

Press Release  
September 12, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Naturally Natural

Richmond, BC  
September 12 – December 31, 2018



Xiaojing Yan (b. 1978), *Naturally Natural Series*, 2018, Ink and acrylic on yupo paper, 40 x 60 inches (101.6 x 152.4 cm)

## GAWA x Visas Consulting Group

Opening Reception & Lecture: September 12, 2018, 11:00 AM  
Visas Consulting Group, 212 North Tower, 5811 Cooney Road, Richmond, BC,  
Canada  
By Appointment Only: Vicky Huang, +1 604 821 0999, [vicky.huang@visas.to](mailto:vicky.huang@visas.to)

*"Seen or unseen, all controlled by nature."*

-- Xiaojing Yan

GAWA together with Visas Consulting Group is honored to present **'Naturally Natural'** in Richmond, a solo exhibition of Chinese-Canadian artist Xiaojing Yan, featuring her 13 pieces of two-dimensional artwork from the past two years. Much of Yan's work transmigrates ideas and influences from Chinese visual culture, with her intricate sculptural installations exploring the intersections of the natural and societal worlds. Yan works from an open international perspective and unique female identity, and from her own experience as a first-generation Chinese Canadian. She uses unique methods and angles to explore the relationship between human creation and the power of nature.

'Naturally Natural' is Xiaojing Yan's exploration of the theme of natural growth, an extension of her previous artwork 'Lingzhi Girl'. In 'Naturally Natural', she uses varied media to explore attributes and meanings of self-growth and self-organization. The uncontrollable power of nature to 'take over' brings great creativity and vitality to the artwork. Although two-dimensional, the artwork is very expressive, and echoes the sculptural artwork in 'Lingzhi Girl'. It conveys the process of moving from simplicity to complexity, and from complexity to simplicity, often emphasized in the creation of art. 'Naturally Natural' expresses rich meanings including growth and longevity, and the integration of eastern and western cultures, giving the viewer inspiration and space for reflection.

To create 'Naturally Natural', Yan poured Chinese ink onto yupo paper and added acrylic, then manipulated the surface to create images resembling roots, nerves, trees, rivers, blood vessels, brain tissue, and coastlines. The works reveal a process of becoming, following uncontrolled paths and extended stems to explore the human mind alongside vitality in nature.

The painting series reflects many dualities: natural, traditional ink combined with synthetic, contemporary yupo paper, fullness and void, control and accident, and Chinese artistic tradition combined with Western abstract expressionism. Yan's rich and dynamic surfaces are both mysterious and energetic, to be appreciated from a distance as well as close-up.

*"We are honored to host the exhibition for Xiaojing Yan's series of work named 'Naturally Natural', corresponding with her solo exhibition 'In Suspended Silence' in Richmond Art Gallery. This show is organized by GAWA, collaborating with Visas Consulting Group, committed to providing support for local Canadian and Chinese*

*artists."*

-- Angela Bi

### **About the Artist**

Xiaojing Yan (b. 1978) is a China-born Toronto-based female artist who previously taught in the Art Department of Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Vancouver. She received a bachelor's degree in Decorative Art from Nanjing Arts Institute in 2000, a certificate in Jewelry Design from Toronto George Brown College in 2004, and an MFA in Sculpture from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2007. Yan's work has been exhibited in over 90 solo and group shows at Chinese and international galleries and museums, including twice at the Toronto International Art Fair, in 2012 and 2014.

Yan is the recipient of over 40 North American grants including the Chalmers Arts Fellowship in 2016, the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2014, and the 2013 Mandarin Profile Award from Fairchild TV. She also has received multiple grants from the Canadian Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, and North American College Art Association. Yan's artwork has been collected by art galleries and institutions across North America, and she has been invited by many cities in Canada and China to create outdoor public sculptures.

### **About GAWA**

GAWA was founded in 2017 by TCT and Co. and W.Ming International to showcase exceptional international modern and contemporary art. Through exhibitions, educational initiatives, and collaborations, GAWA presents the ideas, issues, creativity, and culture of our time with openness, integrity, and social responsibility. GAWA engages local and international audiences through its branches in Shanghai and New York. We welcome you to come explore with us.

[www.gawa.art](http://www.gawa.art)

### **About Visas Consulting Group**

A leading international provider of immigration legal services, with wholly owned or joint-venture legal practices in the US, Canada, UK, Europe and China. Over 44-year in North America and over 21-year in China, VCG has helped tens of thousands of applicants to immigrate. Our rich experience in project selection and reliable

project partners has allowed us to maintain high success rate in the industry. Our current office locations are located in Vancouver, Canada, and 12 cities in China.  
[www.visas.to](http://www.visas.to)

#### **About TCT and Co. (TeaCoffeeTea)**

Founded by Angela Bi after more than a decade working with Visas Consulting Group, TCT aims to bring diverse lifestyle services to its clients, and to share inspiration and treasures from modern life. TCT has offices in Vancouver and Shanghai.  
[www.tctandco.com](http://www.tctandco.com)

#### **About W.Ming International**

W.Ming International 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 advisor 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 office spaces, one in Beijing and the other in New York.  
[www.wmingart.com](http://www.wmingart.com)

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