


Silia Ka Tung

Green Rock and the Magic Mountain



 Mandy
Zhang
Art

Silia Ka Tung
Green Rock and the Magic Mountain
5 June - 17 July 2024

Mandy Zhang Art
16 Seymour Place London W1H 7NG

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Silia Ka Tung is a Chinese-born, London-based multidisciplinary artist who works with drawing, painting, sculpture, and installation, taking inspiration from mythology and the natural world.

Green Rock and The Magic Mountain, the second exhibition since Mandy Zhang Art opened its new Marylebone gallery space, invites viewers to immerse themselves in a fantastical dreamscape created by Tung and inspired by a Classical Chinese folktale written by the legendary writer Pu Songling. Tung uses her sculptural installations and works on paper to create *The Green Hill* (青丘), home to the Nine-tails Fox in the folktale, where myth, nature, reality and magic intertwine and everything can grow, change, and evolve without any human-imposed boundaries.

Tung is fascinated by the complexity of the wonders of nature, myth and folklore of diverse cultures. Tung's maternal grandfather was a traditional Chinese painter whose early influence affected her style and process across many disciplines and media. Growing up in Hong Kong, Tung was also exposed to vibrant pop cultures, Japanese

animation, Manga, and video games, qualities of which have given her source materials in shapes, colours and playful elements in her paintings and sculptures.

It is noteworthy that while Tung relies on instinctual impulses in her two-dimensional works such as painting and drawings, she adopts a more research-driven approach to sculpture. She spends extensive time researching, planning, and collaborating with sewing experts to experiment with size, shape, material and structure to create the initial soft physical object, before switching back to the instinctive mode to finish. The meticulous process allows her sculptures to stand independently or be part of larger installations, and are sometimes able to be reassembled into entirely new artworks.

In *Green Rock and The Magic Mountain*, each artwork acts as a gateway to an alternative dimension where the unfamiliar beckons. This experience may transcend the ordinary, luring viewers to proceed with existential inquiries about the essence of their existence.

Straying from my path the other night, I found myself in The Realm of the Green Hills.

Curiosity blooms like lotus flowers as I tiptoe into the unknown. I feast on fungus, shamle through tangled moss, in search of a new romance.

Among the lush foliage, the breasts of Amazon-maidens blur my sight: trophies, brightly tattooed with their blades, shimmer with triumphant radiance.

Perching among sacred plants, a nine-tailed fox mimics my grace. "1, 2, 3, 4, 5..." she counts and recounts her cherry sins. I blink and they turn into lotus fruits... fig-shaped fruits, enveloping radiance, marvellous. They gently tickle my pride as they cascade through the air.

A voice whispers, 'take one.' A serpent. Slithering down from The Wisdom Tree, hisses from the shadows and echoes in my ear, though we do not share a tongue...

On the Emerald rock, the serpent twirls and the fox swirls, round and round and round, mesmerising in their aura of orange and violet.

Text by
Silia Ka Tung





Silia Ka Tung
Sunny Sides Up Series, 2020 - 2024
Installation View



Silia Ka Tung
Amazon's Ribbon, 2024
Textile, Wooden Frame
25.5 x 14 x 4.5 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Sunny Side Up, 2020
Canvas, Embroidery Hook, Polyfill
37 x 38 x 10 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Sunny Side Up (Yellow Bird), 2024
Acrylic & Embroidery on Canvas, Polyfill
33 x 34 x 7 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Sunny Side Up (Blue Dots), 2024
Acrylic & Embroidery on Canvas, Polyfill
37 x 31 x 7 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Sunny Side Up (Love in A Mist), 2021
Acrylic and Embroidery on Canvas, Polyfill
29 x 26 x 6 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Sunny Side Up (Snowberry), 2020
Embroidery on Canvas, Embroidery Hook, Polyfill
42 x 37 x 10 cm





Silia Ka Tung
Sunny Side Up (Ochre), 2023
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill
22.5 x 25 x 6 cm



Silia Ka Tung
A Prelude to Adventure, 2020
Canvas, Polyfill
45 x 25 x 19 cm





Silia Ka Tung
Green Rock and the Magic Mountain, 2016
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill, Wire and Resin
66 x 50 x 42 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Lady Reishi, 2022
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill, Wire and Quartz
60 x 27 x 14 cm





Silia Ka Tung
Lotus Tears (Buttons), 2024
Textile, Metal, Mirrors, Ceramic
Size variable



Silia Ka Tung
Lotus Tears (Embroidery), 2024
Textile, Metal, Mirrors
Size variable





Silia Ka Tung
Lotus Tears (Pink), 2024
Textile, Metal, Mirrors, Ceramic
Size variable



Silia Ka Tung
Miss S, 2020
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill, Wire and Brick
32 x 47 x 34 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Lady Fox, 2022
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill, Wire and Wood
70 x 33 x 24 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Mr Reishi, 2022
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill, Wire and Brick
53 x 26 x 12 cm





Silia Ka Tung
Ms Foxy, 2023
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill, Wire and Wood
67 x 33 x 32 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Orange Bonnet, 2022
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill, Metal and Quartz
43 x 38 x 19 cm





Silia Ka Tung
String of Raindrops, 2024
Acrylic, Embroidery on Canvas, Polyfill, Wire
204 x 40 x 40 cm



Silia Ka Tung
String of Teardrops, 2024
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill, Wire, Wood
204 x 40 x 35 cm





Silia Ka Tung
Untitled (Tree), 2016
Acrylic on Canvas, Polyfill, Aluminium
68 x 78 x 300 cm



Silia Ka Tung
Windmill, 2024
Acrylic on Canvas
120 x 100 cm





Silia Ka Tung
Nepenthes, 2023
Acrylic on Canvas
114.5 x 80 cm



Silia Ka Tung

The Universe Continues to be in the Present Tense, 2024

Ink and Collage on Paper

194 x 74cm

Silia Ka Tung
Wasn't it the truth I told You, 2021
Ink and Callage on Paper
42.5 x 50cm



Silia Ka Tung
Drew Back Out, 2024
Ink and Collage on Paper
42.5 x 50cm



Silia Ka Tung
Winding House, 2021
Ink and Collage on Paper
42.5 x 50cm



Silia Ka Tung

Biography



Born in China, Tung has lived and worked in London since 1997, where she studied painting at the Chelsea College of Arts (1997-2000), followed by a MFA in Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art (2000-2002).

As a multidisciplinary artist, Silia Ka Tung uses different expressive mediums, including drawing, painting, sculpture and installation, each time constructing her own language always poised between the dreamlike and the real. Ka Tung draws on the sphere of mythology and the phenomena of the natural world, giving life to a universe in which fear and wonder coexist, an irrational dimension that creates the perfect condition for the contemplation of her works. Her work is a psychedelic ballet of organic

shapes in saturated colours dancing together with mysterious creatures reminding us of ancient mythology. The mix of this modern dreamland and the influences of Chinese culture and tradition make her work hypnotizing and unique.

Silia Ka Tung has participated in numerous international solo and group exhibitions, including the Royal Academy of Arts in London; MOCA in Shanghai; the Creative Center in Osaka; The Rubin Museum in Tel Aviv; the Design Center in Marseille; and Jerwood Space in London. Her recent solo exhibitions include “Garden of Heavenly Delights”, Galleria Mimmo Scognamiglio, Mlian in 2023 and “The Mushroom at the End of the World”, Saraceno Art, Rome.

Born in China

Lives and works in London

Education

- 2002 MFA (painting) Slade School of Fine Art, UCL, London
- 2000 BA (Hon) Fine Art Degree, Chelsea College of Art and Design, London
- 1999 ERASMUS/SOCRATES Exchange Program Hochschule der Kunst, Berlin
- 1997 Diploma in Oil Painting, China Academy of Fine Art, PRC

Selected Exhibition

- 2023 Garden of Heavenly Delights (solo), Galleria Mimmo Scognamiglio, Milan, curated James Putnam
- 2022 The Mushroom at the End of the World (solo), Saraceno Art Gallery, Rome curated by Camilla Boemio & Marilena Saraceno
Surface Tension, The NFT Gallery, London curated by Yasmine Datnow
Sense of Place, Watou Arts Festival, Belgium, curated James Putnam & Koen Vanmechelen
- 2021 SHAMANISM, Galleria Mimmo Scognamiglio, Milan, curated James Putnam
- 2020 Glow ShenZhen International Art and Lighting Festival, China
- 2019 Notes - Rubin Museum, Tel Aviv Israel Only Connected Osaka, Creative Centre Osaka, Japan curated by Yutaka Inagawa & Mouhitori
- 2018 Red - Gottesman Etching Centre, Cabri, Israel
- 2017 Father, Daughter, Mother, Son - Canvas Contemporary, Amsterdam, curated by Mette Samkalden
- 2016 Adecade, and more - Gottesman Etching Centre, Cabri, Israel
Topophobia - Gallery 46, Whitechapel, London
Game of Codes (duo) - Migrant Birds Space, Berlin, curated by Xiaohui Guo
- 2014 Warm Home, Hamishkan Leomanut, Holon, Israel, curated by Nurit Tal-Tenne
HuaBao / Story Telling (duo), MistHaus, Shenzhen, China
This Years Models, Studio1.1, London
- 2012 Summer Exhibition 2012, Royal Academy of Arts, London invited by Tess Jaray
The Gatewatcher, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands curated by Ronit Eden
- 2011 On Paper III, Galerie Karsten Greve, Paris
The Shape of Things, Ferrate Gallery, Tel Aviv
- 2010 Resonance Boxes, artists transform violin cases (cat.)- Rubin Museum, Tel Aviv
Small is Beautiful XXVIII, Flowers Gallery, Cork Street, London
- 2009 Group show - The Gottesman Etching Center, Kibbutz CabriTake away, 33 Portland Place, London, UK curated by Maria Nicolacopoulou
- 2008 Guasch Coranty International Prize for Painting, El Centre Metropolita Tecla Sala, Barcelona Chiral (solo) Swiss Cottage Gallery, London, UK
- 2007 Repetition & Sequence -Jerwood Space, London
Silia Ka Tung - (solo) GlaxoSmithKline Headquarters, Bredford, UK
Reversing Horizons - Shanghai MoCA, China curated Johnson TZ Chang and Gao Shiming
The Exposed Animal - KISS Kunst im Schloss Untergroeningen, Germany
Sequence and Repetitions - Beldam Gallery, Brunel University, London
- 2006 Placebo - (solo) Galerie On dirait la Mer, Centre Design Marseille, France
Britishness - Another Product @ Cornerhouse, Manchester
- 2005 Follow Me - (solo) Jerwood Project space, Jerwood Space, Union St. London
- 2003-05 When in Rome (cat), Lewisham Art House, London. Toured to Spacex, Exeter; Castlefield Gallery, Manchester; MAC, Birmingham; Third Floor Arts Centre, Portsmouth
- 2004 Premiere Vue - Passage de Retz, Paris curated by Michel Nuridsany
Summer Exhibition - Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong curated Johnson TZ Chang
2 x 2 - Dahl Gallery of Contemporary Art, Luzern, Switzerland
Le salon Europeen des Jeunes Createurs 49 -France; Portugal; Spain
- 2003 Harmony - 27 Spital Square, London
Games of Chance - (solo) Dahl Gallery of Contemporary Art, Switzerland
The BOC Emerging Artist Award - BOC Headquarter, Windlesham, Surrey
- 2002 Four Colleges Exhibition - AT Kearney, Berkeley Sq. London
London Bizarre - London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, London
Hang the Curator -The Central Space, Faroe Rd., London
Story Teller - Kinnijoe Space, Hamburg, Germany
- 2001 Late Arrivals @ Kings Cross - Kings Cross, London
Linear - West End Centre, Aldershot, UK

Curatorial Projects

- 2024 Michal Rubin, SQFT Space Gallery, London (June)
- 2018 Cheng Ran – Diary of A Madman Trilogy – CCA Tel Aviv, Israel co-curated with XiaoHui Guo
- 2016 Places of Conflict – Artists residency project, China and Israel (Gideon Rubin & Cheng Ran)
- 2012 You Blow Me Away (group show)- Doors showcase, London
- 2011 The Shape of Things (group show) – Ferrate Gallery, Tel Aviv
- 2007 Repetition & Sequence (group show) – Jerwood Space, London co-curated with Sara Williams Sequence and Repetitions (group show) – Beldam Gallery, Brunel University
- 2004 5 Abstract Painters (group show) – Hands Salon, 61 Broadwick St. London

Selected Press

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023 Tre mostre da vedere: recensioni da Milano a Mestre fino a Bari, Artribune, di Redazione,04.11.23
The must-see exhibitions and events in November Milano: “Silia Ka Tung – Garden of Heavenly Delights” Fourisalone, 06.11.23 2022 Exibart: Silia Ka Tung, The Mushroom at the End of the World- by Chiara Cianni 30-11-2022
The Dreaming Machine: Silia KaTung, The Mushroom at the End of the World. Camilla Boemio interviews Silia Ka Tung, 11.12.2022
Meer Art: Silia Ka Tung on show in Rome, The mushroom at the end of the world by RAFFAELE QUATTRONE 30.12.22 2021 Shenzhen first international light art festival www.manamana.net 23-01-2021
Glowshenzhen, Chinese Literature and Art Report CCTV.com 01-03-2021 2017 Silia Ka Tung – Fantasy is interior world’s reality- Anahita’s eye 2016 Topophobia, FADmagazine.com, by Mark Westall
Migrant Birds: “Game of Codes” Ma Li and Silia Ka Tung, by Britannie Searon, BerlinArtLink.com 13.09.2016
Berlin’s Must-See September Exhibitions by Lily Cichanowicz, CultureTrip
Game of Codes Silia Ka Tung & Ma Li, Artzip.org 01-09-2016 2014 Art by Marie Shek www.i24news.tv 04.07.2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011 “The Shape of Things” Color isolation, Haaretz, Daniel Rauchwerger 25.02.11 2007 Time Out London – Repetition and Sequence, Martin Herbert, 29.08.07
Ta King Pao – “Reversing Horizons”, 02.08.07
The Saatchi Gallery daily magazine – Repetition and Sequence at Jerwood Space, Lupe Nunez-Fernandez, 03.08.2007
ColdFringe.org – Repetition and Sequence by Charlotte Din
Schwab Post – “Das Exponierte Tier” 2007.5.22
Rems-Zeitung – “Das Exponierte Tier” 2007.5.19
Uxbridge Gazette – Plethora of arty Talent, Victoria Prewer 2006 Marseille l’hebdo – Silia danse sur la toile, 09.2006 2004 Premiere Vue, catalogue essay by Michel Nuridsany, 09 2004
Freizeitmagazin, Goodbye mit 2x2, May 2004
Apero Newspaper, review 2x2 show, Dahl Gallery, Switzerland
New Luzerner, 2x2 Dahl gallery, Kurt Beck, July 17 2004
Ta Kung Pao – “Cool, Summer Show” 27.07.04
South China Morning Post – “Not-yet Famous Five” Joyce Lau 22.08.04 a.m.post – “Five Individuals, Six Pairs of Hands”, Jasper Lau 2004
Asia Art Archive – World Event, Review 08.2004 2002 Szene Hamburg , Story Teller, 04.2002
100 Reviews, Hang the Curator, Matthew Collings, 2 |
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Special thanks to exhibition sound production:

Fridel - Soho Sonic (asst. Felicity Henry)

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