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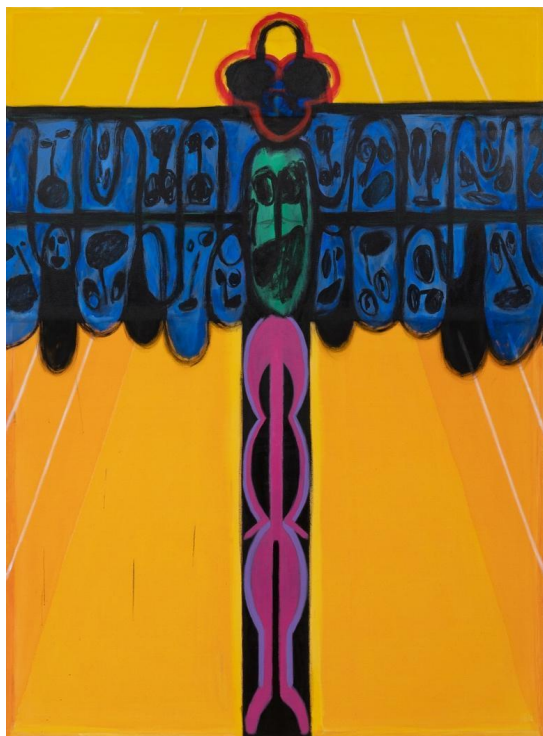
Press Release

Yang Semine at Asia Now 2022 *Transparency & Obstruction*

Booth S19

20 – 23 October 2022

Monnaie de Paris, 11 Quai de Conti, 75006 Paris



For its inaugural participation at Asia Now art fair, Galerie Marguo is pleased to present a solo booth of Korean artist Yang Semine. Comprised of a suite of new paintings from her Dragonfly series, this presentation will showcase Semine's unique world inspired by nature and our inextricable place in its ecology.

The themes of metamorphosis, repetition and difference, are particularly voiced in Semine's Dragonfly series, a meditation on light, color, weight, volume, and form – the fundamentals of painting. These entomologically inspired compositions likewise begin as digital drawings before they are translated back into the material and organic world, becoming a surface for the artist's associative and intuitive experimentations that are reflected in the titles of each work.

Franck Gautherot, curator and co-director of Le Consortium museum, Dijon, France, delves deep into Yang Semine's painting practice in these words:

For more than two years, Yang Semine has been developing a way of painting in which the dialectic of background/form is played out in the transparency of liquid acrylics diluted in superimposed layers of backgrounds, pushing the subject to the front of the canvas. The transparencies of ink washes from the time of Joseon, the diaphanousness of dragonflies placed in trompe l'oeil on all the flowers of Abraham Mignon - for example - gave her the kick-off for her series known as "dragonflies".

The insect, simplified to the extreme, purified in a long body and a scribbled head, is the perfect recipient of a decorative treatment applied to the wings: hatching, interlacing, wavy lines, horizontal and vertical lines, vernacular patterns in delicate chinoiserie. The backgrounds, leaving room for unpainted areas, take on the beautiful role of the watercolor-effect, which also mixes a weave of vertical lines, a grid of impasto lines, colored spots, vertical gradations. They are extended with inventive variations in which the transparency of the superimposed colored flat areas is organized into a field of attraction on which the motifs find their ease. The construction of the painting involves the inscription of the body and wings of the insect in its stature of a cross with two tangential branches at the vertical edges on a background decorated with more or less defined motifs or color gradations.

The digital drawing, which initiates every painting, is conceived as the receptacle of what she would call "mental images", in which all the tools available are used to mimic hand-drawing with the effects of washes, blurring, lines, watercolors. These moments of assisted drawing are born in the memories of paintings that she encountered everywhere, from Europe to Asia combined.

While it may seem ironic to address themes of biodiversity and the natural world from a digital starting point, for Yang Semine, the ability to work quickly, itinerantly, and without producing waste reflects a greater ethos toward practicing a non-extractive and harmonious existence. As we find ourselves in an increasingly technologically dominated and virtually integrated world, Yang's work can be seen as a formal inquiry into the translation and hybridity of organic and inorganic textural nuances.

About the Artist

Yang Semine (b.1985, Seoul, Korea) lives and works in Dijon, France. She holds a BFA and MFA from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Art de Dijon, and a degree in Fine Art from the Seoul National University of Science and Technology. Her work was recently included in an institutional exhibition *The Drawing Centre Show*, curated by Joe Bradley, Franck Gautherot, Seungduk Kim and Tobias Pils, at Le Consortium, Dijon in July 2022 and a group presentation with Galerie Marguo at Art Paris fair in April 2022. She's held an online exhibition *Next Wave* with Galerie Marguo (April 2022) and a solo exhibition *L'étrange familier* at Octave Cowbell (Metz, 2019). Yang is the recipient of the 2018 Prix Jeune Talents Côte-d'Or.

Press Inquiries

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Yang Semine
Gate of Hell, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
190 x 140 cm (74 3/4 x 55 1/8 in)