

NICODIM

LIANG FU: INTANGIBLE

付亮 如影随形

Nicodim Upstairs, Los Angeles

March 26 – April 30, 2022



Liang Fu
Anonym, 2021

A drop of powerful water is enough to create a world and to dissolve the night. To dream of power, all that is needed is a drop imagined in depth. The water thus energized is a germ; it gives to life an inexhaustible rise. The being devoted to water is a being in vertigo. He dies every minute, without ceasing something of his substance collapses. Daily death is not the exuberant death of fire that pierces the sky with its arrows; daily death is the death of water. Water always flows, water always falls, it always ends in its horizontal death. In countless examples we shall see that for the materializing imagination the death of water is more son-geous than the death of the earth: the sorrow of water is infinite.

— Gaston Bachelard, *Water and Dreams: Essay on the Imagination of Matter*, 1942

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Liang Fu's compositions stem from a drop of water. Using pigments on unprimed canvas, he begins with a diffusion of colors, figures, and forms. The figurative dimensions of Fu's subjects are blurred, blending interior and exterior, visible and nonvisible, presence and absence. What emerges in his paintings may appear to be landscapes, or figures, or ghosts as they dissipate into the background. The viewer's understanding of the image oscillates, remaining elusive and ever-changing. Fu notes, "It may feel as if the picture is watching the viewer, forcing them to continuously adapt." Water, as weightless as it may seem, is what causes the pigment to pervade and transform the thickness of Fu's canvases.

For Fu, water brings forth a wealth of symbolic associations that are more or less conscious, halfway between states of awakening and dreaming. Even while producing the works, he attempts to dwell in a state of uncertainty through a delicate interplay between transparency and opacity in his paint. To begin, he produces his own mineral pigments with a watercolor binder, then switches to oil paint upon completing the work to enhance, detail, and build on the possibilities that stem from the encounter of the two mediums.

In his work with ceramic, porcelain, and enamel, Fu plays the role of an alchemist, manipulating earth, beeswax, water, and pigment to spur action within each material. Memory, or its absence, is imbued within the sculptures, so that they become relics of the accumulation of gestures that contributed to their creation. The sculptures alternatively can reflect the absence of any remaining trace of the artist's hand through careful erasure.

In both cases, Fu's sculptural process generates feelings of ambiguity and strangeness. By engaging specific sculptural techniques that weave together organic and mineral materials, he engages dimensions of fragility, sensuality, transformation, and permutability. The works become a testimony of a process that adapts to each exhibition location, resulting each time in the new freezing of a gesture.

The works within *Intangible* guide viewers through an ethereal universe of his own creation built upon spirituality, geography, mineralogy, sensuality, and light. The subjects he incorporates function as symbols for things as yet undetermined—each piece casts a spell of grounding silence—a way to bear witness to the passage of time. *Intangible* is Fu's first solo exhibition Stateside, and his first with Nicodim.

Liang Fu (b. 1993, Sichuan, China) lives and works in Paris, France. He received his BFA and MFA from National Fine Arts School of Nantes in Nantes, France. Recent exhibitions include *Intangible*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles (2022, solo); *petit beurre*, Maia Muller Gallery, Paris, France (2021), *Emergence*, Riseart Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2021), *Delphian Open Call*, Delphian Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2021); *clou12*, Atelier Gallery, Nantes, France (2019); *Cabinets of Curiosities*, Natural History Museum Nantes, France (2019); *Troposphere*, 6B Saint-Denis, Paris, France (2019).

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Liang Fu

° Born 1993, Chengdu, Sichuan, China
Lives and works in Paris, France

Education

2021 MFA, National Fine Arts School of Nantes, Nantes, France
2019 BFA, National Fine Arts School of Nantes, Nantes, France
2016 Ateliers Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France

Solo Exhibitions

2015 *Déjà-Vu*, Zarah, Beijing, China
Underwaters, Modernista, Beijing, China

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 *petit beurre*, Maia Muller Gallery, Paris, France
Emergence, Riseart Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Delphian Open Call, Delphian Gallery, London, United Kingdom
2020
2019 *clou12*, Atelier Gallery, Nantes, France
Cabinets of Curiosities, Natural History Museum, Nantes, France
Vitalité, Michel Gallery, Paris, France
Troposphère, 6B Saint-Denis, Paris, France
Archi-culturel, School of Architecture Gallery, Nantes, France

Selected Group Exhibitions

2021 Winners of Delphian Open Call, London, United Kingdom
2019 Favorite of Prize JUVENARTS, Paris, France
Favorite of Prize LeGrandPlongeon, Paris, France