MADEIN GALLERY 没顶画廊

"Bodies In-Between"

Artists	Li Kejin, Mo Shaolong, Shi Yi, Wang Ximan
Opening	16:00 – 19:00, Jan 10, 2025
Exhibition Period	Jan 10 – Mar 8, 2025
Venue	MadeIn Gallery, No.1, -1F Sunken Garden, Lane 9 Qufu Road, Jing'an District, Shanghai

MadeIn Gallery is honored to present our new exhibition, "Bodies In-Between", in the gallery's main space, featuring recent works by four artists: Shi Yi, Li Kejin, Wang Ximan, and Mo Shaolong. Throughout the exhibition, the body transforms into an imagined world, implying new perspectives on the material world and life itself. The structured reality of the gallery dissolves into the artists' evocative expressions—charged with desire, tinged with fantasy, and resonating with the haunting cries of solitude. Within this space, utopia, suspense, and fervent hallucinations arise.

Shi Yi's paintings draw from the realms of religion, folklore, and mass media. He captures emotionally charged moments and, through bodily language, invites the audience into a psychological space that fosters a deeper understanding of individual emotions and social interactions. The bodily details depicted in his works—such as gestures and facial expressions—serve not only as externalizations of emotions but also as profound cultural and psychological symbols, hinting at the sociocultural structures and ideologies underpinning these actions and expressions.

Li Kejin explores the narrative potential of oil painting as a vessel for memory. For this exhibition, he presents a large-scale work titled *Evolutionary Detour*. By orchestrating expansive bodily movements and employing tension-filled brushstrokes, Li creates a visual effect rich in suspense, suspending the viewer's recognition of concrete forms and projecting his psychological dynamics onto the body. In the "Stranger" series, four close-up portraits delicately reveal the inner emotions of the subjects. Through the painted facial motions, Li stages mystery, prompting the audience to speculate on the emotional transformations and behavioral trajectories of these characters.

Dissatisfied with the body being merely a symbol of resistance or disillusionment, Wang Ximan's performances seek to conduct a clinical examination of self and contemporary society. Using materials like liquid

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gels and solid steel, soft and hard elements engage in a dialogue with the artist's body. These materials reveal the intertwined processes of trauma, desire, and cultural mediation.

Mo Shaolong regards painting as a means of reflecting on visual empathy and restoring embodied self-awareness. Digital technology perpetually projects past sensations, attitudes, desires, or fantasies onto the present, resulting in an overload of imagery and increasingly automated, superficial emotional expressions. Through his paintings, Mo resists the ease of image consumption, emphasizing a deeper awareness of sentimental expression—especially in response to external stimuli or imagery. His works invite the audience to reevaluate the relationship between individuals and the external world from the perspective of embodied cognition.

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About Shi Yi

Shi Yi (b.1993, Chaozhou, China) graduated from the Venice Academy of Fine Arts with a master's degree and from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts with a bachelor's degree, and now lives and works in Guangzhou. Shi Yi's paintings focus on the untouchable, drawing inspiration from texts such as religious stories, folklore, and wild history.

His recent exhibitions include: "Shi Yi: Save the Cat!", WONDERLAND, Beijing, 2024; "Ode to the Unexpected", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2024; "Virtual Roaming", K11 Select, Tianjin, 2023; "New Stars", MOUart, Beijing, 2023; Untitled Source Youth Art Festival, Wind H Art Center, Beijing, 2023; "kezuo art space first printmaking exhibition", kezuo art space, Venice, 2020; "CLUB OF TWO MINDS", kezuo art space, Venice, 2020; "Art Night", Venice Academy of Fine Arts, Venice, 2019.

About Li Kejin

Li Kejin (b.1990, Nanjing, China) graduated from the Department of Oil Painting of China Academy of Art with a master's degree in 2017 and finished his exchange program at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris in 2015. He currently lives and works in Hangzhou. From holster play to monstrous rampage, Li divides figures with coarse lines full of emotion, using conflicting palettes and strange images to construct ineffable yet highly infectious effects. Rather than indulging in the psychedelic vortex of the electronic world, the artist embarks on a search for the unknown, exploring the primordial desolation hidden in the post-artificial image.

His solo exhibitions include: "A Terrible Beauty is Born", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2024; "Atman", ARR Gallery, Hangzhou, 2023; "The Dawn", OUTSIDER Gallery, Zhengzhou, 2023; Group exhibitions include: "Ode to the Unexpected", Shanghai, 2024; "Fractal Resonance 16 Memetic Archetypes", Epoch Museum x REVAN, Shanghai, 2023; Slam NO Dunk, Y Space, Shanghai, 2023; "K", Martin Goya Business, Hangzhou, 2022; "Shiny Object", Shunluck Space, Guangzhou, 2022; "Mirror, Magic Mirror Tell Me", TOKU Gallery, Nanjing, 2022; "Landing and Landing", HENGYI Space, Hangzhou, 2020; "Harmony Generates Vitality", Jinan International Biennale Young Curator Project, Jinan Museum of Art, Jinan, 2020; Elite Young Artists Program, Jining Museum of Art, Jining, 2019; Excellent Graduation Work Exhibition (Bronze Award), Art Museum of China Academy, Hangzhou, 2017; INTER-YOUTH Youth Painting Exhibition, Art Museum of China Academy, Hangzhou, 2016.

About Wang Ximan

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Wang Ximan (b.1990, Shenyang, Liaoning)'s practice predominantly in video and performance is centered on the spirit of resistance. She graduated in 2016 from the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma, where she began her research on gender identity, fluidity, and power inequality. In her performance, the artist constantly challenges her own positioning within internal and external relationships through various media, while redefining the width of possibility and the limit of realizability.

Wang's solo exhibitions and performances include "As If It Suggests Its Own Corrections", MACA Vortex, Shanghai, 2024; "Le rêve, « dieu des sauvages »", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, China, 2024; GESSOISLAND Art Space, Shenyang, China, 2019. She has participated in various performance festivals, exhibitions, and workshops, including: "Incredible Action", A4 Art Museum, Chengdu, 2023; "Living a Performance Artist's Life", MadeIn Art Museum, Shanghai, 2023; Shenzhen Biennale, Shenzhen, 2022; BEDS, Athens, Greece, 2021; ZABIH Performance Art Festival, Lviv, Ukraine, 2019; "Free Ferm Radicals", PAErsche, Cologne, Germany, 2019; UP-ON Live Art Festival, Luxehills Art Museum, Chengdu, China, 2022 & 2019; "Transart Communication - Performance Train", Kassák Centre, Budapest-Prague-Krakow-Bratislava, 2018; Galleria Labirynt, Lublin, Poland, 2017.

About Mo Shaolong

Mo Shaolong (b.1989, Henan, China) currently lives and works in Shanghai. Through his use and reflection of 3D modeling software, Mo seeks to redefine the long-standing genre of portraiture. Mo sees himself as belonging to the generation informed by globalisation, the Internet, and digital technology. In this sense, his work hints at the fact that every present-day individual is a cyborg, whose ethos exhibits a human-computer hybridity. Hence, for Mo, contemporary portraiture must capture and express the immense pain and confusion of human beings who must be equipped with digital technology. Such human-computer hybridity is merely the latest symptom of the complex and lengthy relationship between humans and technology, or in Mo's words, 'the error', and should be the starting point for our reflection on the myth of human creativity.

Recent solo exhibitions include: "Hacker, Sufferer, Beggar, Believer, MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2023; "Spiritual Politicians", Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK, 2022; Group exhibitions include: "Semi-Manual Era", Gravity Art Museum, Beijing, 2024; "USB Multi-Port Linking Exhibition", MadeIn Gallery, QIAO SPACE, in the PARK, Shanghai, 2021; "Hereditary Territory", Shanghai Powerlong Museum, Shanghai, 2021; "Headlines", Slime Engine, Shanghai Plaza, Shanghai, 2020; "Ocean", Slime Engine, Shanghai, 2019; "It was a dream of a trip", SAFA Gallery, Shanghai, 2018; "Shanghai Hot the Beheaded Six", Yell Space, Shanghai, 2018; "Remote Sensing", Slime Engine, Shanghai, 2018; "Serendipitous Mission", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2017.

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