

MAGICIAN SPACE

魔金石空间

李倩羽 Qianyu Li



Qianyu Li: Alchemy

2023.03.17-05.13

1. Relocation: moving oneself, or moving things to another place. This is a key term that Qianyu Li has distilled for herself after living in Beijing, New York, and London. While people can easily imagine this kind of global migratory life nowadays, for those who have experienced it, it feels more like living in a divided and disparate world.

2. In this context, Li's painting is about relocation. Her diptychs contain landscapes that are disjointed and independent of each other, from many different places, but the key is always the things that have the potential to transform each other.

In order to explore the connections between different regions in her paintings, the whole process usually goes like this: images are picked from anywhere in her life, and after eliminating the limitations of time, space, and culture, the maximum potential for the human and objects figures in their narrative forms is retained. Thus, arbitrary associations sparked by individual shapes will correspond to another world at a certain moment. In this way, the artist will be able to summon a stage in the painting space, disregarding the laws of reality.

3. For a painter, this is actually a considerable degree of freedom. In other words, this is actually a fairly alchemical thing.

Throughout the history of alchemy, the core thesis that countless alchemists have paid attention to, whether it is the initial method of making gold or later psychological theories, has been reduced to the possibility of transformation in contemporary times. But no matter what era, the so-called transformation requires a pair of eyes that carefully read the world, and faith.

In this regard, a conjecture is: why can Paulo Coelho's story of a shepherd boy learning alchemy through travel spread all over the world in a world of divided lives? Perhaps because it tries to show that the fragments in life are omens. They can travel through different times and spaces. They are the starting point for reorganizing the world.

About the Artist

Qianyu Li (b.1995, Inner Mongolia) currently lives and works in Beijing. She received her BFA from School of Visual Arts (New York, US) in 2020 and MFA from Slade School of Fine Art (London, UK) in 2022. Her art practice explores the connections and disconnections among things with the philosophic perspective of “three in one”, reflecting on the differences in perceptions of reality and its different dimensions arising from personal living experience in diverse geographical and cultural environments. Her work is mainly presented as diptych painting/ installation, the two-part format expands beyond the single picture plane of traditional painting, disrupting the painting space and narrative space. There is an increasing significance in the relationship between the two independent parts and their physical relationship with the viewer, enhancing the wholistic and interactive experience of the artwork, providing an open space for imagination and multi-perspective discussion.

Recent Group Shows: To the Public: Please Read the Exhibition the Way One Perceives the Woods (Part 1), Magician Space, Beijing, 2022; The Slade Postgraduate Degree Show, Gower Street, London, 2022; Chromaphilia/ Chromophobia, SVA Chelsea Gallery, NY, 2020; The Haves and Have Nots, SVA Chelsea Gallery, NY, 2017.







Peek

2022

Oil and tempera on two canvases

25 × 35, 183 × 122cm



Involved with one foot (1CM)

2022

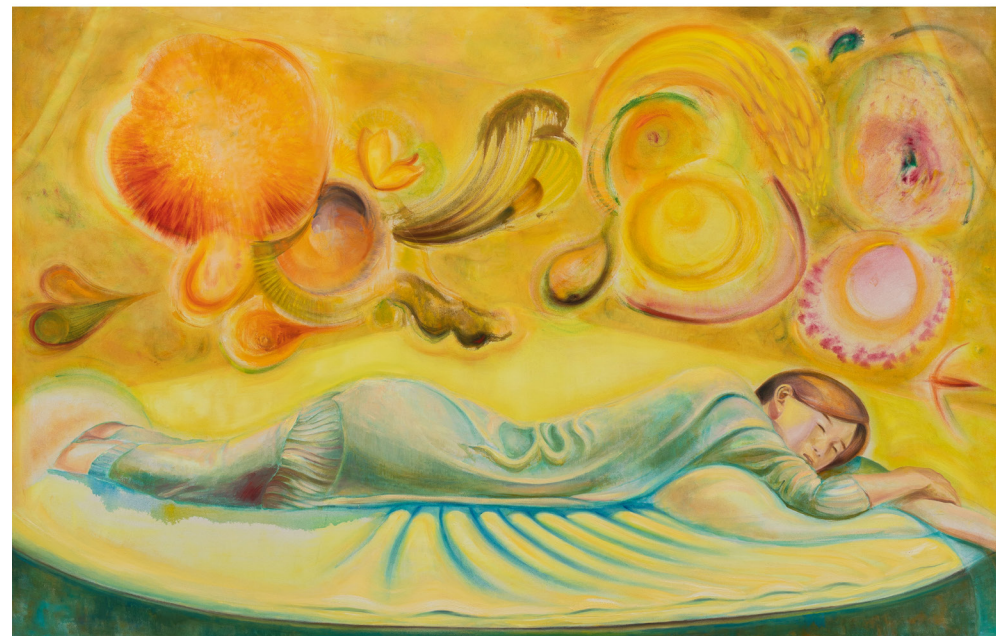
Oil on two canvases

183 × 122cm / 183 × 122cm



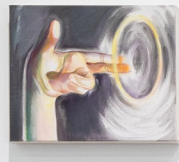
Full Circle
2022

Oil on two canvas
220x140cm / 183x138cm



Sleeping Girl Under Luffa Vines
2022
Oil and tempera on two canvases
140 × 220cm / 140 × 220cm





2022

Oil on two canvases

20 x 25cm / 167 x 212cm



Girl Wearing Red Boots Crossing Tower Bridge Alone

2022

Oil and tempera on canvas

92 × 127cm



Dislocation
2022
Oil on two canvases
140 x 220cm / 140 x 220cm



Daydreaming

2022

Oil on two canvases

140 x140cm / 30 x 30cm





Gold Squash
2022
Oil and tempera on two canvases
183 x183cm / 40 x 30cm





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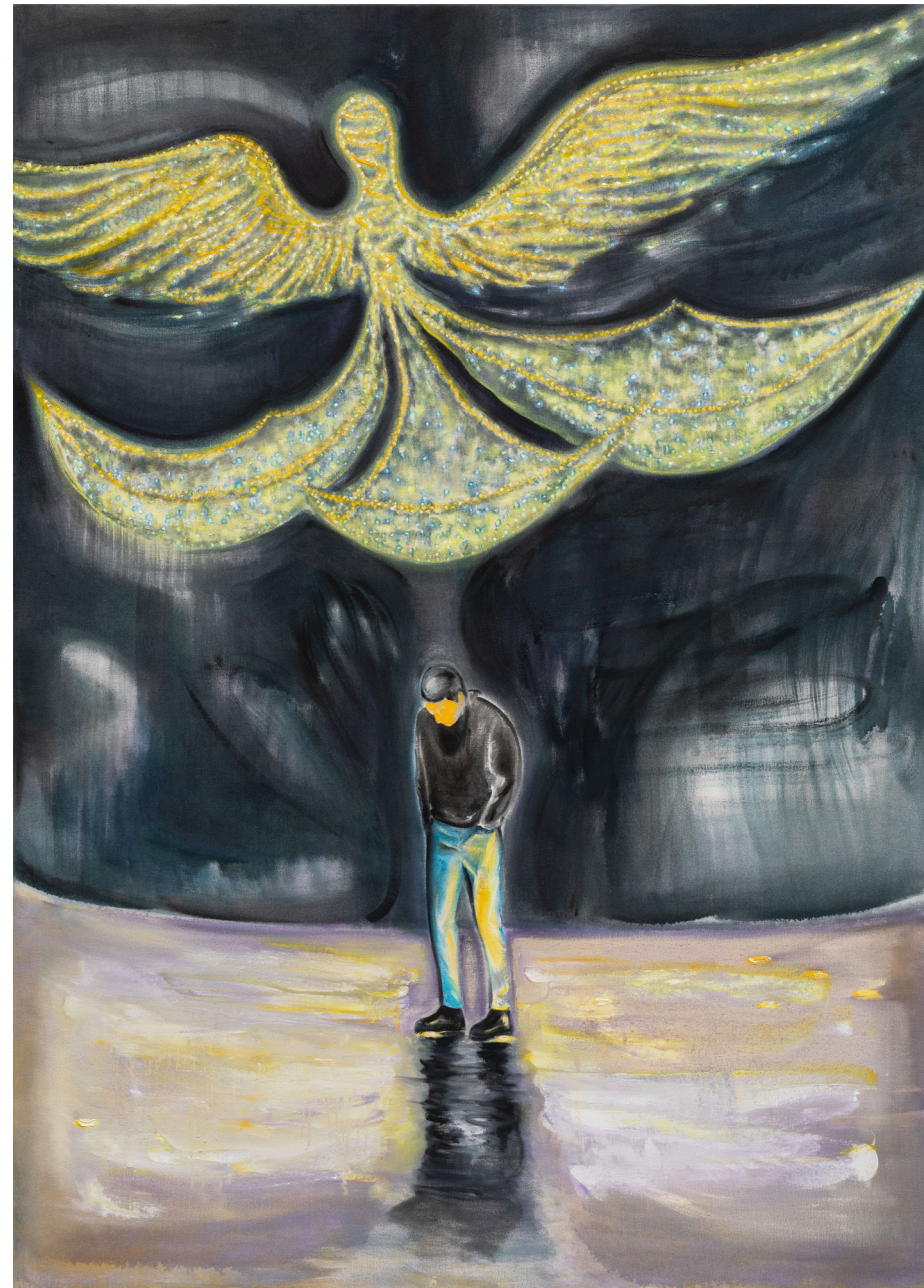
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Pau Under Angel Light

2022

Oil on canvas

127 x 90cm





Anyway Door
2023
Oil and tempera on canvas
92 x 127cm



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