

FROM APPEARANCE TO EXPOSURE

Sina Sophia Schmidt
Louise Reynolds
Yaya Yajie Liang
Kirin Crooks

19th June > 1st July 2022

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“They always want us to tell stories with action and psychological drama but there are other very interesting directions we can take in time, space, and memory. Emotions, recollections, surprises.”

- Agnes Varda

KO Art & Antiques is pleased to present *From Appearance to Exposure*, a group exhibition featuring emerging contemporary artists Sina Sophia Schmidt, Louise Reynolds, Yaya Yajie Liang, and Kirin Crooks. This exhibition acts as an interrogative space, contemplating our relationship with the notion of ‘performance’ and how through this, we reveal our true selves to the world, as both consumers and contributors to a contemporary cultural production of collective resonance.

Performance, as an expressive vehicle to contextualise our engagement with cultural enactments, recognises the continuity between all living ecosystems. Our expectations and intentions- as both the metaphorical *audience* and *actor* part of local and global geographies- are cemented within the symbolic system of meaning that performance underpins. Our emotional receptiveness to what is dramatised is dependent on the execution of output and the distribution of such information amongst the targeted audience. Thus, performance is transmissive in nature, and like the actor, the *artist* decides the transmissivity of the material. This nonverbal communicative act is the foundation upon which the micro-constructions of our identity are built.

Despite each artist’s individual connection to the idea of performance, their artistic decision-making encompasses a universal sense of performativity. Their work remains rooted in a search for critical discourse and a need to emphasise the multidimensionality we are afforded through our cognitive faculties; the vocabulary of imagination and perception, memory and reason, will and intuition.

The hallucinatory conceptualisations by **Sina Sophia Schmidt** are emotive experiences of an activated sensorium; impressions of intangible constellations borrowed from both the real and imagined. Her work, through its multifaceted magnetism and search for metaphysical truths, produces an infinitely playfully engagement with the wonders of our environment and the possibilities we have as inhabitants. This creative license is further developed in the work of **Louise Reynolds**' tightly formed compositions. By extracting narratives from news outlets and then embellishing them with her own sense of clarity and self-awareness, we receive a new phantasmagoric reality detached from the rehearsed recitals often fed to the masses. This conscious re-writing of accounts allows for a revision of histories that would otherwise cease to exist amongst the current proliferation of information. **Yaya Yajie Liang** exports filmic fantasies into alternative storylines, finding new use for the protagonist in her work. By creating a compilation of a visceral narrative form, void of stasis and rigidity, instead producing something far more fluid and biomorphic, she reshapes our cultural pursuit for the binary and suggests a complexity that transcends the linear boundaries we as humans have traditionally cultivated. With a similar scope for sensitivity, **Kirin Crooks** recreates past events and encounters into episodic renderings of those exact nostalgic moments. Her faint loose figures serve as warming re-encounters of memory, simultaneously disjointed and unified, with each scene proposing its own scale of accuracy and authenticity.

From Appearance to Exposure explores the transformative journey we undergo, as we attempt to internally adapt to new external stimuli in a world that is in a constant state of flux. Between the chaotic noise and deafening silence, our complex existence continues to unfold, act by act, and scene by scene, with ourselves as actor and audience becoming ever more invested in the performance. This exhibition attempts to detect our dual role as practitioners and participants. How do we engage with a performance that involves us confronting all elements of human nature, both the shadow and the light? What does this exposure offer; pain or hope? Where do we go from here? These are examples of the philosophical insights we must apply to our present selves to determine the direction of our collective future. *From Appearance to Exposure* hopes to initiate these dialogues.



Louise Reynolds

Narcissus, 2022

Oil on canvas

120 x 90 cm

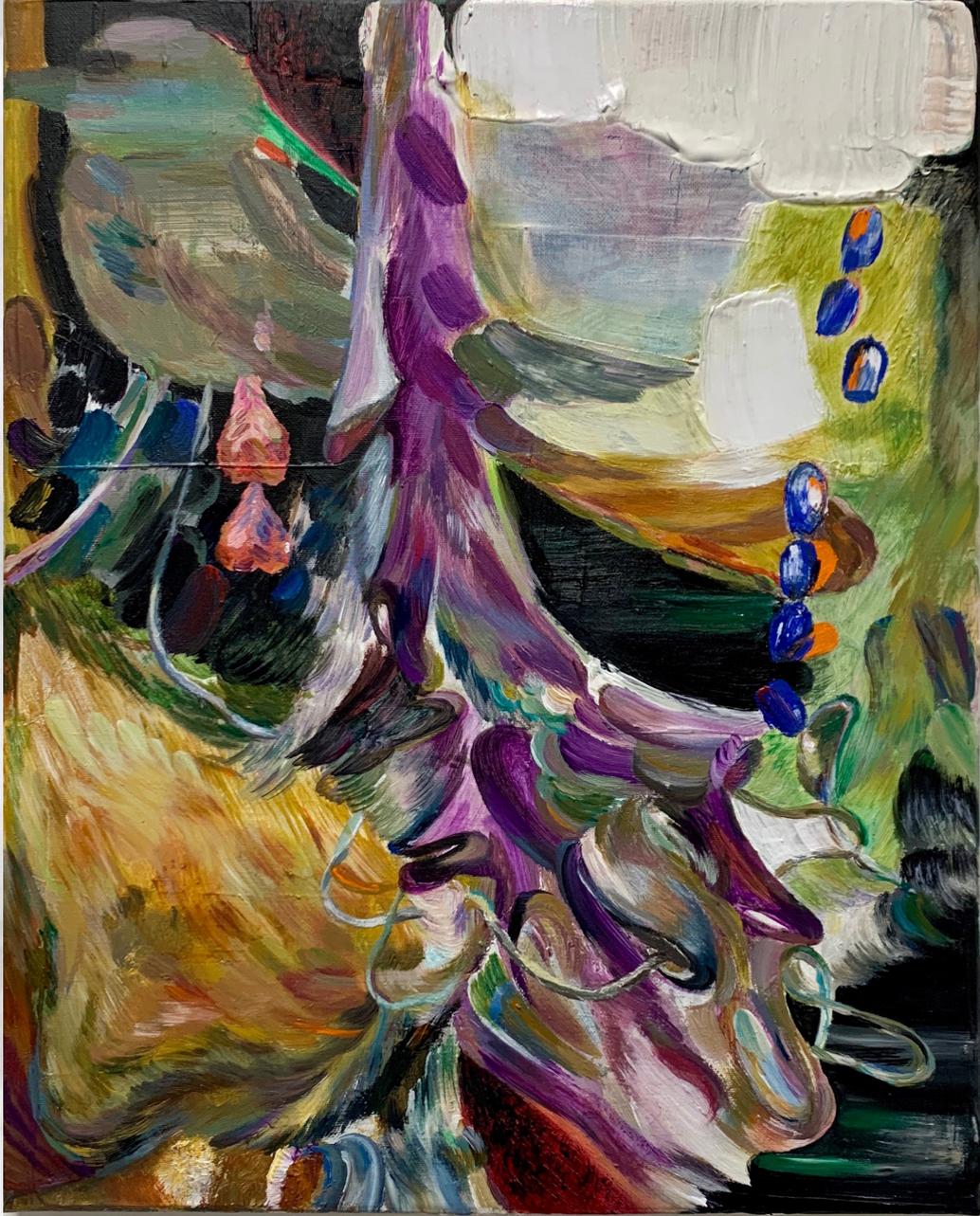


Kirin Crooks

Red Garage, 2021

Charcoal & acrylic on canvas

130 x 160 cm



Yaya Yajie Liang

Dale Kooper, 2022
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 40 cm



Sina Sophia Schmidt

Future Waves, 2022

Pencil, soft pastels & watercolour on paper

17.5 x 24 cm

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