



PRESS RELEASE

Tommy Xie
M/other

October 18 - November 16, 2024
Opening Reception: Friday, October 18, 6-8pm

Silke Lindner is pleased to present *M/other*, the first U.S. solo exhibition of London-based artist Tommy Xie. In figurative imagination and melancholic hues, Xie's practice unfolds as a slow, deliberate exhalation of being undone and remade through the touch of another.

The title of the exhibition takes its cue from a methodology of friendship in mothering care. While Xie's practice at large reflects on his attentive relationship to his mother, in the works presented at Silke Lindner, "mother" is redefined as a verb—mothering as method rather than subject. Each painting meditates on care as a radical, generative force: a mothering that transcends gender and identity, a queer collaboration that nurtures without ever possessing. The tensions, connections, and caresses among the figures embody Alexis Pauline Gumbs' notion that "mothering is a queer practice of transforming the world through desire for each other and another way to be." The figures, forceful and vulnerable, hold and sustain each other, both together and apart.

The paintings emerge as definitive presences—a shadow revealing a caring gaze, a bleeding metal heart piercing through a nipple with burning sensation of joy. In *M/other*, Xie's figurative practice allows bodies, gestures, and sensations to materialize into momentarily definite forms.

Xie invites the viewer into alternating depths of corporeality. As each painting shifts perspective, we are immersed in scenes of distant naked treetops and blurred bodies in motion within reach. Xie's bare and translucent figures embody an erotic relationality—one saturated with what Amber Jamilla Musser calls 'sensual excess.' As the bodies materialize in delicate moments of intimacy, the self encounters the other not as a figure to be known, but as an overflowing presence that pulses and vibrates at the touch of flesh. Corporeality is never defined by static being, but in the flux of sensation, the figures are embodied yet slip through individuality while merging into something other.

The intimacy evoked is one of transgression, where Musser's idea of excess defies containment—bodies tremble at the edge of their own boundaries. In this state of expansive and unruly desire, Xie explores moments where bodies touch and are touched, connecting with fragments of themselves and others in mothering care, in queer collaboration. Caring love becomes here an undoing, and as such, bodies are not born but unmade. It is in the negative spaces between bodies that intimacy and friendship bleed into one another — not as a solution but as a question. What if we embrace the pleasures and pains of living together, radically?

-- Text by Moa Jeggell

Tommy Xie (b. 1998 in Chaozhou, China) lives and works in London. He received a BFA at Central Saint Martins in London in 2021. He's had solo exhibitions at Ginny on Fredrick, London, UK, (2022) and Monti8, Latina, Italy, (2023). Selected group exhibitions include 'Re:Representation' at James Fuentes, organized by Amanda Ba, New York, NY (2024) and 'Part of the Scenery', Grove, London, UK (2023).

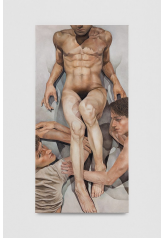
For more information please contact silke@silkelindner.com

S.L.

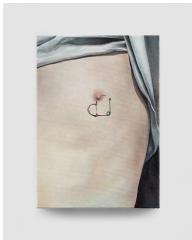
M/other

Tommy Xie

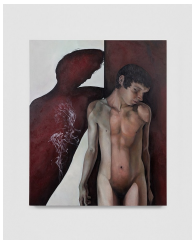
CHECKLIST



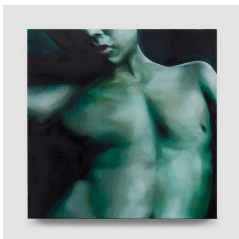
TX2402
Tommy Xie
A Little Closer To Us, 2024
Oil on canvas
60 x 30 inches | 152.5 x 76 cm



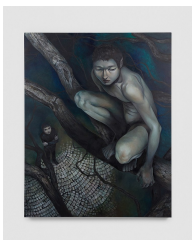
TX2405
Tommy Xie
Burning Sensation of Joy, 2024
Oil on canvas
14 x 10 inches | 25.4 x 35.6 cm



TX2403
Tommy Xie
We Are Not Lovers in Vain, 2024
Oil on canvas
47.25 x 39.4 inches | 120 x 100 cm



TX2404
Tommy Xie
Torso of Air, 2024
Oil on canvas
20 x 20 inches | 50 x 50 cm



TX2401
Tommy Xie
But there's something on your mind, hunting wild, 2024
Oil on canvas
60.25 x 48 inches | 153 x 122 cm

S.L.



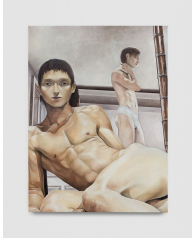
TX2408

Tommy Xie

Trail of Mind, 2024

Oil on canvas

11 x 14 inches | 25.4 x 35.6 cm



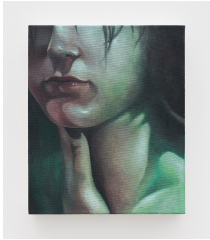
TX2406

Tommy Xie

It's Only Until One of Us Forgets, 2024

Oil on canvas

48 x 35.8 inches | 122. x 91 cm



TX2409

Tommy Xie

Idea of Beauty, 2024

Oil on canvas

11.8 x 9.8 in | 30 x 25 cm