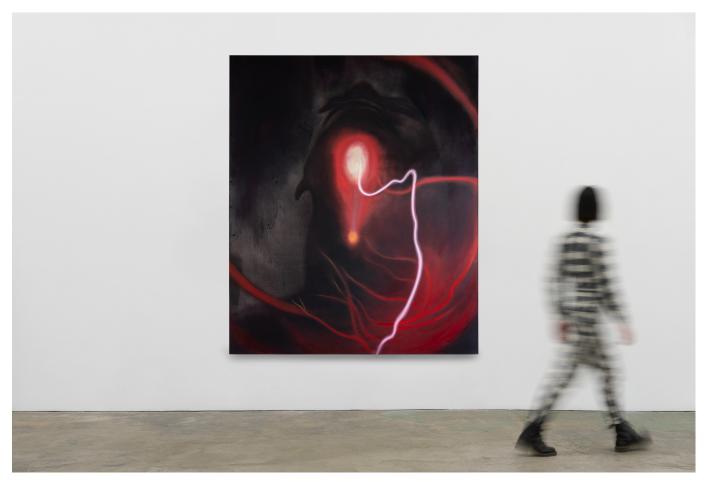


# LIANG FU ASH TO ASHES

Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest November 18 - December 22



Liang Fu, Ash to ashes 尘归尘, 2023, pigment, oil on canvas

#### Ash to Ashes

Prima Materia: Matter in Flux and the Art of Liang Fu

The physical law of entropy that governs material reality is not only an etiology of chaos—it is also the progenitor of transformation, rebirth, and continual reinvention. Artist Liang Fu has cultivated a practice in which such transformation is the guiding ethos, acting as alchemist whose work dances with questions of ambiguity and material cyclicality, urging us to hold space for multiplicity and to sit with the truth that earth will always return to earth. Through the transmutation of water, earth, and mineral pigments, Fu offers new perspectives where change ends not with a reduction to dust and ashes, but rather goes on as a process of endless rebirth—figures forged in fire like the evolution of stars.



Fu's paintings exemplify the allure of forms in flux. Luminous figures and gauzy forms appear almost as landscapes, at once spilling out of and engulfed by the void. Evocative yet ambiguous, his flowing figures exist in the liminal space between figurative and abstract, sensual and intangible, transparent and opaque, eternally in motion and fleetingly captured—and, perhaps most strikingly, between destruction and (re)birth, as in the piece Eternal Blaze, where flesh ripples under an elemental stream that could just as easily be the waters of the womb as the fires of a cosmic alembic.

Yet more dualisms exist in Fu's techniques, where the artist mixes visible with invisible and presence with absence. Enabled by the interplay of oils with water-based mineral pigments, matte and gloss together evoke contours in layers, blurring and reappearing within fluid waves. Carmine red, such as in The Residue of Tide and Star, suggests both the physicality of a body laid bare and the visceral vitality that lies just beneath.

Ash to Ashes brings forth a body of work that oscillates, where the in-between means eternal transformation. Fire, water, and mineral intertwine, at once an alchemical elixir and a metaphysical cycling of elements. As with the five phases (wuxing), elements are not static but cycle through destruction (ke) and creation (sheng). Among the works that embody this cosmic analogy is The Moon Bows to Pupil, where a luminous face evokes the final rites of Empress Dowager Cixi as depicted in Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Last Emperor"—an enormous pearl placed in the woman's mouth, the gem allowing her life to continue eternal in another world. What awaits is not the end, but merely a transition.

Fu's Sediment series is perhaps the purest distillation of this philosophy of transformation. By dyeing crystals in mineral pigments—the same pigments that lay the foundation for his paintings—Fu reunites mineral with mineral and generates new synergy between material origin and material transformed. The sculptures that emerge are rich with delicate flecks and veins of pigment, evoking geologic formations and cosmic nurseries at human scale. Here, pigment and source return to each other in a microcosm of the cycles that renew the earth and its inhabitants. Dust may always return to dust, but Fu reminds us that there is beauty in eternal reinvention.

Liang Fu (b. 1993, Sichuan, China) lives and works in Paris, France. He received his BFA and MFA from National Fine Arts School of Nantes in Nantes, France. Fu's practice centers around the intricate interplay of corporeal forms, geographical landscapes, and the passage of time. Rooted in a familial legacy of antique connoisseurship, Liang Fu's artistic vision is enriched by a deep-seeded understanding of historical aesthetics. Recent exhibitions include Holographic Realm, Hive Contemporary, Shanghai (2023); Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest: 10 Years, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2023); 《星体燎原》 corps célestes, Nicodim, New York (2022, solo). DISEMBODIED, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2022); Intangible, Nicodim Upstairs, Los Angeles (2022, solo); Peripheries, Newchild Gallery, Antwerp (2022). Moonstruck noon, Linseed projects, Shanghai (2023), petit beurre, Maia Muller Gallery, Paris, France (2021).

Ash to Ashes, Fu's third solo exhibition with Nicodim, opens at Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest on November 18, 2023.

### **ARTWORK LIST**



Liang Fu Ash to ashes 尘归尘, 2023 pigment, oil on canvas 240h x 200w cm 94.49h x 78.74w in



Liang Fu Pleated Soul, 2023 Pigment, oil on canvas 150h x 200w cm 59.06h x 78.74w in



Liang Fu
Oath, 2023
oil on canvas
40h x 50w cm
15.75h x 19.69w in



Liang Fu
Cover, 2023
pigment, oil on canvas
39h x 50w cm
15.35h x 19.69w in



Liang Fu
Passage, 2023
Pigment, oil on canvas
110h x 160w cm
43.31h x 62.99w in



Liang Fu Frozen dust 冻尘, 2023 pigment, oil on canvas 200h x 150w cm 78.74h x 59.06w in



Liang Fu Fissure, 2023 Pigment, oil on canvas 40h x 50w cm 15.75h x 19.69w in



Liang Fu Burning shadow 燃烧的影子, 2023 pigment, oil on canvas 200h x 150w cm 78.74h x 59.06w in



Liang Fu
Aube, 2023
Pigment, oil on canvas
50h x 60w cm
19.69h x 23.62w in



Liang Fu
Eternal blaze 永恒的火焰, 2023
Pigment, oil on canvas
200h x 150w cm
78.74h x 59.06w in



Liang Fu candlelight, 2023 Pigment, oil on canvas 40h x 50w cm 15.75h x 19.69w in



Liang Fu Black ember 黑色的余烬, 2023 pigment, oil on canvas 80h x 100w cm 31.50h x 39.37w in



Liang Fu
Aura, 2023
Pigment, oil on canvas
110h x 160w cm
43.31h x 62.99w in



Liang Fu
Dust to dust, 2023
Pigment, oil on canvas
160h x 110w cm
62.99h x 43.31w in



Liang Fu
Aura (2), 2023
Pigment, oil on canvas
40h x 50w cm
15.75h x 19.69w in



Liang Fu Amber, 2023 Pigment, oil on canvas 40h x 50w cm 15.75h x 19.69w in



Liang Fu
The residue of tide and star. Rendez vous (残余的潮汐与星辰的交汇), 2023 pigment, oil on canvas 220h x 195w cm
86.61h x 76.77w in



Liang Fu Pénombre 明暗之间, 2023 pigment, oil on canvas 200h x 150w cm 78.74h x 59.06w in



Liang Fu
The moon bows to pupil 月亮向瞳孔致敬, 2023
pigment, oil on canvas
240h x 200w cm
94.49h x 78.74w in



Liang Fu Sediment 1 沉淀, 2023 pigment, crystal 16h x 14w cm 6.30h x 5.51w in



Liang Fu Sediment 2 沉淀, 2023 pigment, crystal 18h x 14w cm 7.09h x 5.51w in



Liang Fu Sediment 3 沉淀, 2023 pigment, crystal 23h x 20w cm 9.06h x 7.87w in



Liang Fu Sediment 4 沉淀, 2023 pigment, crystal 12h x 14w cm 4.72h x 5.51w in

### Liang Fu

° Born 1993, Chengdu, Sichuan, China Lives and works in Paris, France

#### Education

2021 MFA, School Fine Arts De Nantes Saint-Nazaire, Nantes
2019 BFA, School Fine Arts De Nantes Saint-Nazaire, Nantes
2016 Ateliers Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris, Paris

#### Solo Exhibitions

2023 Ash to Ashes, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (forthcoming) 2022 corps célestes 星体燎原, Nicodim, New York Intangible 如影随形, Nicodim Upstiars, Los Angeles 2015 Déjà-Vu, Zarah, Beijing Underwaters, Modernista, Beijing

#### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2023 Holographic Realm, Hive Center for Contemporary Art, Shanghai
 Galeria Nicodim, 10 Years, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest
 Immaculate Heart of Margaritaville, curated by Devendra Banhart, Nicodim, Los Angeles
 2022 Peripheries, Newchild Gallery, Antwerp

DISEMBODIED, Galeria Nicodim Moonstruck Noon, Linseed, Shanghai

2021 petit beurre, Maia Muller Gallery, Paris Emergence, Riseart Gallery, London Delphian Open Call, Delphian Gallery, London

2019 clou12, Atelier Gallery, Nantes Cabinets of Curiosities, Natural History Museum, Nantes Vitalité, Michel Gallery, Paris Troposphère, 6B Saint-Denis, Paris Archi-culturel, School of Architecture Gallery, Nantes



#### **Awards**

2021 Winners of Delphian Open Call, London
 2019 Favorite of Prize JUVENARTS, Paris
 Favorite of Prize LeGrandPlongeon, Paris

#### **Selected Public and Private Collections**

Marval Foundation, Italy X Museum, Beijing Zi'am Contemporary Art Museum, Beijing ZHI Foundation, Beijing