

marguo

Press Release

Casa Marguo Opening in June

An artist residency in Mahon, Menorca, Balearic Islands, Spain

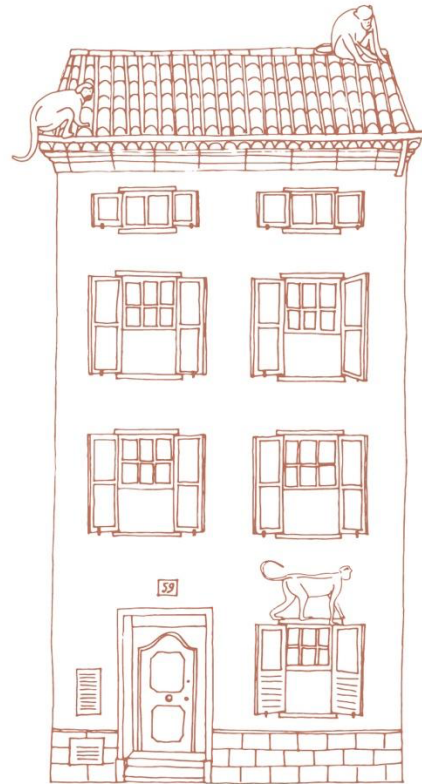
Galerie Marguo is thrilled to announce the launch of Casa Marguo, a new artist residency and salon set in a traditional townhouse in Mahon, Menorca.

This June, Casa Marguo opens its doors to the public with *Home Run*, a curated group exhibition with works by Kelly Akashi, Patricia Camet, Alexander Carver, Han Bing, Naotaka Hiro, Minjung Kim, Heidi Lau, Angela Leyva, Rebecca Ness, A'Driane Nieves, Mai-Thu Perret, Dianna Settles, Wade Tullier, Martha Tuttle, Evelyn Taocheng Wang, Yan Pei-Ming, Dennis Miranda Zamorano, Zhai Liang, and Zhang Ruyi, drawn directly from the Marguo collection. Accompanying *Home Run* are three solo presentations by Ziping Wang, Yang Semine and Miranda Fengyuan Zhang, which have been commissioned for Casa Marguo's inaugural exhibition. Curated by Seungduk Kim & Franck Gautherot, directors of the Le Consortium, Dijon, the exhibitions run from 17 June to 31 October 2023.

Designed as an introduction, the ground floor of the townhouse presents a selection of artworks from the Marguo collection sprawled across an active domestic environment in which visitors are invited to gather and exchange and find respite from the bustle of the island. Featuring works made within the last five years in various media spanning painting, drawing, sculpture, and ceramics, *Home Run* considers the art historical tradition of genre painting through a contemporary lens. Genre painting refers to the pictorial representation of scenes from everyday life ('petits genre') and 'grands genre', referring to historical and religious paintings and portraits of dignified subjects.

The usual subjects associated with genre painting are present in *Home Run*: animals, wildlife and flora, elements and materials of the natural world, familiar depictions of anonymous individuals, but also vibrant expressions of inner life, and the mundane phenomena of everyday life itself, manipulated and transformed through the material experimentation. The act of consecrating time and materials to mundane or profane scenes characteristic of genre painting is demonstrative of a certain high-low subversion, reflected here in the exhibition site, where the lines between public and domestic space are blurred. It gave primacy to common materials and quotidian experiences and challenged the conventions of 'high art' to reflect the daily environments, textures, and labors of which lived experience consists of.

On the upper levels of the house, Miranda Fengyuan Zhang, Yang Semine, and Ziping Wang respectively explore and experiment with both ancient and modern technologies, developing processes of weaving, transparency, and visual assemblage to simultaneously harness and deconstruct the worlds around them.



CASAmarguo

1st Floor: Miranda Fengyuan Zhang (b.1993, Shanghai, China, based in New York and Paris)

In Zhang's work, material dominates, and ideas follow, or vice-versa. Using weaving and knitting as tools to explore the formal language of painting, Zhang creates semi-abstract gardens, vaguely concrete landscapes, animal silhouettes, tranquil rivers, and layers of colorful mountains, drawing on personal memory and mythology to reveal the power stored within seemingly mundane objects. Like traditional Chinese ink paintings, Zhang's way of working does not allow fixing or adjusting but rather is an improvised process led by momentary inspiration and technical skills. Her weaving often comes in vertical format, symbolizing windows, doors, and thresholds as means of reflecting her parallel outside and inner world. For the show at Casa Marguo, Zhang presents five new works that reference geometry, architecture, and 20th-century abstraction.

2nd Floor: Yang Semine (b.1985, Seoul, Korea, based in Dijon, France)

Yang's practice is shaped by an interest in the natural world and our inextricable place in its ecology. The themes of metamorphosis, repetition, and difference are particularly present in her Dragonfly series, a meditation on light, color, weight, volume, transparency, and form – the fundamentals of painting. Yang's compositions often begin as digital drawings rendered on tablets before they are translated back into the material and organic world, wherein they become a surface for the artist's associative and intuitive experimentations. For Casa Marguo, Yang presents a new series of paintings showing, among other subjects, the composition of Koi fish in ponds, reminiscent of colorful Matisse-like dance parties. Located between graphic, decorative motifs, and historical Asian ink paintings, her bright compositions have a seasonal character that ties together subjects and colors related to different moments of the year.

3rd Floor: Ziping Wang (b. 1995, Shenyang, China, based in Shenyang and New York)

Drawing on the visual languages of advertising and illustration, Ziping Wang is inspired by "the elusive nature of modified reality", and the overwhelming experience of living within an attention economy in the digital era, in which we are relentlessly bombarded by pop-ups, banners, notifications, and endlessly refreshing feeds. Visually seductive food packaging often serves as the starting point for Wang's vivid, painstakingly painted compositions that combine a wide array of references and styles, from cartoonish renderings of food to traditional Chinese and Japanese decorative motifs, Old Master still lifes, and geometrically patterned forms similar to those found in photo-editing software. Her works of ink on paper, by contrast, are more fluid, experimental, and direct. Drawing on the same source imagery, they depict the subjective, oneiric underbelly of the hyper-visual, algorithmically constructed world of images that defines our present.

About Galerie Marguo

Galerie Marguo is a contemporary art gallery launched in October 2020 by Vanessa Guo, formerly Director of Hauser & Wirth's activity in Asia, and Jean-Mathieu Martini, a seasoned Parisian art dealer. The program at Galerie Marguo focuses on emerging artists from around the world, with a particular emphasis on diasporic artists, drawing on the global outlook and perspective Guo and Martini bring as a collective. Exhibitions are presented in a 1,200-square-foot space inside of a refurbished historical military complex on Rue des Minimes in the heart of the Marais district. Sited in a beautiful courtyard, Galerie Marguo is only steps away from Place des Vosges and Musée Picasso, while also being in close proximity to The Centre Pompidou and other international galleries in an area known as the center of Parisian arts and culture.

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