

# MICHAEL KOHN GALLERY

## SHIWEN WANG

Born 1995, China

Lives and works in London, UK

Shiwen Wang lives and works in London and obtained her MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art in 2021. In 2019 she received a Bachelor of Fine Art from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and in 2017 a Bachelor in Art and Technology from the Shanghai Institute of Visual Art. Concerned with the limits of representation, the liminal, and the escapist potency of ambience, Shiwen Wang shores themes of genesis and catastrophe, the meditative and the methodological, within her harmonious, insistently textural, and ambiguously formed paintings.

Wang is motivated by the confluence of order and disorder, and particularly, finding moments in which these two coalesce. In her studio, the artist's paintings are bordered by assorted reference imagery: botanical illustrations, architectural blueprints, and corsage patterns. Poaching elements of these constituent frameworks, the artist takes skeletal structures and intuitively embellishes upon these building blocks, as if to question their genesis and redirect their design. Here, soft, insistently textural forms meet angular, geometric planes in a gesture that is both sincere and exploratory, belying a determinist curiosity. Wang's work seems to imply both the macro and the miniature: alongside decisive geometric diagonals and majestic, curving arcs, the faint motif of the circle recurs, often prismatically, as if to reference a ubiquitous, molecular presence. As a corollary to their insistently structural theme, the works also harbour its inverse: the threat of collapse.

Wang's lustrous patina recalls the insistent patterning of Gustav Klimt; her automatist manner, the French surrealists; her architectural use of line, Brancusi's unwinged, unplumed curves. Speaking about her references, however, she cites the dream-visions of Jorge Luis Borges, contemporary, eschatological fiction, and a naked, a priori curiosity: her study of ornament, ambience, and the formal interplay of light and darkness.

Written by Lydia Earthy

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## EDUCATION

- 2021 Master of Art in Painting, Royal College of Art, London, UK  
2019 Bachelor of Fine Art, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
2017 Bachelor in Art and Technology, Shanghai Institute of Visual Art, China

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Lichtung*, ADZ Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Moonlight Beings*, Soka Gallery, Beijing, CN  
*A star at dawn, a bubble in a stream*, Gene Gallery, Shanghai, CN  
2022 *Green Belt*, Jargon Project, Chicago, IL  
*Thing That Were About to be Lost*, RuptureXIBIT, London, UK  
2021 *Art for Artists*, ArtSect Gallery, London, UK  
*When Snowdrops Rise*, Arthill Gallery, London, UK  
*Degree Show*, Cormwell Place, London, UK  
2020 *The Intermission*, Issuing Gallery, Shenzhen, China  
*After Intermission: Where Are We Heading?*, New Century Global Center, Sichuan, China  
*ASYAAF: Hidden Artists Festival*, Hongik Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea  
*On the White Wall: 20 Litres and Exterior Stable Wall Paint*, Millennium Gallery, London, UK  
*Counter Point*, curated by Charlotte Yao, Courtyard Gallery 2, London, UK

## AWARDS

- 2018 School of Art Institute of Chicago Distinguished Scholar Scholarship

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Tendencies in Painting, Interview with Tweety Shiwen Wang, *London Painting Club*, Aug-Sept 2022.