

# HOMO VIATOR HOMO VIATOR

10th - 24th Oct 2024



## ARTISTS

Jan Valik  
Lorena Levi

Jiang Yifan  
Louise Janet

Lily Hargreaves  
Paula Parole

Liu Bing  
Zhang Shangfeng

WILLOW X NOIASCAPE

Opening Private View 10th Oct 6:00 - 9:00 pm  
Noiascape High Street House 83 Askew Road London W12 9AH



*PERHAPS A STABLE ORDER CAN ONLY BE ESTABLISHED ON EARTH IF MAN ALWAYS REMAINS ACUTELY CONSCIOUS THAT HIS CONDITION IS THAT OF A TRAVELLER.*

- GABRIEL MARCEL (1951)

Willow Art Space presents **Homo Viator**, a group exhibition that explores the journey of the human spirit through diverse artistic expressions.

**Homo Viator** is a Latin phrase that describes man as the eternal traveler. It is also related to the Greek understanding of man (Anthropos), emphasizing the journey of life. The existentialist philosopher Gabriel Marcel also used this phrase as the title of his 1942 book, in which he describes man as an itinerant being.

Time and space are two forms of this journey, and hope is the supreme underlying tool that keeps us “being on the way” (*en route*). As human beings travel between past and future, exploring in-between spaces, **Homo Viator** has become a central figure of contemporary society, providing a sense of identity and a drive for discovery and dialogue against the backdrop of globalization and mobilization.

The exhibition brings together the works of eight contemporary artists, each offering a unique perspective on this existential theme. **Jan Valik** initiates an ongoing dialogue between intuition and rationality, cultivating a process where external space, internal subconsciousness, and the exploration of colors and brushstrokes interact. **Jiang Yifan**, **Paula Parole**, and **Zhang Shangfeng** combine, structure, place, and appropriate fragments of memories and everyday life into metaphysical realities, offering a new narrative open to interpretation. **Lily Hargreaves** delves into distant pasts, reshaping historical narratives to offer fresh insights. **Louise Janet** focuses on the seemingly tenuous and repetitive nature of daily life, revealing the infinite enigma of the ordinary. **Lorena Levi** examines the digital sphere, using chatrooms and online forums to form her relationships with her sitters and her paintings. **Liu Bing**’s practice is deeply rooted in her experiences living across Africa, Latin America, China, and India, infused with the intuition and imagination to explore humanity as a monumental book.



Through 19 carefully curated works, **Homo Viator** reflects on the resilience and adaptability required to navigate the complexities of modern life, exploring themes of hope, community, and the human spirit's enduring quest for discovery.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a series of workshops will be held, organised by **Zhimin Zhang** and **Jiajia Zeng**, led by the exhibiting artists, aiming to engage local communities and schools. These workshops will delve into local folklore and storytelling, creating a rich dialogue between art and community.

To register your interest in acquiring available works, please kindly email **[info@willowartspace.com](mailto:info@willowartspace.com)**.

#### About Curator: Zhimin Zhang.

Zhimin Zhang (b.1997) is a Wuhan-born, London-based curator with a diverse interdisciplinary background spanning entrepreneurship, marketing, theatre, and art curation. She has cultivated a wealth of experiences through studies, volunteer work, and professional engagements across China, Norway, Kenya, and the UK. Zhimin Zhang is also the recipient of the Innovate UK Young Innovator Award. She has a keen focus on creating cross-industry opportunities that bridge the art world with other sectors, making artistic expression more accessible and impactful. Her research inquiries are oriented towards the intersection of art and marketing, exploring innovative and inclusive strategies to bridge the gap between creators and appreciators within the art world.

#### About Adviser: Andrew Marsh

Andrew Marsh is an independent curator, critic, lecturer, exhibition and project manager with longstanding experience in commercial and non-commercial environments within the art world in the UK. He is also the course Leader for MA Arts and Cultural Enterprise, Curator in Practice for BA (Hons) Culture, Criticism and Curation and PhD supervisor at University of the Arts London.

#### About Noiascape

Noiascape is an integrated organisation focused on modern urban living, blending design, development, and space operation. They create accessible, well-designed homes in urban areas, catering to modern renters with spaces for living, working, and socializing. Through their network, Noiascape offers a new way to experience cities. Their initiative, Noia-Social, provides free or low-cost spaces to emerging creatives, bringing visual culture to local communities and supporting urban identities. By hosting exhibitions and events, Noiascape connects artists with their communities, enriching everyday cultural experiences.





Valik approaches and considers his paintings as fluid and psychological territories that move between perceptual ambiguities, emotions, and evocations of otherness. Held in a strange balance and uncertain of fixed meanings, these semi-open ecosystems respond to a world in flux, filled with contradictions, in an effort to reach from the subjective towards something universal.

Washes of color, impulsive brushstrokes, and slowly traced shapes depict and conceal at the same time. Valik is interested in how the external space affects the internal one, painting from where that intersection occurs. Reliant on intuition, spontaneity, and experimentation—equally on chance and control—the dialogue between process and resulting image shifts back and forth from accidental marks to conjured spaces. Floating free-form or morphing into shapes that language can't fully tackle, his work aims to be simultaneously familiar and strange, illogical or even sublime, refracted through their internal logic and coded in fragments, layers, and shapes.



#### **Education:**

2023 - 24 MA in Painting, Royal College of Arts, London, UK; 2020 - 22 Turps Studio Programme, London, UK;  
2007 - 12 MA in Fine Arts, Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, CZ

**Solo exhibitions:** 2024 Chamber, 'Levity', Vienna, AT; 2023 Amart Gallery, 'Small Infinities', Vienna, AT; 2022 L.L.Contemporary, 'Breakthrough', Toronto, CA; 2022 Husk Gallery, 'Shifting Places', Brussels, BE; 2021 Amart Gallery, 'Landscapes', Vienna, AT; 2020 Husk Gallery, 'Verge', Brussels, BE; 2019 Industra Gallery, 'Temporary Neighborhoods', Brno, CZ; 2019 Cin Cin Gallery, 'Seeing Triple', Bratislava, SK; 2017 NICHE Gallery, 'Plethora and a Quiet World', Tokyo, JP

**Selected group exhibitions:** 2024 NoHo Gallery, 'Hazy Horizons', London; 2024 Mezzanine Gallery, RCA, 'Vedāna', London; 2024 L.L. Contemporary, 'Both, Inwards and Out There', Toronto, CA; 2024 NoHo Gallery, 'Hazy Horizons', London; 2024 Amart Gallery, 'Abstract on Paper IV.', Vienna, AT; 2023 L.L.Contemporary, Sunshine and Rain, Toronto, CA; 2023 Adah Rose Gallery, 'Carte Blanche', Washington D.C., US; 2023 Pragovka Gallery, 'Echo of the Depth in Space', Prague, CZ; 2022 Selects pt.2, London Paint Club x Koppel Project, London; 2022 Now Introducing, Studio West Gallery, London; 2022 Abstract on Paper II, Amart Gallery, Vienna, AT; 2022 Contemporary British Painting Prize 2021, Unit 1 Gallery, London; 2022 Select pt1, London Paint Club x Hoxton253, London.







Shapes of Things to Come, 2024

195 x 135 cm  
oil and spray paint on linen

£5,800







A Conjured Land, 2022

51 x 41 cm  
oil on linen

£1,300







LILY

Born in 2000 in Reading, UK, Hargreaves lives and works in London, UK.

Hargreaves paints snapshots of a history that hasn't quite happened. She looks to the past, patchworking together historical stories to build new ones that is contemporarily relevant. She is attracted to events that are bizarre, seemingly unexplainable, and she weaves them into broader contextual tapestries.

Hargreaves' paintings are highly stylized, referencing a type of painting practiced by British artists between the wars. While the trauma of World War I pushed many artists in other countries toward the avant-garde and the future, British makers looked to resurrect life pre-war. A style of hard-edged realism emerged, rendered in meticulous detail, as though the painters were obsessively attempting to control and systematize the world around them. It feels appropriate to revisit this style now, a hundred years on, in another period of war and pandemic, as well as climate crisis, applying elements to her images as though trying to find some sense in the unexplainable subject matter.

#### **Education:**

2024 MA in Painting, Royal College of Art, London; 2022 BA in Fine Art, Goldsmiths, University of London

#### **Solo Exhibition:**

2023 The Bogman, Shipton Gallery, London

#### **Selected Group Exhibitions:**

2024 Are We There Yet?, Peckham Arches, London; 2024 Myths and Dreams, Chilli Art Projects, London; 2024 A Painting Show, Staffordshire Street x Paint Talk, London; 2024 RCA Postgraduate Showcase, Royal College of Art, London; 2023 Tart Factory, Tart Gallery, London; 2023 Wisteria Only Grows in a Crowd, Goldsmiths Degree Show, London; 2023 Now Introducing, Studio West, London; 2022 The Last Night on Earth, Goldsmiths Degree Show, London; 2022 Second Expression, The Split Gallery, London; 2022 BAGT Open, BAGT Studios, London; 2022 Winter Winter, Moosey, Norwich, UK; 2022 Stiltsville, Half Gallery, Miami, US; 2021 John Moores Painting Prize, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK; 2021 Port of Call, Changing Room Gallery, London

#### **Shortlisted Awards:**

2024 Valerie Beston Award; 2024 ACS Studio Prize; 2023 Studio West's 'Now Introducing'; 2023 Hari Art Prize; 2020 John Moores Painting Prize

HARGREAVES







The Porridge Eater, 2023

120 x 90 cm  
oil on canvas

£2,600

The Porridge Eater is from a body of work following the speculative life, death, and discovery of a person inspired by the real-life Iron Age bodies found in bogs across Northwestern Europe. These bodies are known for the remarkable way in which they have been naturally preserved, infamous today as macabre curiosities. In Hargreaves' paintings, she aims to reanalyze these bodies as people and to question the way in which they have been conserved by museums in the modern age.



Born in 1985 in Beijing, China, Liu currently lives and works in Beijing.

Liu's artistry is deeply rooted in her experiences across Africa, Latin America, China, and India, infused with the intuition and imagination inspired by Mexico, South America, and beyond.

'My core artistic expression centers on the human condition. It is not only the prominent figures who change the world, but more often the countless ordinary individuals. Each person is like a monumental book, though sometimes, due to various limitations, we cannot fully understand each other. What are people truly like? What values and worldviews shape their lives? This is what captivates me—the profound allure of genuinely entering and exploring another person's spiritual world.'

Liu's art goes beyond mere curiosity about the world. It is a domain where she observes, moves, and interacts, fully immersed and understanding with her entire essence.



**Education:**

2008 Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts, Oil painting, Xi'an, China

**Solo Exhibitions:**

2024 *Roots of the World*, Line Gallery, Beijing, China

2017 *A Long Way Go*, Line Gallery, Shanghai, China

2014 *The Survivor*, Line Gallery, Beijing, China

2013 *Over the Crowd*, Hi Art, Beijing, China

2011 *My Loneliness*, Being 3 Gallery, Beijing, China

2009 *Memory and Lost Memory*, MADASPAM, Shanghai, China

2009 *MADA.DADA*, XCOMA, Xi'an, China

LIU

BING







燃 Flame, 2023

130.5 × 97 cm  
Acrylic on canvas

£7,300







甜烦恼 Sweet Annoyance, 2019

50 × 50 cm  
oil on canvas

£3,200





Lorena Levi is a London-based narrative painter. Her practice is research-driven, utilizing the internet—through podcasts, psychoanalytical papers, chatroom sites, and Reddit forums—to create works that merge the traditional medium of oil painting with contemporary technology and subject matter. Levi's collages found images to construct imagined narratives, showcasing her unique ability to capture and create intricate, intriguing psychological relationships between her subjects.

#### Education:

2021 MA Fine Art; painting, Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh, UK; 2016 - 2017 Art Foundation, City & Guilds of London, UK

Solo Exhibitions: 2023 Blistered, Casa MB, Milan, M&B-Los Angeles; 2023 MAXXED, MAMA, London; 2023 The in between, Nicole Zisman, The Sidings London; 2022 Would give zero stars if I could, The Alchemy Experiment, Glasgow

Selected Group Exhibitions: 2024 Smoking Gun, Shipton, New York City; 2023 Fores Project, London; 2023 Art on a postcard; 2023 Face to Face: a Celebration of Portraiture, Marlborough Gallery, London; 2023 Take My Hand, Leez&Smith, Unit one Gallery, London; 2023 RSA New contemporaries, Royal Scottish Academy The Mound, Edinburgh, UK; 2023 The Wisdom Man, Paul Stolper Gallery, London; 2023 Coming Home: In search of our bodies, I.Am.Artist Agency, London; 2022 Bloomberg New Contemporaries, South London Gallery, London; 2022 Bloomberg New Contemporaries, Ferens Art Gallery, Hull, UK; 2022 Visual Arts Association - Finalist Exhibition, Unit 1 Gallery, London; 2022 Affordable Art Fair, Hampstead, London; 2022 Royal British Artists Annual Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London; 2021 The Fifth Anniversary Show, Alveston Fine Art, London; 2021 Best of Degree Show 2021 Exhibition, Six Foot Gallery, UK; 2021 Edinburgh College of Art Graduate Show, UK; 2021 Hampstead Art Society Summer Exhibition, Fitzrovia Gallery, London; 2019 Royal Society of Portrait Painters, Mall Galleries, London

Collections: Government art collection, UK; US Embassy, Rome, Italy

# LORENA LEVI





Evergreen II, 2023

60 x 50 cm  
oil on plywood

£3,500







Brick and Bunting, 2023

90 x 80 cm  
oil on plywood

£5,500



Born in 1985 in Paris, France, Janet currently lives and works in Paris.

Art Spiegelman's observation that "comics are about time turned into space" reflects a principle that the Janet seeks to embody in her painting practice. Her work explores "time incarnating in space" by creating compositions that feature multiple planes, presenting images that are both synchronous and successive. Through the recurrence of certain figures or objects across canvases, Janet builds an inter-iconic narrative.

A key focus of her work is the materialization of past time and the ability of painting to uncover the mystery of the everyday, often overlooked due to its repetitive nature. For Janet, painting becomes a means to capture fleeting moments and transform the ordinary into something profound. It is her way of preserving what in life is destined to endure.



**Education:**

2023 DNSAP, Beaux-Arts de Paris, France; 2021 DNAP, Beaux-Arts de Paris, France

**Solo Exhibitions:**

2024 Building Stories, Galerie Elsa Meunier x Mathilde le Coz, Paris, France; 2023 Present Tense, Galerie Mathilde le Coz, Paris, France

**Selected Group Exhibitions:**

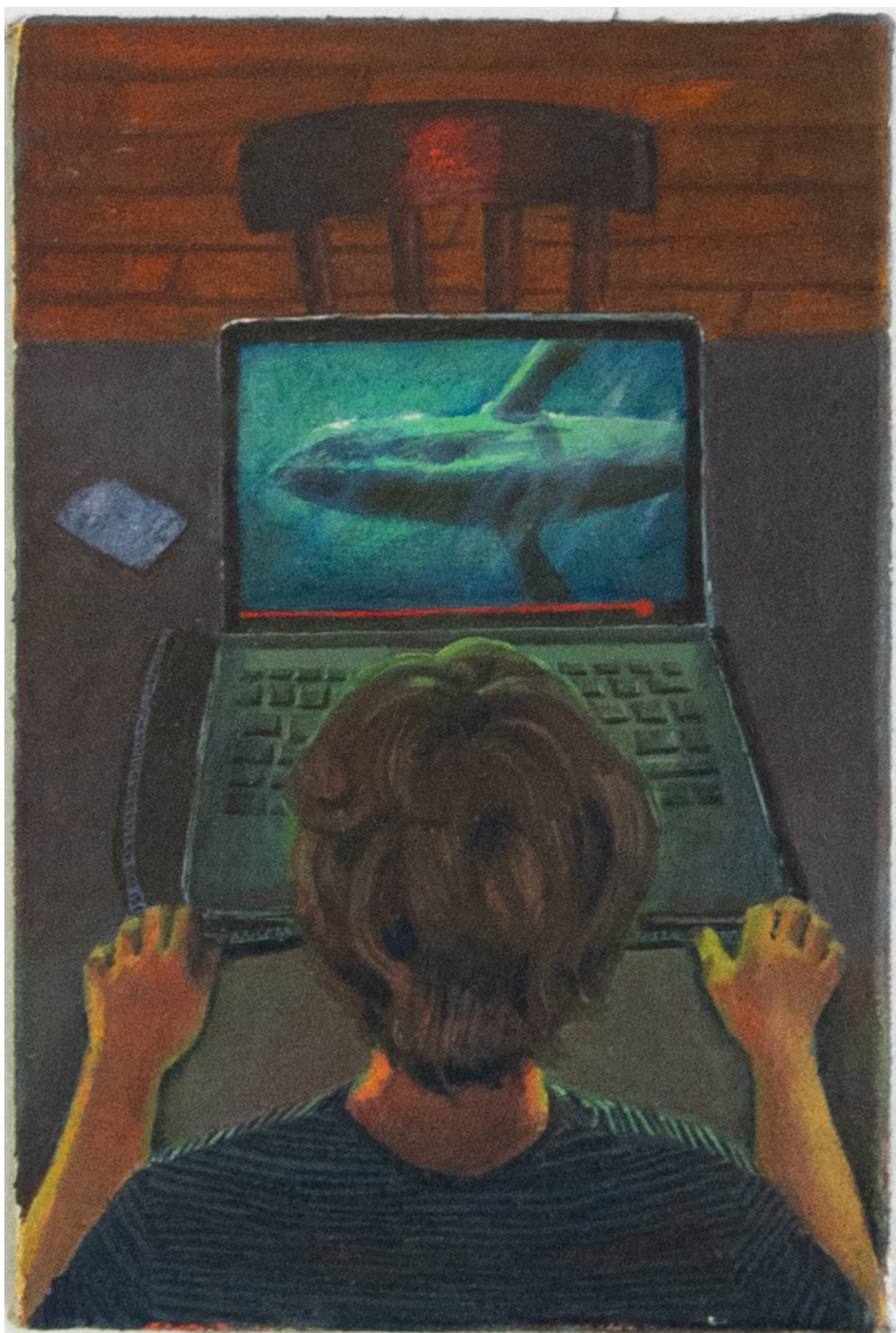
2023 Au-delà du miroir, Galerie T&L, Paris; 2023 Entre Chiens et Loups, galerie Mathilde le Coz et galerie Elsa Meunier, Paris; 2023 Private Choice, 10ème édition, Paris; 2023 Salon d'été, Galerie T&L, Paris; 2023 Breathless, Galerie Myriam Chair, Paris; 2023 Ritournelle, Galerie du Crous, Paris; 2023 Promesses, Galerie du Crous, Paris; 2022 C'est peut-être un Détail pour Vous, Galerie Sabine Bayasli, Paris; 2022 Expositions des lauréats du prix du dessin contemporain, École des Beaux-Arts de Paris; 2022 Madame rêve, T&L et Mathilde le Coz, Venice, Italy; 2022 À voir absolument II, H Gallery, Paris; 2021 Snap time is over, galerie Valentin, Paris; 2020 Friends, galerie Lefeuve et Roze, Paris

**Prize:**

2020 Diamond Foundation Prize, Paris, France







The whalesong, 2024

18 x 12 cm  
oil on canvas

£800







Insomnia, 2024

10 x 18 cm  
oil on canvas

£800







And their children after them, 2024

24 x 19 cm  
oil on canvas

£900







My brother, my mother, my cat, 2024

18 x 12 cm  
oil on canvas

£800







17:00, 2023

18 x 12 cm  
oil on canvas

£800







Cycles, 2023

61 x 46 cm  
oil on canvas

£1,400







Born in 1992 in Germany, Parole is a multidisciplinary artist lives and works in London, UK.

Drawing from self-fiction and autotheory, she uses her art as a medium to digest life, unpack relational behaviours and introspective patterns. Poetic humour weaves through vibrant, eclectic installations where intimate memories and feelings are reflected through various styles and materials.

Her experiences are dissected, inspected and reassembled in the ultimate attempt to demystify them and dismantle internalised narratives around womanhood, destiny and fairy tale romance. Such a surgical and emotional process is resolved in artworks that reflect rituals of closure initiated by the smell of incense or the sound of rippling oysters. It's in the tension between keeping and letting go that manifests catharsis, and inner transformation occurs.

#### **Education:**

2023 Master of Fine Art, University of the Arts London, London, UK; 2016 BA in Visual Communication, Academy of Fine Art Maastricht, Netherlands

#### **Selected Group Exhibitions:**

2024 It's Really Like That, Liliya Art Gallery, London; 2024 Exploring grief and loss through art, Willesden Gallery, London; 2023 Bomb Factory Christmas Exhibition, Bomb Factory Marylebone, London; 2023 (Un)done, Hypha Studios, London; 2023 Gut Anecdotes, FILET Space, London; 2023 CSM Postgraduate Show 2023, Central Saint Martins, London; 2023 Vestibule, Lethaby Gallery, London; 2022 MERCH, Koppel X, London; 2022 I shop therefore I am, Triangle Space, London; 2022 Doing time, aomame.space, South Wales, UK; 2022 This is not a party, Trinity Buoy Wharf, London; 2021 I can see clearly now, De Meldkamer, Maastricht, Netherlands; 2021 Graduate Show Chelsea 2021, Chelsea College of Art, London; 2021 I'm ready to dance again!, Safehouse Gallery, London; 2020 Late Tate, TATE Modern Collective, London; 2019 Kunstspur / Essen, Open studio Friederike Pfitzner, Essen, Germany

# PAULA PAROLE





Boys Club, 2023

62 x 62 cm

oil on canvas, English floor carpet

£1,400



# JIANG YIFAN



Born in 1992 in Xinjiang, China, Jiang lives and works in London, UK.

Jiang is a contemporary artist working in Chinese Gongbi (工笔) painting. Her practice dwells in the reconstructs narratives related to cultural memory and abstraction of individual images.

Through the reappearance of traditional Chinese painting elements, myths and literary metaphors, the artist reaches out to the collective knowledge and experience of viewers and creates an immersive spectacle on the edge of dreams. The artist has always been fascinated by the possibility of symbols; people with the absence of facial features, extractions of daily objects and memory figures, theatric stage perspectives, constitute a blurred borderline between illusion and reality.

## **Education:**

2023 - 2024 MA in Painting, Royal College of Art, London

2013 - 2020 BFA & MFA in Chinese Painting, Art College of Renmin University of China, China

## **Solo Exhibitions:**

2023 Unanticipated Dream: Latent Image, Click Ten, Beijing; 2021 Curtain Time, Art+ Shanghai Gallery, Shanghai; 2020 Mono Drama, Mountain Art Beijing & Frank Lin Art Center, Beijing

## **Selected Group Exhibitions:**

2024 Promenade, 1690, Shanghai; 2023 End of Summer, Once Gallery, Beijing; 2023 Hide and Seek, Once Gallery, Beijing; 2022 Border Free, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing; 2022 Between Days, Art+ Shanghai Gallery, Shanghai; 2021 Contemporary Portraiture, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing; 2021 Present, Mountain Art Beijing & Frank Lin Art Center, Beijing; 2020 Collection Show of Atelier Bois, Atelier Bois, Beijing; 2020 Hi21 emerging artists, Garry Culture Center, Beijing; 2019 "yu", Art Museum of Renmin University of China, Beijing; 2019 Art Nova 100 artist, Guardian Art Center, Beijing







Firework, 2024

40 x 30 cm

Ink on silk

£2,100







Dreamland, 2022

21 x 16cm  
Ink on silk

£1,110







Moon Light, 2021

10 x 14 cm

Ink on silk

£720







# ZHANG SHANGFENG

Born in 1998 in Xi'an, China, Zhang lives and works in Xi'an, China

Zhang paints the darkest moment of the adventurer—the trance, the impassivity before making a choice. Many of the figures he draws are masculine, human symbols of the adventurer, who is the predecessor of myth. In fact, the figures is the closest embodiment of myth itself, yet simultaneously a loner, with a powerful body to conceal the trance moments before victory or defeat—a moment when he is neither human, nor god, nor animal.

Zhang embraces both the spirit of adventure and the loneliness that comes with it.







All my life I've wanted to believe in something, 2024

40 x 60 cm

acrylic on linen with wood panel

£1,600





I admire you even envy, 2024

80 x 100 cm  
acrylic on canvas

£2,880





# WILLOW

 London, United Kingdom  
 [www.willowartspace.com](http://www.willowartspace.com)  
 [info@willowartspace.com](mailto:info@willowartspace.com)

Nestled within the vibrant tapestry of the art world, Willow Art Space (WAS) was founded in London in 2022.

As a socially conscious art enterprise, Willow Art Space is dedicated to discovering, championing, and advocating for young, emerging, and underrepresented artists.

At the heart of our mission is our commitment to hosting exhibitions that not only showcase the exceptional works of artists but also facilitate their sale while providing mentorship and guidance. What sets our approach apart is our dedication to connecting artists with local communities, with a strong emphasis on creating cross-industry opportunities that bridge the art world with other sectors, making artistic expression more accessible and impactful.

Guided by three fundamental pillars:

- **Introducing Emerging Talent:**

We tirelessly seek out and promote emerging and underrepresented artists through exhibitions and comprehensive social media promotion.

- **Supporting Artists and Fostering Relationships:**

We believe in transparent financial arrangements, offering fair commission rates and clear payment terms. We assist artists in accessing workshops, residencies, and skill development opportunities, while also guiding them through the intricate business aspects of the art world. Furthermore, we actively encourage and support collaborations between artists and other creative professionals, fostering cross-disciplinary projects that push boundaries.

- **Cross-industry Collaboration:**

We actively encourage and support collaborations between artists and other creative professionals, fostering cross-disciplinary projects that push boundaries. We also empower artists to use their creative voices to contribute to local communities and other sectors, diversify their offerings, reach new audiences, and enhance the broader cultural, social, and economic landscape.

At Willow Art Space, we envision a future where art transcends boundaries, fostering meaningful connections and driving impactful change in our communities and beyond.