

# NICODIM

## DOMINIQUE FUNG: RELICS AND REMAINS

In Cantonese, *jook-sing* is a pejorative term for persons of Chinese descent who live overseas and identify more strongly with western culture. The term itself evolved poetically from the word for “bamboo pole.” Bamboo rods are hollow and compartmentalized, so if one is to pour water in one end, it is trapped, unable to flow through to the other side.

Dominique Fung was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada, to first-generation parents from Shanghai and Hong Kong. At home, she spoke Cantonese, at school English. Her early artistic passions were informed by Vermeer, Manet, Rembrandt, and Goya, but her sense of Chinese heritage was largely informed by vessels and objects she saw at home and on display in the Asian art section during visits to the Met in New York.

The relics in the museum, Fung thought, were *jook-sing* like her: anonymously Asian in appearance, separated and oftentimes stolen from their original contexts by oceans, hemispheres, and centuries, imbued with identity by masters long since deceased. She imagined what the objects’ lives were like when they were born, what they held within their bodies, who touched and used them, how they felt about it. She began to think of them as concubines, with personalities, secrets, and stories to share. She wondered what they’d look like with hair. She realized her relationship to her own Cantonese identity was shaded by a sort of 19th century Orientalism.

In her 2018 essay “Ornamentalism: A Feminist Theory for the Yellow Woman,” Anne Anlin Cheng defines 19th century Orientalism as such: “that opulence and sensuality are the signature components of Asiatic character; that Asia is always ancient, excessive, feminine, available, and decadent; that material consumption promises cultural possession; that there is no room ... for national, ethnic, or historical specificities.” The Asian art section at the Met is Orientalist, thought Fung. In a way, so was she.

*Relics and Remains*, Fung’s first solo exhibition with Nicodim, is the result of the subsequent years of research into her motherland’s cultural history, casting the objects in the Met she once fetishized as an entry point. These paintings are the artist’s dark and playful exploration of her own *jook-sing*-ness; they navigate and reclaim the water of her identity suspended within bamboo.

Dominique Fung (b. 1987, Ottawa, Canada) lives and works in New York. She received her BAA from Sheridan College Institute of Technology in Toronto in 2009. Recent exhibitions include *Hollywood Babylon: A Re-Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome*, Nicodim, Jeffrey Deitch, and AUTRE Magazine, Los Angeles, USA (2020); *If On A Winter’s Night A Traveller*, MAMOTH, London, UK (2020); *Skin Stealers*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2020); *Trans World*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, USA; *Galeria Nicodim*, Bucharest, Romania (2019); *Wash Your Corners*, Ross + Kramer, New York, USA (2019, solo); *Dominique Fung*, Taymour Grahne, London, United Kingdom (2019, solo); *Barmecide Feast*, The 14th Factory, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC, USA (2018).

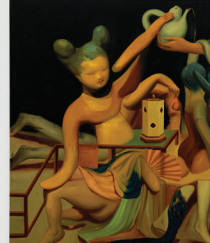
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## DOMINIQUE FUNG: RELICS AND REMAINS

May 30 – July 3, 2020  
Los Angeles



*Stay Home, 2020*  
oil on canvas  
60 x 48 inches  
152.5 x 122 cm



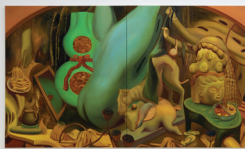
*A Bridge to the Ancestral Plane, 2020*  
oil on canvas  
84 x 72 inches  
213.5 x 183 cm



*Through the Looking Glass, 2020*  
oil on canvas  
48 x 48 inches  
122 x 122 cm



*Three Legged Vessel, 2020*  
oil on canvas  
24 x 20 inches  
61 x 51 cm



*Material Manifestations in the Act of Remembrance, 2020*  
oil on canvas  
84 x 144 inches  
213.5 x 365.75 cm



*Good Fortune Vessel, 2020*  
oil on canvas  
24 x 20 inches  
61 x 51 cm



*Empress Dowager, 2020*  
oil on canvas  
39.37 x 39.37 inches  
100 x 100 cm



*What's Left Behind, 2020*  
oil on canvas  
60 x 60 inches  
152.5 x 152.5 cm

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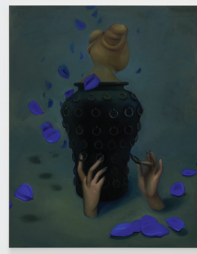
## DOMINIQUE FUNG: RELICS AND REMAINS

May 30 – July 3, 2020

Los Angeles



*Increased Exposure*, 2020  
oil on canvas  
60 x 48 inches  
152.5 x 122 cm



*Mundane and the Divine*, 2020  
oil on canvas  
60 x 48 inches  
152.5 x 122 cm



*Transition from Signifier to Sacred Relic*, 2020  
oil on canvas  
64 x 72 inches  
162.5 x 183 cm



*Near Death Experiences*, 2020  
oil on canvas  
60 x 48 inches  
152.5 x 122 cm

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## Dominique Fung

° Born 1987, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
Lives and works in New York, New York

### Education

2009 BAA: Sheridan Institute of Technology and Design, Oakville, Canada

### Solo & Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2020 *Relics and Remains*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, United States  
2019 *Wash Your Corners*, Ross + Kramer, New York, New York, United States  
*Looking Backward, Moving Forward*, Taymour Grahne, London, United Kingdom  
2018 *Just like Fine China*, Patel Gallery, two-person solo, Toronto, Canada  
2016 *Physic Garden*, with Georgina Lee Walker, Patel Gallery, Toronto, Toronto, Canada

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *Hollywood Babylon*, Jeffrey Deitch, Nicodim Gallery, AUTRE Magazine, Los Angeles, CA  
*If on a winter's night a traveller*, MAMOTH, London, United Kingdom  
2019 *Skin Stealers*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, United States  
*Paint School*, Klaus Von Nichtssagend Gallery, NYC, USA  
*Trans World*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest, Romania  
*Trans World*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Buddy System*, Deanne Evans, Brooklyn, United States  
*Inaugural*, Patel Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
*Puppies and Flowers*, THE ROYAL, Brooklyn, United States  
*Uncanny Tales*, AGENCY, Brooklyn, New York, United States  
*Yin/Yang*, 0.0. La, Los Angeles, United States  
*Surreality*, Crush Curatorial Group Show, New York, New York, United States  
2018 *Mana Contemporary (JUXTAPOZ)*, curated by Jessica Ross, New Jersey, United States  
*SALON VI*, Project Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
*MILKMADE*, Field Projects Gallery, New York, United States  
*Spring group show*, Project Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
*Barmecide Feast*, The 14th Factory, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC, United States  
2017 *The Sussex Contemporary*, Ottawa, Canada

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- The Year End Salon Show*, The Sussex Contemporary, Ottawa, Canada  
*Friends You May Know*, Ortega y Gasset Projects with SYNT, Brooklyn, United States  
*SALON V*, Project Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
*GIFC*, The Hole, New York, New York, United States  
*Inaugural Group Show*, The Sussex Contemporary, Ottawa, Canada  
The 14th Factory, Los Angeles, United States
- 2016 *Salon Show*, Project Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
*A Very Young Christmas*, Galerie Youn, Montreal, Canada  
*15 Painters*, Project Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
*Delta*, Project Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2014 *Contemplation*, Gallery M contemporary, Toronto, Canada
- 2013 *Colors*, Atticus Gallery, Barcelona, Spain
- 2012 *Andy Warhol Tribute Group Show*, Virginia Museum of Modern Art, Richmond, Virginia, United States
- 2011 Show and Tell Gallery, Toronto, Canada

## **Residency/Fellowships/Awards**

- 2019 Rema Hort Foundation, Nominee, NYC, USA  
Shandaken: Paint School, NYC, NY, USA
- 2017 Toronto Arts Council Visual Arts Grant  
The Sussex Contemporary Residency, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
- 2016 Ontario Arts Council Visual Arts Grant
- 2009 Sheridan Institute of Design and Technology artist grant, Oakville, Ontario