

Arario Gallery Shanghai, LIANG Manqi: Gazing at the Imaginary

Exhibition Highlights

- LIANG Manqi's first solo exhibition in 2023 at the newly opened space of Arario Gallery Shanghai, along with HAN Jiaquan's solo exhibition.
- The exhibition brings together LIANG Manqi's latest series of paintings as the primary clue, utilizing her newest installation, and even the architectural structure of the space as her media, the artist is intended to connect, intervene, and complement the exhibition space with her works of art.



Title	Gazing at the Imaginary
Date	Jan.14 – Mar.04 2023
Location	ARARIO GALLERY SHANGHAI
Exhibited Works	Paintings and mixed media works
Opening Time	TUE – SUN, 10:00 – 18:00 (Closed on Mondays) *Public viewing is possible from 5 pm, on 14 Jan

Arario Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of recent works by LIANG Manqi at its brand-new space in Shanghai. Titled *Gazing at the Imaginary*, on view from January 14th to March 4th, 2023. Featuring LIANG Manqi's latest works, including paintings and installations that have come as a result of self-reflection and consolidation by the artist.

LIANG Manqi uses painting as a medium for deconstructing and reconfiguring the geometry of colors as symbols, exploring and investigating the relationship between the imaginary, symbolic, and real realms. As the three sections of the exhibition are opposed to each other but transformed towards one another, they provide people with a comprehensive experience of entering the phantasm, walking through the ground of symbols, and ultimately arriving at reality.

This exhibition explores the intricacies of the human mind and unravels the enigma inherent in the intangible expressions of thoughts, emotions, and consciousness. Our perception of the world and our experience are inextricably intertwined with our minds. Through optical illusions, déjà vu, delusions, and hallucinations, our minds play tricks that manifest through our actions, which are shaped by perception, thus continuing to shape our world. LIANG Manqi believes that people "register" the image or thing in their minds before they realize what they are seeing in front of them. The sensation of the abstract often overrides our perception of reality. LIANG Manqi's works strive to hold onto each of these fragmented, abstract, and seemingly meaningless but significant moments in our daily life.

"My work is not creating a new image but deconstructing and reconstructing the real images in the limbic system of each of our brains that we tend to ignore, which includes an infinite level of space that I have to ponder for a long time. Color and geometric structure are like a universal formula, freely woven and overlapped on the picture; different colors sometimes interfere with each other to form a conflict, and sometimes they restrain each other to reach a balance; nothing could be more relevant to what I want to express than the relationship between them both."

In addition to the paintings, this exhibition includes a new installation on display, "*Portal*", as a continuation of the artist's passion and response to the space and the powerful dichotomy between our internal and external perceptions and emotions to evoke the emotional blast behind the repetitive actions of mundane life.

LIANG MANQI (b. 1986, Zhuhai, China) graduated from the department of art education at China Academy of Art in 2009 and obtained her MFA in 2012 from the CDK (Chinesisch-Deutsche Kunstakademie), a joint degree program of the University of the Arts, Berlin and the China Academy of Art. She currently lives and works in Shanghai. She uses playful visual language to break the boundaries between the physical space and object, where the line, color, and form extend from the canvas into the real space. And she takes the geometrical shape and color as a method to understand herself and her surroundings, as well as a passage to embrace the psychological uncertainties, contradictions, and conflicts.

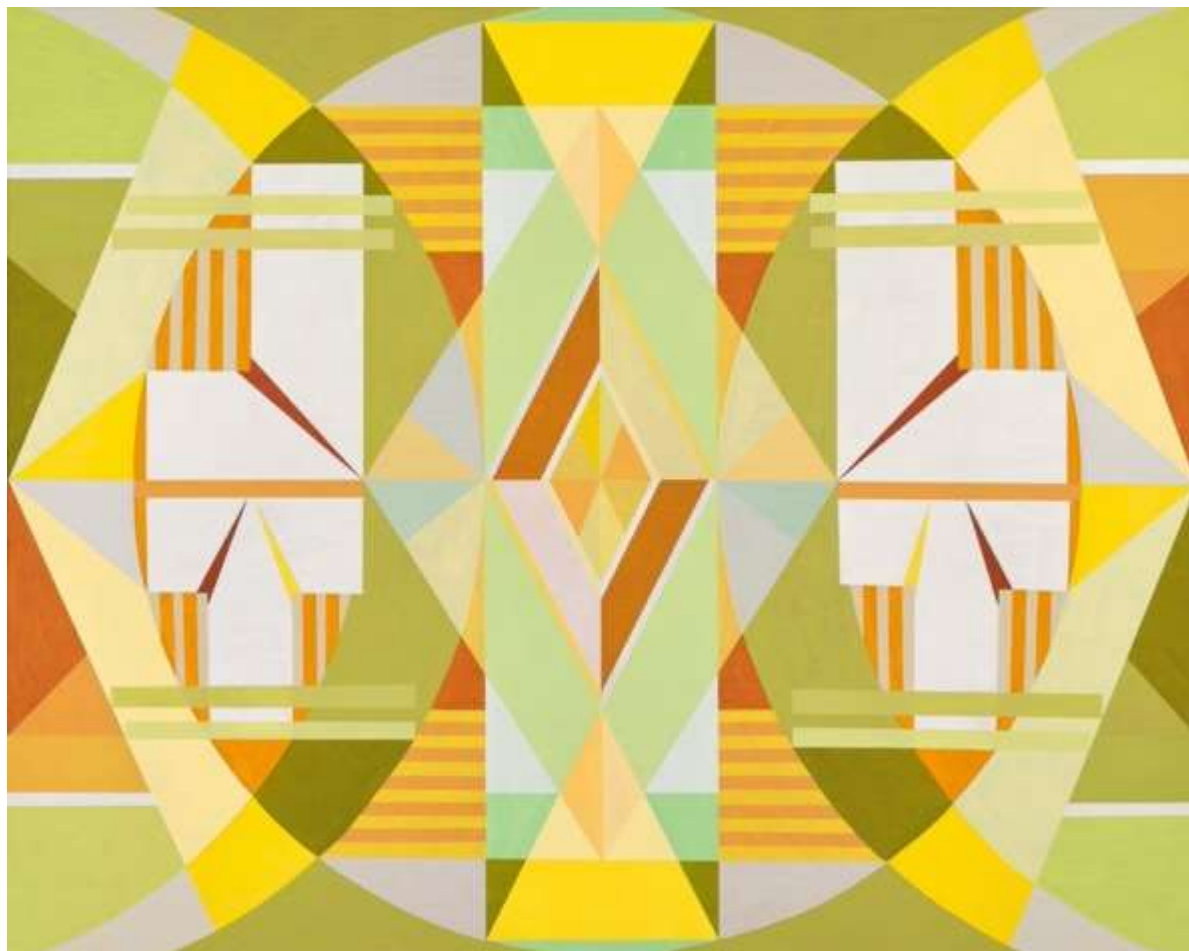
ARARIO GALLERY currently runs three spaces in Korea and China since 1989. Committed to discovering and promoting Asian artists in the international arena, Arario Gallery has been challenging the climate of contemporary art for the past thirty years. Embracing all genres of visual art, paintings, sculptures, film, and installation, Arario represents an exciting roster of artists who are at the frontier of experimental art from the 1970s to the contemporaries, underlining the dramatic history, culture, and society of the Asian region. Arario Gallery primarily promotes Asian and international artists through its space in Shanghai. In addition to diversifying its artist portfolio, Arario has shown a long-time commitment to incubating young artists who have been underrepresented. Arario Gallery now represents fifty artists from Korea, Japan, China, India, and Southeast Asian countries based on the fundamental belief of encompassing a diverse spectrum of generations in contemporary art and opening dialogues for creative pioneers.

From 2005 to 2012 in Beijing, Arario Gallery ranked among the most significant galleries in China, with groundbreaking exhibitions by various artists from across China, India, and South East Asia. Arario Gallery opened space at Hengshanfang, Shanghai, from August 2014 to June 2017 and is relocating to Westbund, Shanghai, in July 2017 to continue being a pioneer of modern art. With the advantages of a broad network operation, Shanghai is an emerging city as Asia's global art hub. Arario Gallery hopes to reinforce its position as an influential gallery with its artists representing various nations in Asia.

Arario Gallery will provide a convenient entry for writing a meaningful history of contemporary art in Asia with exhibitions through its vivid and diverse projects collaborating with museums and incorporations. These projects, carried out along with competitive artists from China and overseas, will contribute to the diversity and vitality of the Chinese art scene.

[Inquiries] Arario Gallery Shanghai +86 021 54249220

Email: info@ararioshanghai.com



LIANG MANQI, Overlapping, Space, Pointer, 2022, Oil on canvas, 160 x 200cm

© Artist and ARARIO GALLERY



LIANG MANQI, *Festival, Play*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 200 x 160cm

© Artist and ARARIO GALLERY



LIANG MANQI, Overlapping, Emotions, 2022, Oil on canvas, 150 x 120cm

© Artist and ARARIO GALLERY



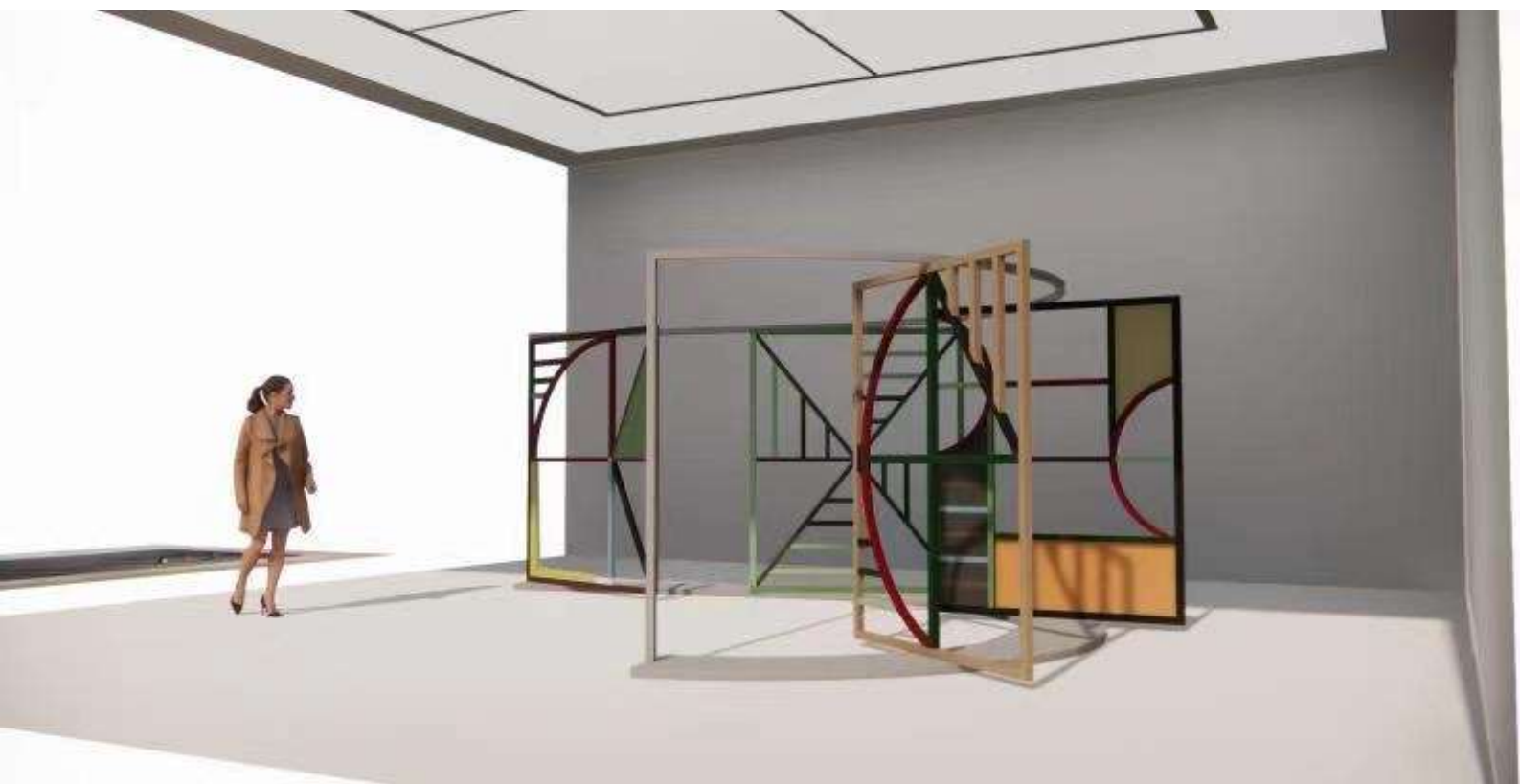
LIANG MANQI, *Placement, Daily Life*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 80 x 60cm

© Artist and ARARIO GALLERY



LIANG MANQI, Diffusion, Still, 2022, Oil on canvas, 150 x 120cm

© Artist and ARARIO GALLERY



LIANG MANQI, *Portal*, 2022, Stainless steel, wood, Size variable

© Artist and ARARIO GALLERY