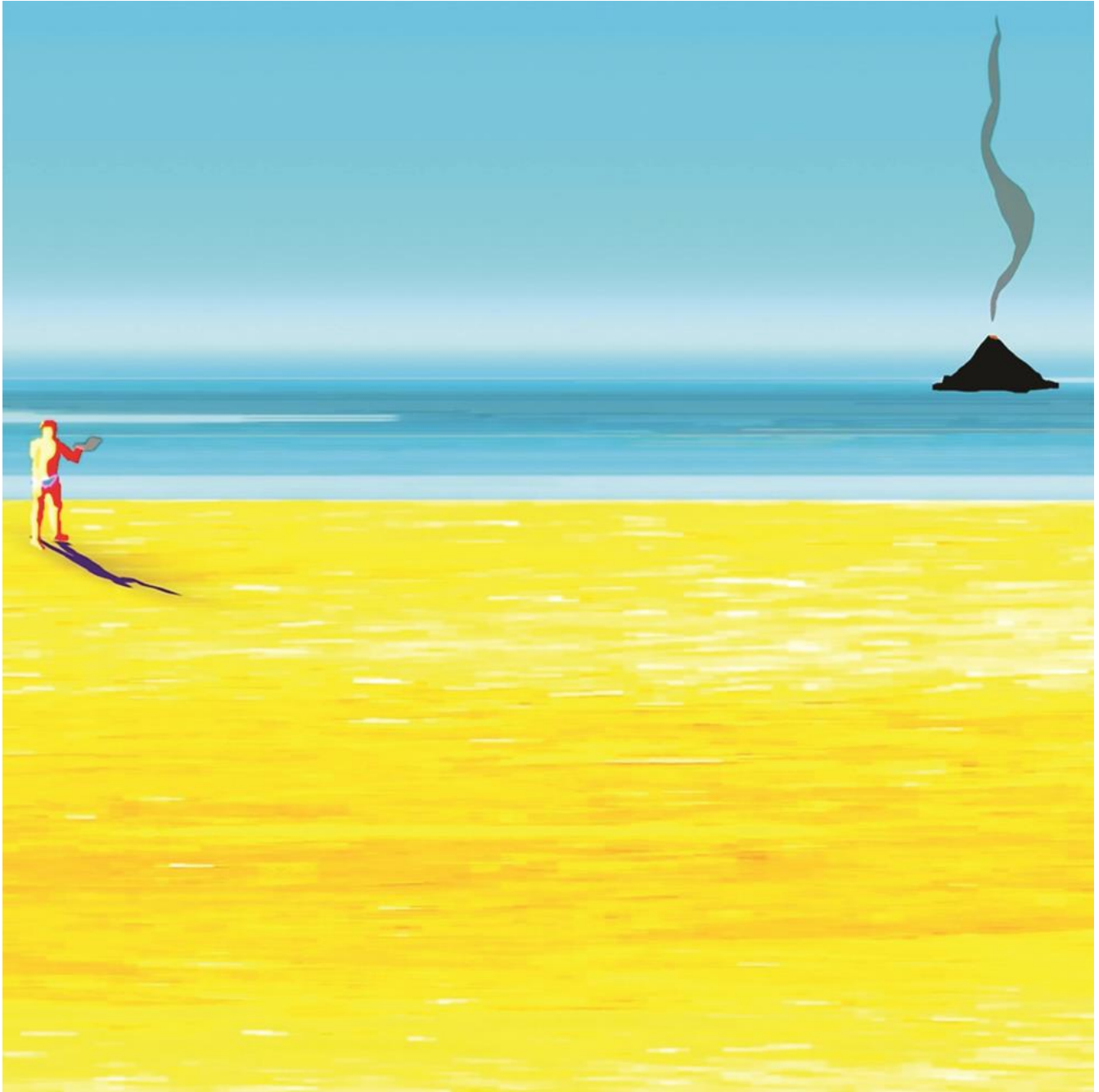


Meliksetian MB Briggs

Yifan Jiang & James J.A. Mercer

Mirror, Mirror

June 8 - July 6, 2024



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Yifan Jiang

Pacific Lily, 2024

Oil on canvas

72 x 86 in / 182.9 x 218.4 cm

YJ066

\$18,500.00

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Yifan Jiang

Spring Lady, 2024

Oil on canvas

60 x 60 in / 152.4 x 152.4 cm

YJ067

\$15,000.00

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Yifan Jiang

Fall (1), 2022

Oil on canvas

54 x 54 in / 137.2 x 137.2 cm

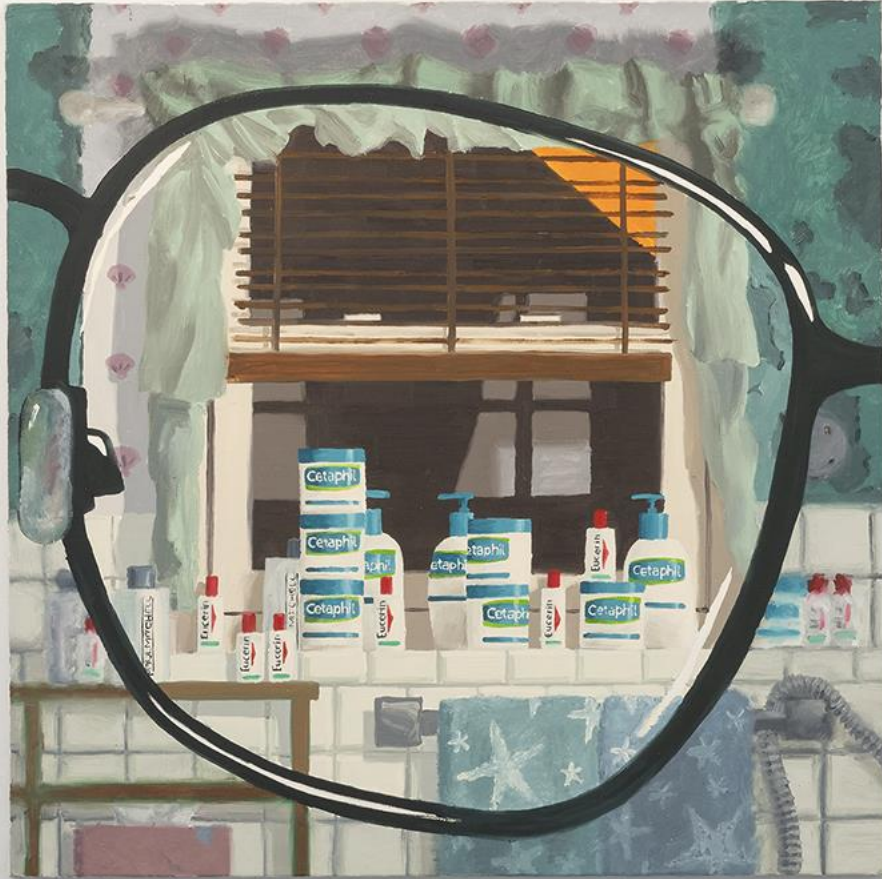
YJ031

\$14,000.00

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James J.A. Mercer

Your House

2021

Oil on canvas

39 x 39 in / 99.1 x 99.1 cm

\$6,500.00

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James J.A. Mercer
Come Closer
2022
Oil on canvas
26 x 26 in / 66 x 66 cm
\$3,000.00

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James J.A. Mercer

Wesley

2023

Oil on canvas

26 x 26 in / 66 x 66 cm

\$3,000.00

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James J.A. Mercer

Reasons for Loving Today

2023

Three panels:

40 x 40 in, 30 x 40 in, 10 x 40 in / 101.6 x 101.6 cm, 76.2 x 101.6 cm, 25.4 x 101.6 cm

40 x 80 in / 101.6 x 203.2 cm total dimensions

\$12,800.00

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Yifan Jiang

Drive, 2023

Oil on canvas

60 x 86 in / 152.4 x 218.4 cm

YJ056

\$17,500.00

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Yifan Jiang

Vacation, 2022

Digital UHD Animated Video

Duration: 25'

Edition of 3 + 2 APs

YJ068

\$15,000.00

<https://vimeo.com/889677405>

Meliksetian MB Briggs

Yifan Jiang
James J.A. Mercer
Mirror, Mirror

June 8 - July 6, 2024



Meliksetian | Briggs is pleased to present *Mirror, Mirror*, a two-person exhibition of works by **Yifan Jiang** and **James J.A. Mercer**. The show features paintings by each of the artists alongside a collaborative video installation.

*The new exhibition sheds light on the many ways Jiang and Mercer are guided by the same star. This mutual influence can be seen directly in their animation, *Vacation, 2022* and indirectly in their paintings. Two mirrors facing each other, reflecting each other's reflections, opening an endless tunnel, a feedbacking of sensibilities.*

In defiance of conventional methods, the works in this exhibition synthesize painterly techniques with digital processes, finding absurdity somewhere between the narrative and the visual. Familiar imagery appears out of context, misplacing nostalgia and challenging the viewer to connect. Spatial distortions are analogies for emotions, too close or not close enough. Can you connect with the animal?

Vacation, 2022, Jiang and Mercer's collaborative animation, follows a protagonist road tripping home from college. A sudden volcanic eruption

totals his car and destroys all his possessions. Barely surviving, our destitute star builds a life for himself out of furniture that has washed up on the shore, making an unremarkable patch of beach his home. An absurd fable on the nature of nature unfolds as he meets three animal companions; an intransigent seagull, a brilliant spider hidden in a broken laptop, and a divorced fish battling for custody over her 50,000 children.

~ Yifan Jiang and James J.A. Mercer, June 2024

In reference to her new paintings, Jiang states "my paintings are fleeting moments frozen in time. *Spring Lady, 2024* grew out of the sharp divide between seasons. The first breeze at twilight, mixed with fresh soil and budding foliage, folded in a silk kimono. In the swirl of motion and sensation, *Drive, 2023* is your heart flattened against the car seat while the Lamborghini makes clean incisions across the city. In *Fall 1, 2022* your head is tilted back, making up into down, falling into the big bright blue desert sky. Proust said water lilies in Combray are where he kept his childhood nostalgia. Growing up as an immigrant in limbo between bodies of water, *Pacific Lily, 2024* is a storage cabinet for my stray sentiments."

About his work, Mercer says "my paintings explore troubled geometry and domestic alienation. Distortions in familiar space create dissonance between feeling and form, a slight suffocation manufactured by rectangular clutter. Everyday objects are painted in strange arrangements, suggesting private meanings. Framing devices such as doors, windows and glasses focus on different points of view, inviting the viewer to inhabit the artist's position. *Wesley, 2023* and *Come Closer, 2022* are part of an ongoing series of pet paintings started during Covid. Inundated with endless streams of cute animals on social media, I question whether true empathy with them is possible. Do the digital systems that deliver pet pics also objectify them? Harsh compositions become a foil for cuddliness."

Yifan Jiang (b. 1994, Tianjin, China) is a Chinese-Canadian artist currently based between New York City and Vancouver, Canada. She holds an MFA from Columbia University, New York, and a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Vancouver. Recent solo

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exhibitions include *A Boutique of Senses*, Meliksetian | Briggs, Dallas (2023), *Zero-sum game*, Christian Andersen, Copenhagen (2022); a two-part exhibition *Medium-sized dry goods / Names for airy nothings*, Meliksetian | Briggs, Los Angeles (2021) and a video animation installation at *Sweet Pass Sculpture Park*, Dallas (2022, two-person exhibition with James Mercer). She has participated in group exhibitions at *The Roswell Museum*, Roswell, NM (2022) and the *Jewish Museum*, New York (2021) among others. In 2023, her video animation works including *Vacation*, 2022, her collaboration with Mercer, were featured in *To Your Eternity - The 4th Future of Today Biennial* in Beijing, China and she participated in the *Core Residency program* at the *Museum of Fine Arts*, Houston, TX in 2023 and 2024.

James J.A. Mercer (b. 1984, Boston, Massachusetts) is a New York based artist working in painting, drawing and animation. James received an MFA from *Columbia University*, New York and a BFA from the *Rhode Island School of Design*. He has participated in exhibitions at the *Roswell Museum*, Roswell, NM, *Pioneer Works*, Brooklyn, NY, and the *Drawing Center*, New York City among others.

Jiang's and Mercer's collaborative animation works have been featured at film festivals including the *International Film Festival Rotterdam*, Holland, the *London International Animation Festival*, London, UK, *Slamdance* Park City, Utah and *Eyeworks 2023* which included screenings at *Redcat*, Los Angeles, *2220 Arts Los Angeles*, *Museum of the Moving Image*, New York and *Block*, Chicago among others.