



Immersion in Lights

「灯亮了，
人不见了」

包蕾
Bao Lei

2021/4/11-5/23



ART+
SHANGHAI GALLERY



Bao Lei, The Uncanny

Caroline Boudehen,
translated by Macdara Smith

Elusive silhouettes, faceless figures, blurred objects. These are the hazy but familiar forms that populate Bao Lei's mysterious environments. Night scenes with a strange aura... captured moments. Memories that have been lived or only seen? In her works, the artist confounds her memory: the one from her own existence and the unconscious one of her gaze, which catches, non-stop, the images from a continuous flow of information, especially on the internet. Her works result from the "collage" of these fragments, raw or already altered by the unconscious play of memory. Together in the same space, they constitute a new universe... A memory neither really lived, nor really seen. A little of both worlds.

A parallel world, intrinsically linked to our existence on the internet, mixing timelines. Where is the limit between me, my own existence in the world, and that of others? Is there still a border between real and virtual life? "I wonder from time to time if I have really experienced all the situations and incidents I remember, or if I have mixed them up with what I have seen on social networks..." Bao Lei, by interweaving these different worlds in her watercolors, questions the proof of our reality. If my own memory is defective, how can I be sure of my own existence? The watercolor technique reinforces the disappearance of borders and allows, in the most basic sense, to dissolve lines and limits. The scenes of life that the artist paints - groups of indistinct people, without color or shown from behind - are harshly lit, and most of the time, the light itself emanates from these ghostly silhouettes. Light sources that resemble small pieces of magma, powerful but without contours. In "Dances", the silhouettes even merge with their own shadows... Evoking Plato's Myth of the Cave, in which

man does not have access to real knowledge (the light of day) but rather to a biased knowledge, that is to say, the glow and shadows that he can perceive, he takes the shadowy illusion for reality.

In Bao Lei's visions, the subjects are wandering: the silhouettes, inconsistent, emptied by dint of visual and virtual consumption, but the objects are also like this. They are present but have become useless because they have been abandoned ("Waiting to be seated"). They confirm a void, a latent absence. Each work embodies a moment of change: the moment when everything becomes nothing. Build your own emotions when time is constantly slipping away? "My memory of a certain time in the past is fading... and at the same time, when I try to remember a certain time, it doesn't come back to me in a linear, temporal order but in an assembly of significant moments that characterize this period, as if the other, more ordinary part had disappeared..."

Social networks have plunged life into a constant present. The past no longer exists. The watercolor technique has become the epitome of this attempt to hold on to time: a technique in which the spots, the elements, are diluted, overflowed, and are fixed very quickly. In this manner Bao Lei can freeze this blur and invent scenes "from thin air", unite fragments and vague images... Scenes that are so familiar, yet from which this famous "awkwardness" emerges ("Night Event"). Visions of everyday life that make the viewer feel uneasy, without being able to know exactly why. "Something" is disturbing the scene. The nocturnal aspect accentuates this anxiety, the lighting generates an effect of speed, like combined flashes, which contribute to destabilizing the spectator's vision. Speed and flow both pushed to the extreme, drive Bao Lei's work. The speed of the internet flux, its ephemeral aspect, but also the speed of movement, which prevents any reflection: we are gesturing in a society of action, where wandering, philosophy and reverie are now consigned to the background...

An abstract painting featuring a figure in white and blue against a dark background. The figure is composed of soft, blended colors, with a white head and torso and a blue neck and shoulder area. The background is dark, with a vertical band of blue on the left and a greenish-yellow band on the right. The overall style is soft and ethereal, with a focus on color and form rather than detail.

超现实

Caroline Boudehen

难以捉摸的轮廓，缺乏特征的人物，模糊的事物等一系列朦胧而熟悉的形态，充斥于包蕾神秘的环境中。他们在光圈笼罩之下成为了一瞬间的定格，场景的来源出处成谜。在包蕾的作品中，艺术家混淆了她的记忆：一种来自她自己存在的记忆，另一种来自她凝视的无意识的记忆。她不停地捕捉着来自不间断信息流（特别是互联网上）的图像，组成片段的“拼贴”。这些片段有些是原始的，有些已经被无意识的记忆游戏所改变。在同一个空间里，它们组成了一个新的宇宙，成为了一段既不真实存在，也未真实见过的记忆。包蕾创造了一个平行世界，在这里，时间线变得混沌扭曲，并与数字虚拟世界产生内在联系。她的作品令人反思：本我、自我、与客观环境的界限在哪里？现实和虚拟生活之间还有分割吗？

“我常常会问自己：所有我记得的一些片段和事件，到底哪些是自己真实经历的，哪些是我们在社交媒体上看到的？”包蕾自述里如此写道，她将不同的世界交织在自己的水彩画中，质疑现实中的证据。

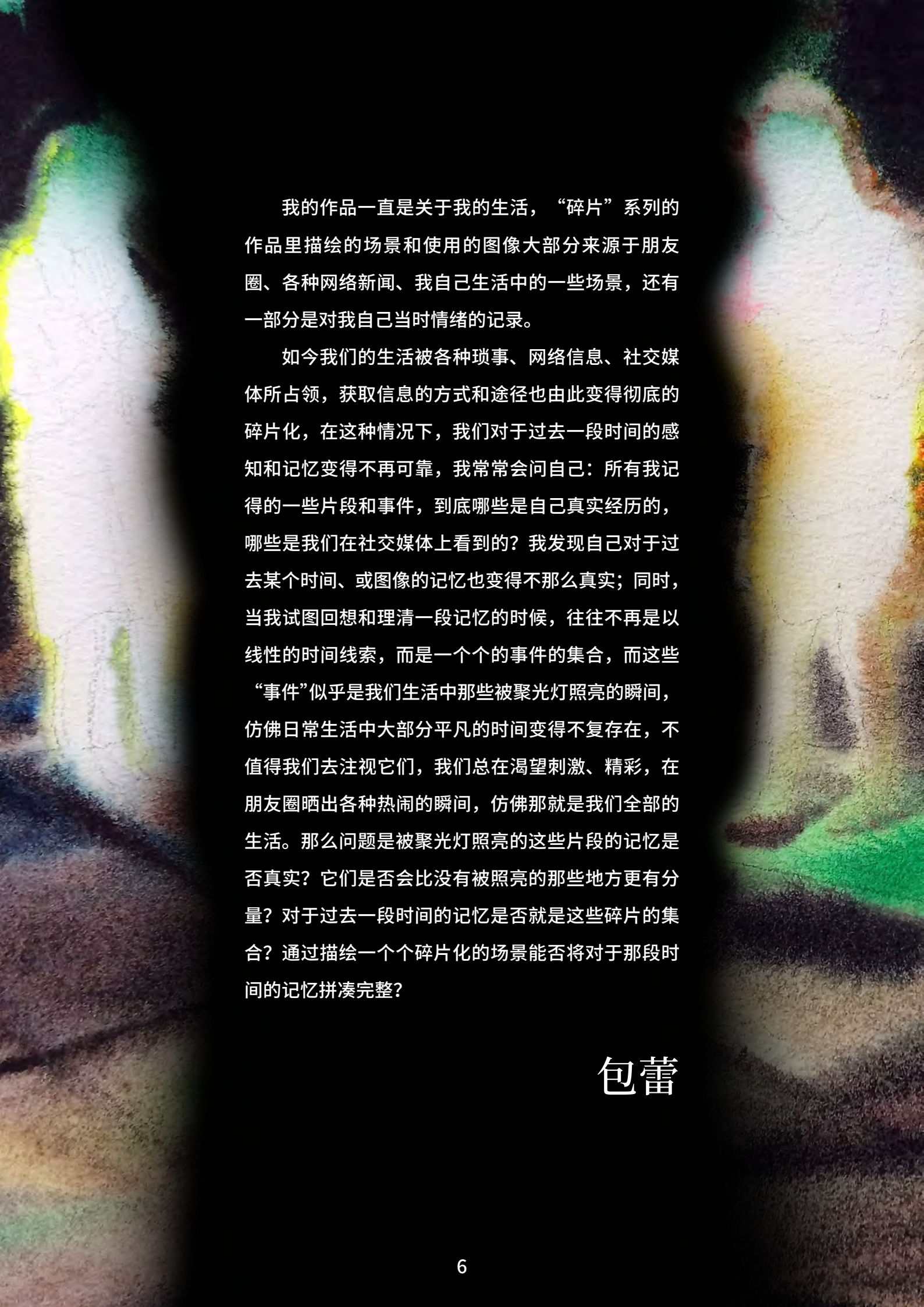
如果我的记忆是有缺陷的，那又要怎么自证我的存在呢？水彩技术让边界消失得更明显，从基本上模糊了线条以及界限。在艺术家笔下的生活场景中，那些模糊不清，没有颜色的人群或者背影像是被打了强光，或者说在大多时候，这些光就是从这些虚影中显示出来。而这种光源看上去像是来自一小片岩浆，强大但是没有外形。在作品“舞，舞，舞，”（包蕾，2020）中，那些轮廓更是与自己的影子融合到了一起……就

像是柏拉图的洞穴理论，人们无法在日光下接触到真实，所以他们的认知都是片面的，他们会将自己感知到的光影，幻觉认为是真实的。

在包蕾的视觉体系中，主体是游荡的：涣散的轮廓，在视觉和虚拟消费的作用下显得空空荡荡。客体也是一样。它们存在于当下，但由于被抛弃（“虚位以待 No.1”，包蕾，2020）而变得没了用处。它们印证了一种虚无，一种潜在的缺席。

每幅作品都描绘了一个变化的时刻：一切都变得朦胧。艺术家自述她是如何在流逝的时间中记录自己的情绪：“我对过去某个时段的记忆正在消退。同时，当我试图回想和理清一段记忆的时候，往往不再是以线性的时间线索，而是一个个的事件的集合，而这些‘事件’似乎是我们生活中那些被聚光灯照亮的瞬间，仿佛日常生活中大部分平凡的时间变得不复存在。”

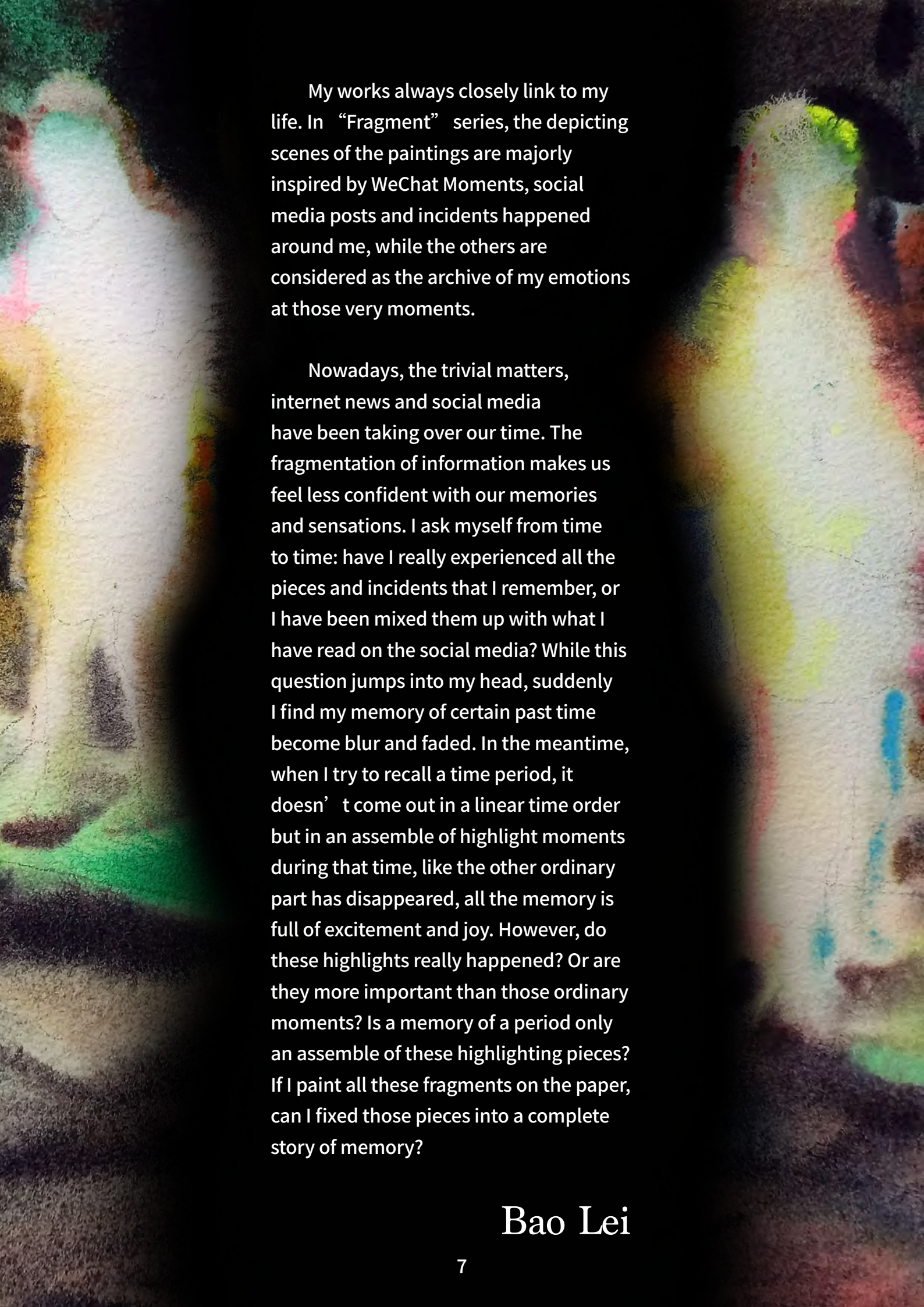




我的作品一直是关于我的生活，“碎片”系列的作品里描绘的场景和使用的图像大部分来源于朋友圈、各种网络新闻、我自己生活中的一些场景，还有一部分是对我自己当时情绪的记录。

如今我们的生活被各种琐事、网络信息、社交媒体所占领，获取信息的方式和途径也由此变得彻底的碎片化，在这种情况下，我们对于过去一段时间的感知和记忆变得不再可靠，我常常会问自己：所有我记得的一些片段和事件，到底哪些是自己真实经历的，哪些是我们在社交媒体上看到的？我发现自己对于过去某个时间、或图像的记忆也变得不那么真实；同时，当我试图回想和理清一段记忆的时候，往往不再是以线性的时间线索，而是一个个的事件的集合，而这些“事件”似乎是我们生活中那些被聚光灯照亮的瞬间，仿佛日常生活中大部分平凡的时间变得不复存在，不值得我们去注视它们，我们总在渴望刺激、精彩，在朋友圈晒出各种热闹的瞬间，仿佛那就是我们全部的生活。那么问题是被聚光灯照亮的这些片段的记忆是否真实？它们是否会被没有被照亮的那些地方更有分量？对于过去一段时间的记忆是否就是这些碎片的集合？通过描绘一个个碎片化的场景能否将对于那段时间的记忆拼凑完整？

包蕾



My works always closely link to my life. In “Fragment” series, the depicting scenes of the paintings are majorly inspired by WeChat Moments, social media posts and incidents happened around me, while the others are considered as the archive of my emotions at those very moments.

Nowadays, the trivial matters, internet news and social media have been taking over our time. The fragmentation of information makes us feel less confident with our memories and sensations. I ask myself from time to time: have I really experienced all the pieces and incidents that I remember, or I have been mixed them up with what I have read on the social media? While this question jumps into my head, suddenly I find my memory of certain past time become blur and faded. In the meantime, when I try to recall a time period, it doesn’ t come out in a linear time order but in an assemble of highlight moments during that time, like the other ordinary part has disappeared, all the memory is full of excitement and joy. However, do these highlights really happened? Or are they more important than those ordinary moments? Is a memory of a period only an assemble of these highlighting pieces? If I paint all these fragments on the paper, can I fixed those pieces into a complete story of memory?

Bao Lei

包蕾

其作品收藏于中国美术馆、关山月美术馆、罗中立美术馆、德国杜塞尔多夫城市文化局、加拿大迈克当·斯图尔特艺术中心等国内外重要艺术机构。

- 1979 生于四川广元
2000 毕业于四川美术学院美术教育系
2003-2019 毕业于四川美术学院美术教育系水彩研究生班并获硕士学位
 任教于四川美术学院美术教育系
2019 至今 四川美术学院艺术教育学院水彩画系系主任

展览及获奖情况

- 2020 春回巴蜀 2020——重庆市抗疫主题美术作品展 特邀作品
 重庆市美术馆 重庆市美术家协会
 魅力理县——四川水彩画年度展暨中国水彩名家作品邀请展
 第二届重庆市青年水彩粉画作品展
 “和光水色”成都重庆当代水彩画作品邀请展
 “向心与离心”——后疫情时代中的当代国际艺术展
 “跃然纸上”纸本作品展 重庆星汇当代美术馆
- 2019 “重庆市美术作品迎春展·2019” 重庆市美术馆 重庆市美术家协会
 重庆 2019’ 重庆市女书画家作品展
 自我态度：2019 重庆当代小幅作品展
 西安 第四届全国女性水彩·粉画展 优秀奖
 第七届重庆市美术作品展暨第十三届全国美展重庆送选作品展
 重庆 “日常之诗”中国社区美育行动计划
- 2018 “水色现场”——首届四川·重庆水彩艺术联展
 “彩溢龚滩：首届重庆市青年水彩·粉画展
 “重庆市美术作品迎春展” 重庆市美术馆 重庆市美术家协会
 西安 第三届全国女性水彩粉画作品展 领衔作品奖
- 2017 “家宴——话桑麻” 黄桷坪常驻艺术家作品邀请展
 “学院品格”第二届全国高等艺术院校水彩专业师生教学研究与创作
 作品展 青岛城市美术馆
 “时代情境”——四川美术学院重大题材艺术创作中心年度邀请展
 重庆市文联美术馆

- “时代质感”——四川美术学院作品展 中国美术馆
重庆市第六届美术作品展
重庆市妇女书画大展 二等奖
“山水之间——2017 水彩粉画风景邀请展” 重庆市美术馆
西安 第二届全国女性水彩粉画展
- 2016 重庆 心迹——当代青年艺术家纸上作品展
重庆 第六届重庆市水彩粉画展 优秀奖
德国 汉堡 “艺术是我的氧气” 纸本作品展 八号沙龙艺术空间
- 2015 重庆 LP 艺术空间开幕展
西安 首届全国女性水彩粉画展
重庆 重庆市女子书画协会 20 周年庆画展
河北 凝视——当代女画家作品双年展
- 2014 重庆 “第五届重庆市美术作品展暨第十二届全国美展重庆市
选送作品展”
重庆 浓妆淡抹——2014 佳想安善美术馆水彩邀请展
广州 “学院品格” 水彩邀请展
北京 新星星艺术节 今日美术馆
- 2013 重庆 《无限——郊区的胜利》
重庆 女子书画作品展 二等奖
“城市幻象” 重庆市青年美术双年展青年教师特展
- 2012 重庆 第五届重庆市水彩·粉画展 优秀作品奖
重庆 时态第四回 《日常 转译》
- 2011 重庆 “梦想照耀着现实”——黄桷坪艺术生态展
杭州 第二届中国当代学院水彩艺术展
- 2010 重庆艺术走进生活启动展暨四川美术学院青年艺术家邀请展
重庆 “一捻红——重庆市女性艺术家书画大展”
德国 杜塞尔多夫 “Chin Chin——四位艺术家在杜塞尔多夫” 展
重庆器·Haus 空间—德国杜塞尔多夫市艺术家交换驻留项目
- 2009 北京 前进美教 - 川美新写实师生作品联展
重庆 “庆祝建国 60 周年第四届重庆市美术作品展暨第十一届全国
美展重庆市选送作品展”
“庆祝建国 60 周年重庆市妇女书画大展”
- 2008 成都 “成都浓园国际艺术展”
- 2007 重庆 “东张西望——小杨、包蕾油画双人展” 锦瑟画廊
贵阳 “耳闻与口传的四方” 第三届贵阳双年展
深圳 “艳色记录” 中国当代女性艺术家邀请展 深圳关山月美术馆
北京 “晚夏新辉” 都亚特北京开幕展
- 2006 加拿大 “来自重庆的当代绘画” 迈克当·斯图尔特艺术中心

Bao Lei

Her works have been collected by the important art organizations such as National Art Museum of China (Beijing), Guan Shanyue Art Museum (Shenzhen, Guangdong), Luo Zhongli Art Museum (Chongqing), Macdonald Stewart Art Centre (Canada), Stadtverwaltung Düsseldorf Kulturredaktion Künstlerförderung (Düsseldorf).

1979	Born in Guangyuan, Sichuan
2000	Graduated with Bachelor Degree from Art Education School at Sichuan Fine Art Institute(SFAI)
2003	Graduated with Master Degree from Watercolor Graduate Class of Art Education School at SFAI
2003-2019	Worked as a teacher for Art Education School at SFAI
2019- now	Working as the Dean of Water color Department of Art Education School at SFAI

Exhibitions and Awards

2020	Special Invited to Group Exhibition “Spring Comes Round to Chongqing 2020” by Chongqing Art Gallery Invited to group exhibition “Charming Lixian: Sichuan Watercolor Yearly Exhibition” The 2nd Exhibition of Chongqing Youth Watercolor Paintings “Water and Color” : The Invitation Exhibition of Contemporary Watercolor Paintings in Chengdu and Chongqing “Centripetal and Centrifugal” : Contemporary International Art Exhibition in the Post-Epidemic Era "Leaping on Paper" Exhibition of Works on Paper at Chongqing Xinghui Contemporary Art Museum
2019	"Chongqing Art Works Spring Festival Exhibition 2019" Chongqing Art Gallery 2019 Chongqing Women Artists and Calligraphers Exhibition

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- "Self Attitude": 2019 Chongqing Contemporary Small Works Exhibition
Excellence Award by Xi'an The 4th National Women's Watercolor-Pastel Exhibition
The 7th Chongqing Fine Arts Exhibition and the Thirteenth National Art Exhibition Chongqing Sent Works
- 2018 "Poetry of the Everyday" China Community Aesthetic Education Plan
"Water Color Live" - The 1st Sichuan-Chongqing Watercolor Art Exhibition
"Color Overflow Gongtan": The 1st Chongqing Young Artist Watercolor and Pastel Painting Exhibition
"Chongqing Art Works Spring Festival Exhibition 2018" Chongqing Art Gallery
Leading Works Award by The 3rd National Women's Watercolor Art Exhibition
- 2017 "Family Feast - Talking about Mulberry" Huangjueping Invitational Exhibition of Resident Artists' Works
"College Character" The 2nd National Exhibition of Teaching Research and Creative Works of Teachers and Students of Watercolor in Higher Art Colleges, Qingdao Art Gallery
"The Context of the Times" , Chongqing Municipal Federation of Literary Art Museum
"Era Texture" : Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts Works Exhibition, National Art Museum of China, Beijing
The 6th Art Exhibition of Chongqing City
Second Prize by Chongqing Women's Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition
"Between Mountains and Waters - 2017 Invitational Exhibition of Watercolor Pastel Landscape" Chongqing Art Gallery
The 2nd National Women's Watercolor and Pastel Painting Exhibition
- 2016 Chongqing Traces of Heart: Contemporary Young Artists' Works on Paper Exhibition
Excellent Award by The 6th Chongqing Watercolor and

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- Pastel Exhibition
"Art is My Oxygen" , Salon 8 Art Space, Hamburg,
Germany
- 2015 Opening Exhibition of LP Art Space, Chongqing
The First National Women's Watercolor and Pastel
Exhibition, Xi' An
Chongqing Women's Painting and Calligraphy
Association 20th Anniversary Exhibition
"Stare: Contemporary Female Artists Biennale" ,
Hebei
- 2014 The 5th Chongqing Fine Arts Exhibition and the
Thirteenth National Art Exhibition Chongqing Sent
Works
"Make-up" , Jiaxiang Anshan Art Museum, Chongqing
"Academy Character" Watercolor Invitational
Exhibition, Guangzhou, Guangdong
New Star Festival, Today Art Museum, Beijing,
- 2013 "Infinity: Victory of Suburbia" , Chongqing
Second Prize by Chongqing Women's Painting and
Calligraphy Exhibition
"Urban Illusion" Chongqing Young Artists Biennale
Special Exhibition for Art Teachers
- 2012 Excellent Works Award by The 5th Chongqing
Watercolor and Pastel Exhibition
"Tense Fourth: Daily Translation" , Chongqing
- 2011 "Dreams Shine on Reality: Huangjueping Art Ecology
Exhibition" , Chongqing
The 2nd China Contemporary Academy Watercolor Art
Exhibition, Hangzhou
- 2010 "Art into Life" Launch Exhibition and Sichuan Fine
Arts Institute Young Artists Invitation Exhibition
"A Twist of Red: Exhibition of Chongqing Women Artists
in Painting and Calligraphy"
"Chin Chin: Four Artists in Düsseldorf", Düsseldorf,
Germany
Artist Exchange Residency with Düsseldorf, Germany by
Chongqing Organhaus
- 2009 The New Art Education: New Realistic Art Exhibition by
SAIF Instructors and Students, Beijing

- 
- The Fourth Chongqing Fine Arts Exhibition to Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic and the 11th National Art Exhibition Chongqing Selected Works Exhibition
Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China Chongqing Women's Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition
- 2008 Chengdu Nong Yuan International Art Exhibition
- 2007 Looking East and West - Xiao Yang and Bao Lei Oil Painting Duo Exhibition, Jinser Gallery, Chongqing
- The 3rd Guiyang Biennale: "The Four Directions of Hearing and Mouth"
- "Voluptuous Records: Chinese Contemporary Women Artists Invitation Exhibition" , Guan Shanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen
- Duarte Beijing Opening Exhibition
- 2006 "Contemporary Painting from Chongqing", McDonald Stewart Art Centre, Canada



等 *Waiting*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

28×38cm

2020



空沙发 *Empty Couch*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
28×38cm
2020



看日落 *Watching the sunset*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
28×38cm
2020



看 *Staring*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

28×38cm

2020



排队 *Queueing*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
28×38cm
2020



排排坐 *Sitting in queue*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
28×38cm
2020



喝茶 *Teatime*

纸本水彩 *Watercolour on paper*

28×38cm

2020



六个人 *Six*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
28×38cm
2020



五个人 *Five*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

28×38cm

2020



四个人 *Four*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
28×38cm
2020



三人行 *Three*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

28×38cm

2020



讨论 *Discussing*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

28×38cm

2020



黄椅子 *Yellow Chairs*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

28×38cm

2020



虚位以待№1 *Seats Available 1*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
28×38cm
2020



幕后 *Backstage*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

27×39cm

2020



红凳子 *A Red Stool*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

27×39cm

2020



等№ 4 *Waiting 4*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
29.7×42cm
2020



禁止驶入 *Do Not Enter*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
29.7×42cm
2020



望 *Watching*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

29.7×42cm

2020



展览 *Exhibition*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

29.7×42cm

2020



听讲 *In Lecture*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

29.7×42cm

2020



休息 *Resting*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

29.7×42cm

2020



舞舞舞 *Dance, Dance, Dance*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
38×56cm
2020



看展览№ 2 *Visiting an Exhibition 2*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

38×56cm

2020



玩 *Playing*

纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper

38×56cm

2020



晚会 *Evening Party*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
38×56cm
2020



打望 *Peeping Around*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
38×56cm
2020



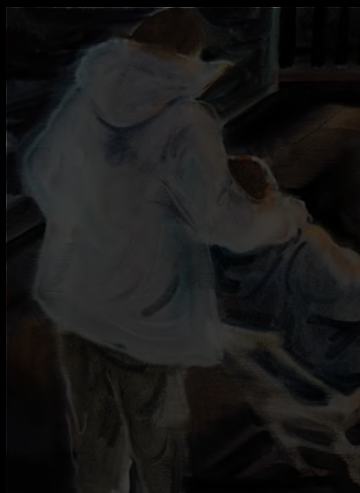
一块红布 *A Red Cloth*
纸本水彩 Watercolour on paper
38×56cm
2020

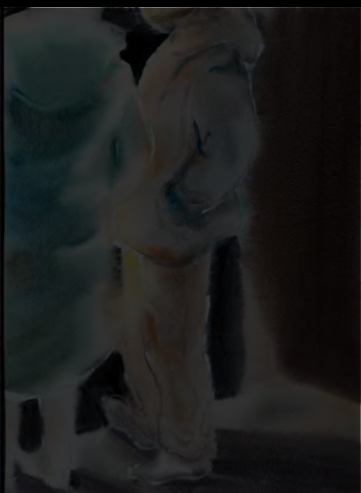
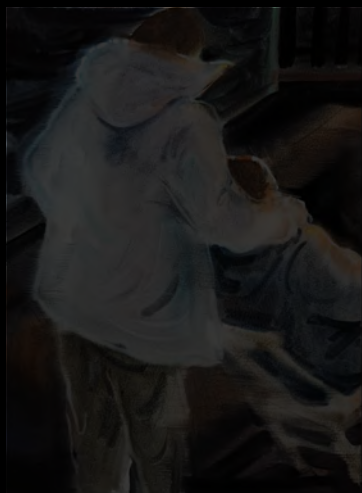


H42 × W29.7 cm ×4

纸本水彩 Watercolor on paper
2021











H56 × W38 cm ×5

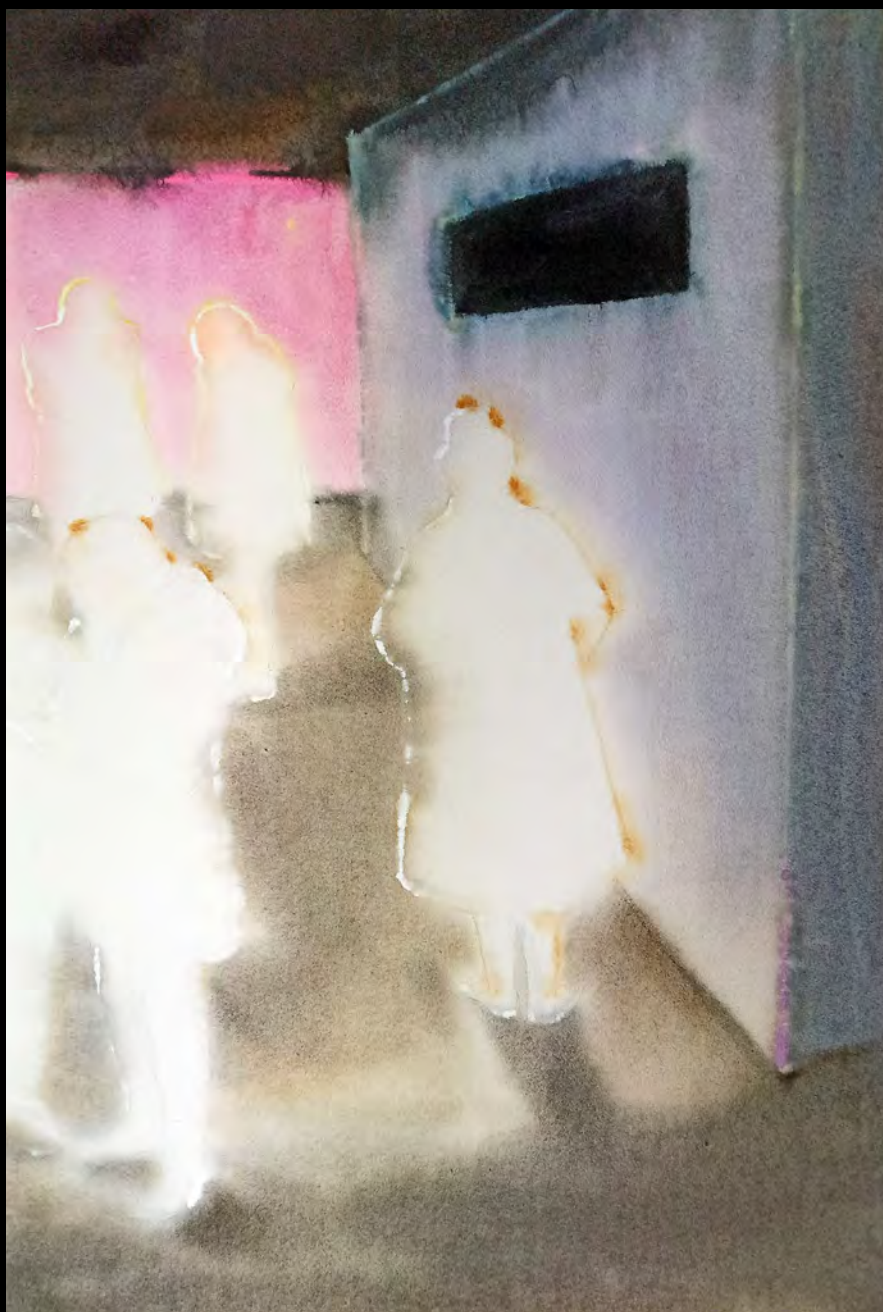
纸本水彩 Watercolor on paper
2021













ART+
SHANGHAI GALLERY

021 - 6222 7223

contact@artplusshanghai.com

上海市黄浦区南苏州路 191 号

191 South Suzhou Rd, Huangpu, Shanghai