

# marguo

Press Release

## Ziping Wang. Obsession, Indifference and Onion Skin

15 January - 19 February 2022

Galerie Marguo, 4 rue des Minimes 75003 Paris



Galerie Marguo is pleased to present *Obsession, Indifference and Onion Skin*, Ziping Wang's debut solo exhibition with the gallery, on view from 15 January to 19 February, 2022.

Wang's practice is shaped by the overload of visual information that characterizes the attention economy in the digital sphere, as well as the artist's enduring interest in the gulfs and slippages between representation and meaning. The new works included in this exhibition, which toggle

between instant legibility and utter confoundment were created over the past year in Wang's hometown of Shenyang, China, after nearly a decade of living abroad. The disassociation and estrangement produced by this relocation is aptly reflected in Wang's intricate, recognizable, yet indecipherable visual configurations.

In the large, multi-colored canvases, such as *Whisper in the language of flower* or *Scattered Pages* (both 2021), commercial iconography interlopes with figures seemingly lifted from Chinese scroll paintings, old-school video game characters, amorphous blobs of color, and shifting grounds of patterned motifs. The starting point for these works is usually drawn from external visual stimuli, such as seductive food packaging found while strolling supermarket aisles, that the artist encounters while out in the world. This mode of processing one's physical surroundings mimics the voraciousness of algorithms that indiscriminately log and project our visual consumption back onto us, generating a purely fabricated sense of recognition and meaning. Referencing the screen of a computer or smartphone, the paintings flatten the hierarchy of images into one tantalizingly slick surface; their Möbius strip-like compositions offer no obvious entry or resting point, allowing the eyes to glide endlessly across them.

A suite of four grey and brown monochromatic paintings seem to counterbalance these engulfing and saccharine tableaux, offering a glimpse at the former's inner lining. *Weightless wall*, *Velvet footstep*, *Planned coincidence*, and *Moon paper* measure roughly the size of an iPad, engaging the viewer at once in a familiar and more intimate bodily rapport. While also derived from the artist's impressions of her new environs and daily encounters, they are notably less direct in their representation, constituting instead a surreal landscape of the artist's inner life and experiences. In works such as *Revolving door* and *Unforgiving stain*, these two realms dance around in the same plane, troubling the divisions between the external and internal, objective, and subjective, while stoking our innate impulse to find cohesion amongst fragmentation.

Also on view are a selection of ink and collage drawings. Rendered intuitively, without the temporal restraints of oil paint, the worlds and figures depicted herein seem to spill and bloom across the paper's surface, emerging from a profound place of interiority and imagination.

Like the titles of Wang's works, which are chosen *a priori* and then assigned to completed paintings, or the exhibition's alliterative title which pairs two contrasting words followed by a third utterly unrelated one, *Obsession, Indifference and Onion Skin* repeatedly lures our senses down familiar and enticing rabbit holes while not only withholding the carrot, but challenging our assumptions that one must exist.

## About the Artist

Ziping Wang was born in 1995, in Shenyang, China, where she currently lives and works. She holds an MFA from the Pratt Institute, New York, and a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Recent solo and group exhibitions include 'Utopia', Peres Project (Berlin, 2021), 'The Other Landscape', Unit London (London, 2021); 'Ziping Wang: 3x3', Galerie Marguo (Online, 2021); 'Sentimental Touch', Unit London (London, 2020); 'Platform 2020', Winston Wachter Fine Arts (New York, 2020); 'ASYAAF', Gallery LVS, (Seoul, 2020); 'Holiday project 1 Group Show', Inna Art Space (New York, 2020); 'The Garden of Forking Path', The Wall MINI Project space (Beijing, 2019); 'Daydreaming', J.Yuan Associates LLC (New York, 2019); 'Artificial Delicacy', Gessoisland Artspace (Shenyang, 2019); and '37.2', The Cool Hunter (Beijing, 2019).

#### Press Inquiries

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Ziping Wang  
*Attempt of figure painting*, 2021  
Oil on canvas  
160 x 120 cm