnerability in the sense of self-estrangement in her practice.

Jinyi Liu

Jinyi Liu is a contemporary artist who lives and works in New York and Beijing, a native Chinese. His work is a playful interpretation of artistic creation and daily life. At the same time, he observes the cultural conflicts in the Internet age and the dialectical co-existence of mutual Resistance and interdependence behind the conflicts.

Images, videos, and graphics are now inherently embedded within every corner of an expanding online culture universe, the amount of which is seemingly endless.

"I collect pictures from this online universe. Video games, comics, pop music, and online novels. I combine them with my painting trace, as a symbolic image. I use them to create some Misunderstanding conversation and narrative." Jinyi uses the concept of organic combination. Different symbols derived from different cultures are organically combined in his paintings and transformed into a brand - new language and narrative.

Xing Li

Painter. She was born in Guangzhou, China. She holds a MFA from SVA and a BFA from Guangzhou Art Academy.

Yirui Jia

Yirui Jia was born in 1997 in China and moved to the United States in 2015. Yirui is a current MFA Fine Arts candidate at the School of Visual Arts in New York where she currently works and lives. Yirui received her BFA dual degrees in Studio Arts from Gettysburg College, PA. In 2018, she exchanged to an art program at Marchutz School of Arts in Aix-en-Provence, France for half a year. Yirui Jia works in paintings and sculp-

tures that often channel emotions and story-telling narratives through anthropomorphic characters and the relation with daily objects and their imaginary features.

Stanley Chen

Stanley Chen (b.1997, Sydney, Australia), moving between cities internationally triggers his concentration on the fluidity in identities. His body of work uses paintings and drawings to detach from the present, allowing the examination of himself and his surroundings with a stranger-like perspective.

Jialin Ren

Jialin Ren (b.1993, lives and studies in Vancouver and Chicago), finished her BFA at School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) in 2016. She is currently a candidate for MFA 2022 at SAIC. Jialin Ren's paintings reveal the complex emotions, between familiarity and strangeness, between the quotidian and the fantastical, between representation and abstraction. These schisms also evoke the interrelationship between self-doubt and confidence. She entwines these opposing sentiments by depicting and exaggerating the ordinary and the overlooked, employing plants to engender familiarity and imaginary spaces. The limited description of the space and the distorted scale of common objects engage the viewer psychologically, questioning the authenticity of conventional time and space.

Xiong Wei

Xiong Wei is a contemporary artist/sculptor based in Brooklyn. He is interested in the emotional bond and rational relationships among people, between human body and object body, and the role of humanity playing as one of the species in our nature.

Xiong's works are concerned with confrontational themes such as violence, mental burden, and the relationship of individualism to collectivism. His sculptures emphasize the bodily scale, the spectator's body's relation with the body of artwork, and the space they coexist.