

The Gods of Small Things

Don Gallery is pleased to announce that on March 11, 2023, it will present the exhibition "The God of Small Things" curated by SUN Wenjie.

"The God of Small Things" will include the latest work of six artists: MA Lili, QIN Xiaoshi, TIAN Qi, XIANG Kaiyang, XIAO Xu and ZHAO Qian. Media featured in this exhibition include painting, installation, video, and embroidery.

The works on show are rooted in the everyday aesthetic experience. The artists transcend the screen to mirror natural interactions, intersperse strange fantasy creatures throughout the exhibition space, highlight the extraordinary by taking the audience's perception back and forth between scenes of reality and distortion, pursue life's truths through the written word, reproduce traditional gods through embroidery, or use installation to bring viewers back to the legendary tales of the Pirates of the South China Coast.

The artists' works echo each other, bringing reality into coexistence with myth, folklore, fantasy, and fictitious creatures. Through creation, figures from myth and folklore are given new life, but this is also because some gods already live on in digital life. For example, *Investiture of the Gods (Fengsheng Bang)* is hailed as the largest upload of digital life in Chinese history. Some of the situations presented in the artists' work are no less an activation of a cross-section of traditional culture. Though the world we live in is still based on instrumental reality, the ambiguous relationship arising from the coexistence of fiction and reality raises doubts about the solidity of the laws that govern human society.

"The God of Small Things" presents a macro view of the artist's imagination; like dewdrops, these works also condense and refract our lives. Plants, currents, surging crowds, the shape of the wind...everything that we call "the everyday" is drawn into a vortex of chaos to re-emerge after a period of stasis. After living through the pandemic in this city together, are we still able to find constancy, reassurance, and trust in our personal lives and in the minutiae of the everyday? True, nothing here is on a grand scale. The exhibition space is filled with trivial, seemingly pointless and small things. Or rather, only the small things remain for us to speak of, and everything that cannot be said is found in silence.