



MING GU GALLERY

Ming Gu Gallery presents the inaugural exhibition in the UK of paintings by
WANG Jie and WU Yin

Creation of the Inner Realm opens in London on 19th September, 2023



Image: Sowozo, Fuyang, China

London, 01 September 2023 - Ming Gu Gallery is pleased to announce *Creation of the Inner Realm*, its inaugural exhibition, hosted by Fitzrovia Gallery. This is also the first exhibition in the UK featuring emerging Chinese artists WANG Jie (1996, Changde, Hunan) and WU Yin (2000, Sichuan).

Creation of the Inner Realm marks a long overdue introduction of a new generation of Chinese artists mastering century-old techniques and continuing traditions dated back in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), rarely encountered outside of collections held by leading museums. The early Song dynasty witnessed the flowering of one of the supreme artistic expressions of Chinese civilization, monumental landscape painting, and the political unification cultivated a diverse group of artists across the empire into a harmonious Song academic manner that valued a naturalistic, closely descriptive portrayal of the physical world. China, today a financially booming nation with an increasingly global outlook, continues to foster an art steeped in this unique and exciting period in its history.

Amongst these are Wang and Wu who both demonstrate fantastic craftsmanship. Ink is their preferred medium, notorious for its precarious behaviour on the *xuan* paper and

beloved by those that master it for its delicacy. Unsurprisingly, myths and legends telling of draughtsmen and calligraphers mastering ink are plentiful in Chinese folklore.

Inspired by ancient philosophy and notions relating to the artist's subjective worldview, Wang and Wu depict landscapes or scenarios drawn from nature with a surrealist twist. Sources of inspiration range from classical painting of the Tang era to neolithic cave paintings and – for Wu in particular – European modernism, Austrian painter Gustav Klimt being an important influence for his recent work.

Documenting artistic journeys over various timescales, *Creation of the Inner Realm* is a hint at the Buddhist notion of existence as transient, thought of as a prevailing state of flux. Besides bringing past practices in the form of techniques into reflections of a contemporary China, the works of art on show have been selected for their celebration of imagination, a faculty allowed to dominate much of representation in arts throughout the long history of China. As such, visitors to the exhibition are encouraged to pause at the immediacy and unforced grandeur of the images, before looking closer at individual qualities.

A catalogue with an essay by Dr Wenny Teo, senior lecturer at The Courtauld Institute of Arts, is being published to accompany the exhibition.

WANG Jie (b.1996, Hunan, China) received a BA in 2019 and MA in 2022 in Chinese Painting from the Academy of Arts and Design, Tsinghua University. Wang lives and works in Changde.

WU Yin (b.2000, Sichuan, China) received a BA in 2022 from Academy of Arts and Design, Tsinghua University, China. Wu lives and works in Beijing.

Ming Gu Gallery was founded in April 2023 by Guming Song with the aim to introduce emerging Asian artists exploring contemporary subject matter using traditional techniques to a British audience. At its core lies an appreciation of classical East Asian aesthetics, currently under-represented in the western art world. The artists they choose to work with take a both fresh and challenging approach to art making, breaking conventions through unprecedented interventions of traditions steeped in ancient cultures.

Ming Gu Gallery is committed to collaborate with academics furthering research in related topics, creating a comprehensive, informative and inspiring platform for contemporary Chinese arts.

Creation of the Inner Realm

19th - 24th September, 2023

Opening Reception: Wednesday 20th September 18.00-20.00

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Sunday, 11.00-18.30

Fitzrovia Gallery, 139 Whitfield Street, W1T 5EN, LONDON

Press

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