Phyllis Yao

MARCH

For the occasion of NADA Miami 2024, MARCH proposes a solo booth of recent paintings by Brooklyn-based artist, Phyllis Yao.

Phyllis Yao's subjects are born from close observations, personal relationships, and a desire to make connections. In engaging with diverse tactics––drawing, layering, dripping, rendering––and subjects, each painting carries a unique spirit. We find ourselves observing a school's faculty lounge, an uncanny Greek bust, a lone eye in the dark, and the creased palm of Yao's hand, each image the distillation of an everyday experience, demanding a closer look.

It is often daily occurrences that inspire Yao's paintings. Afterwards, images are loosely sketched, reference photos taken, and finally, detailed drawings are made to paint from. Muted colors dominate many of the works, describing the time of day while simultaneously quieting the image, reinforcing a feeling of alienation or extreme individuality). Paintings are completed at different levels of tightness, concerned solely with expressing the subject. In 'Crying with My Student,' transparent layers of acrylic and oil paint reveal the history of every mark. In 'Fortune,' white canvas shines through thin strokes, detailed yet stripped to the essential.

Phyllis Yao was born in 1994 in Queens, NY. She holds a BFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her solo exhibition, *Where is this hope on Earth?* was presented at MARCH (New York, NY) in 2023. She has previously exhibited at the Chinese American Arts Council (CAAC)/Gallery 456 (New York, NY), Hales Gallery (New York, NY), and Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery (New York NY), among others. She has been an artist-in-residence at Lijiang Studio (Yunnan Province, China) and Shandaken: Storm King (New Windsor, NY). She lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.