

W.MING 蓮藝

Eleen Lin's Solo Exhibition: Drifting

Art Taipei 2017



I-Ling Eleen Lin, *The Young Philosopher*, 2015, oil and acrylic on canvas, 178 x 213 cm (70 x 84 in)

W. Ming Art is pleased to present Taiwan born, New York based artist I-Ling Eleen Lin's solo exhibition *Drifting* at Art Taipei 2017. This exhibition showcases Lin's two recent painting series, *Mythopoeia* and *Pet Society*. Created between 2009 and 2016, Lin's paintings reiterate stories, ranging from Chinese folklore to American literature classics, into contemporized cross-cultural narratives. Her paintings illustrate the nomadic solitary experience of drifting among various traditions, and the obscurity of cultural boundaries today.

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Born in Taiwan, grew up in Thailand, and spent her adulthood in England and the United States, Eleen Lin represents the third culture kid who calls nowhere “home,” but is connected with multiple distinctive cultures. Lin succinctly summarizes our time as “the age of cultural cannibalism where everything is brought together and rearranged to formulate new identities.”

Lin began painting at a young age. She immigrated to Thailand at the age of six, and painting became a way of self-expression when language was a barrier. While she was studying her undergraduate in England, she delved into Chinese art history and ink paintings, eventually developing a style in which she lays oil paint on top of acrylics. Acrylic paints create a background similar to watercolor and Chinese ink painting, while the oil paints on top break the backdrop’s fluidity.

Her current series, titled *Mythopoeia*, is inspired by American writer Herman Melville’s novel *Moby Dick* (1851), a tale of Captain Ahab’s vengeful hunt of a white whale named Moby Dick. Besides addressing the impactful symbolism and moral established by the novel, Eleen also delves into other aspects of story that are reminiscent of her experience as an immigrant artist: the cultural diversity of the crew-mates, the segregation from society, and the mystic journey from America to Asia. After comparing the original English novel with different versions of Chinese translation, Eleen retells the quintessential American literature through different cultural lenses, where fragments of cultural signifiers are brought together, and mistranslation due to cultural indifferences and contemporary languages are highlighted. For example, in *Tailing Tale* (2016), Eleen shows a crew member in a Hawaiian shirt sailing against a stage-like background decorated with patterns evoking tile design originated in Asia.

Pet Society series transforms mystical intimacies between man and animal to present complex urbanities’ obsession with pet ownerships. For instance, in *Wusong Fights Tiger I* (2010), Eleen changes the heroic figure into a drunken hipster, who engages the tiger in an act of, either a ferocious fight, a playful tease or a passionate embrace. In *Lady White Snake* (2009), Eleen portrays Xu Xian in *Legend of the White Snake* as a shabbily dressed white-collar worker with a broken umbrella, against the background of the landmark Chrysler Building in New York City, instead of the *Leifeng* Pagoda in the original legend. Weaving together past stories with imageries in our contemporary world, her canvas captures a place where parallel universes come together.

Eleen graduated from Yale University School of Art with a MFA in painting and printmaking in 2008 prior to obtaining a BA in painting from Slade School of Fine Art from University College London in 2005. She has been exhibited in Austria, Thailand, Taiwan, Germany, England, Korea, China, and the United States. Her works are collected by the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Jimenez-Colon Collection (USA), and International Baccalaureate Organization (UK), among others.



I- Ling Eleen Lin, Spirit-spout, 2016, oil and acrylic on canvas, 183 x 244 cm (72 x 96 in)

W. Ming Art

W. Ming Art is a private art advisory and consulting company founded in 2010 by Xiaoming Zhang. W. Ming represents artists for exhibitions and sales, and provides private sales and art advisory services for private and institutional clients globally. W. Ming has professional team members in Europe, America, and Asia; the company specializes in modern and contemporary art, especially in the field of Asian modern and contemporary works. W. Ming has two offices, one in Beijing and the other in New York. Its showing spaces in New York and Shanghai will open in the Fall of 2017.

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