

pareidolia

par·ei·do·lia per-ī-dō-lē-ə

Margarita Galandina

Cheuk Yiu Lo

Mengmeng Zhang

→ 12 mar. - 17 apr.



M Mandy
Zhang
Art

16 Seymour Place
London W1H 7NG

Pareidolia

Margarita Galandina, Cheuk Yiu Lo, Mengmeng Zhang

12 March – 17 April 2025

Mandy Zhang Art presents *Pareidolia*, a group show of the artists Margarita Galandina, Cheuk Yiu Lo, and Mengmeng Zhang. Running between 12 March and 17 April 2025, the exhibition will showcase a series of paintings, drawings, sculptures, and photographs that respond to the artists' personal experiences of migration and memory. Throughout, *Pareidolia* displays different approaches to figuration rooted in the artists' investigations into their place of origin, shedding light on the interplay between cultural heritage and self-portraits.

The exhibition takes its title from pareidolia—the psychological tendency to perceive familiar images within random or ambiguous visual patterns. This is central to the works on display, particularly in Lo's sculptures, which are shaped by the natural characteristics of her materials. Lo allows the inherent shape, grain, and texture of the wood to guide her carving process: in *The Silent Dress* (2024), the ribbed surface of the wood accentuates the folds in the subject's garment, making them appear as though organically emerged. Beneath these fleeting forms lies a deeper engagement with biography and anthropology, as each artist turns to their cultural origins to investigate the ways identity is constructed, inherited, and transformed.

By combining archival study, ethnographic documentation, and personal exploration, Galandina examines the visual and historical narratives surrounding the indigenous Siberian people of Buryatia. Her drawings and paintings, informed by extensive study of physiognomic archives in Mongolia, challenge conventional associations between likeness and cultural identity. Pareidolia itself arises from the brain's need to impose order on the world through associative processes—processes that are, in turn, shaped by personal experience. The artists in *Pareidolia* mirror this cognitive impulse, drawing upon the visual language and lived experiences of their homelands to construct representations of self. Yet rather than reinforcing cultural determinism, their works reflect on the delicate balance between honoring the past and embracing transformation.

This interplay is made explicit in *Heritage in Motion* (2024), where Lo repurposes a traditional Chinese frame sourced from Fujian province. Though structurally rooted in her nation's artistic heritage, the work reimagines the frame as a foundation from which new forms emerge. Similarly, Zhang's painting *Long Before I Depart* captures a fleeting childhood memory of her mother cycling her home from school. Yet the viewer is only granted a fragment of the scene. The deliberate geographical and temporal ambiguity of Zhang's work underscores the transient nature of memory, suggesting that personal histories, much like visual impressions, are never entirely fixed.

By interweaving personal and collective memory, the artists in *Pareidolia* expand the concept beyond a perceptual phenomenon, embedding it with layers of historical and emotional resonance. Their works ultimately offer a meditation on identity's fluidity—how it is continuously shaped by cultural inheritance, yet never entirely bound by it. In doing so, they highlight the reciprocal nature of perception: we project meaning onto the images we encounter, just as we ourselves are shaped by the histories and traditions we inherit. Yet, this process is not always immediately perceptible. Instead, it lingers in echoes, waiting for the viewer to discern its presence.



Lo Cheuk Yiu

Heritage in Motion, 2024

Wood, Chinese antique wooden bed frame element, acrylic, mineral watercolour
20 x 16 x 6 cm

£ 1,800

(Prices do not include shipping fees and applicable taxes)





Lo Cheuk Yiu
The Silent Dress, 2024
Watercolour on wood
11 x 19 x 56 cm

£ 1,400

(Prices do not include shipping fees and applicable taxes)

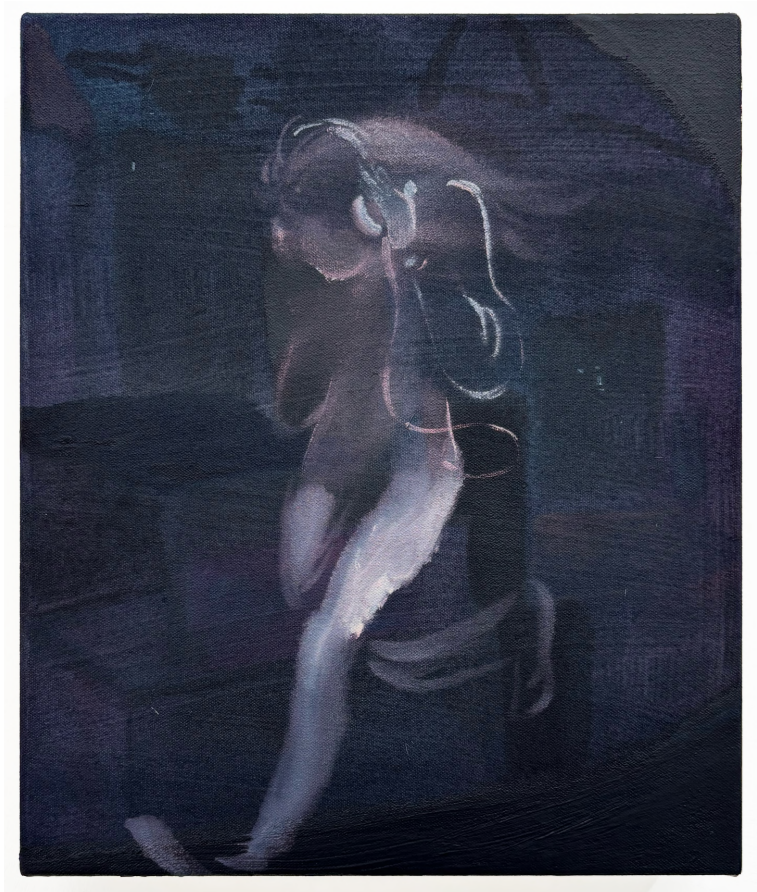
Lo Cheuk Yiu
Biography



Cheuk Yiu LO (b. 1998) is an artist based in Hong Kong and London. She graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art with an MFA in Sculpture in 2023 and the Hong Kong Baptist University Academy of Visual Arts in 2020. Lo's recent body of work focuses on the intricacies of society's overlooked aspects, human emotions, and relationships, blending these themes with a fusion of nature and humanity.

Lo's sculptures are deeply rooted in narrative and emotional exploration, depicting scenes and figures that reflect the silent struggles and resilience of marginalized communities. Her pieces highlight themes of isolation, protection, and the power of creative expression. These works capture the delicate balance between vulnerability and strength, urging viewers to engage with the often-unnoticed segments of society.

Born	1998	Hong Kong
Education	2021-23 2018 2016-20	MFA Fine Art, Slade School of Fine Arts, UCL, London Exchange Study, Iceland University of Arts, Iceland BA (Hons), Visual Art, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
Selected Exhibitions	2025 2024 2023 2022 2020	<p>"Mindcraft," Terrace Gallery, London</p> <p>"X'mas Market," Nexa art, London "Small Works," Fox Yard Studio, London "Glints," AKA Contemporary, Cambridge "Nexart SuperMarket," Nexa aer, London</p> <p>"Weather Report," The Haggerston, London "Outside of History," The Who Gallery, London "Slade Degree Show," Slade School of Fine Art, London "Mind the Gap," UAL Chinese Society, London "Impression," Subtitle Labs, London "Slade Interim Show," Slade School of Fine Art, London</p> <p>"The Edge of Sagehouse," 139 Copeland Rd, London "Synthesis," The Tub Hackney, London "Young Blood – Virtual Edition 02," The Holy Art Gallery, London</p> <p>"2020 Haikou Art Show," Nanhai "Fresh Trend 2020," Hong Kong "2020 Guangzhou Sculpture Show," Guangzhou</p>
Awards	2024 2020	<p>Art Matters 11, Galerie Biesenbach, Germany, Winner</p> <p>Mr Wong Kwok Shuen Memorial Scholarship & AVA Award, HKBU, Hong Kong, Winner</p>
Press	2023 2022	<p>"London Graduates 2023: Young Artists to Watch," Ocula</p> <p>"Time: International Contemporary Art Exhibition, Chinese Year Book," Sheng Shi Ge Ya Art Culture</p>
Collections		<p>HKBU Academy of Visual Art Studies Collection Hong Kong Ocean Park</p>



Mengmeng Zhang

City night, 2025

Acrylic and gouache on canvas
25 x 30 cm

£ 990

(Prices do not include shipping fees and applicable taxes)





Mengmeng Zhang
Long before I depart, 2025
Acrylic and sand on canvas
25 x 30 cm

£ 990

(Prices do not include shipping fees and applicable taxes)

Mengmeng Zhang
Biography

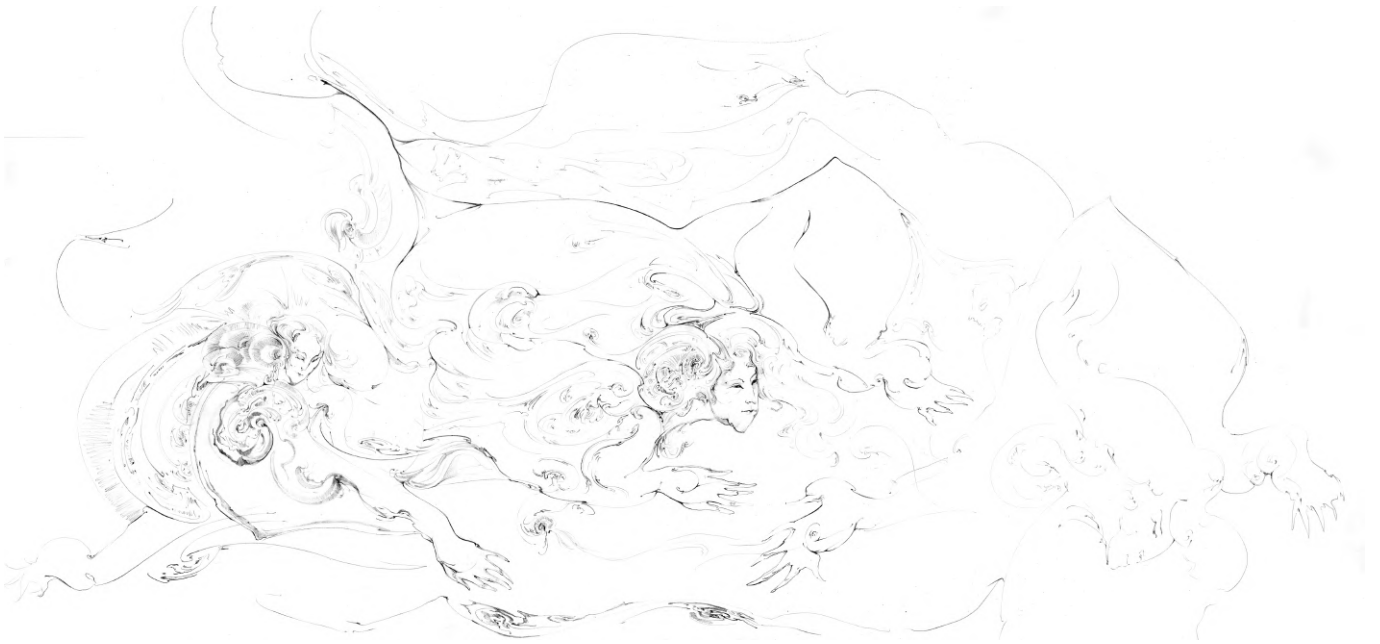


Mengmeng Zhang (b. 1997, Jiangsu, China) is a London-based artist currently studying MFA Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL. She holds a BA from the China Academy of Art and an MA from Camberwell College of Arts.

Zhang works in contemporary painting with interests in fragmentation of daily life. Her works explore the displacement between memory and the present, inner emotion and outer environments. Through intuitive colour choices and expressive mark-making, Zhang incorporates stylized characters to embody moods, actions and experiences inspired by her personal reflections on everyday moments.

In 2024, Zhang presented her first solo exhibition, *Out of Place*, at Bonian Space in Beijing. The same year, she was shortlisted for the New Wave Art Prize at the Bloomsbury Festival and the Hari Art Prize. Zhang has participated in group exhibitions including '*Moving Principle*' at Arusha Gallery (London, 2025), '*Out of the Woods*' at Mandy Zhang Art (London, 2023), '*Floating*' at The Bomb Factory (London, 2023), '*Selects: Vol. 2*' at London Paint Club (London, 2022), '*Intimacy*' at The Fitzrovia Gallery (London, 2022), and '*UNMUTE*' at Copeland Gallery (London, 2021), among others.

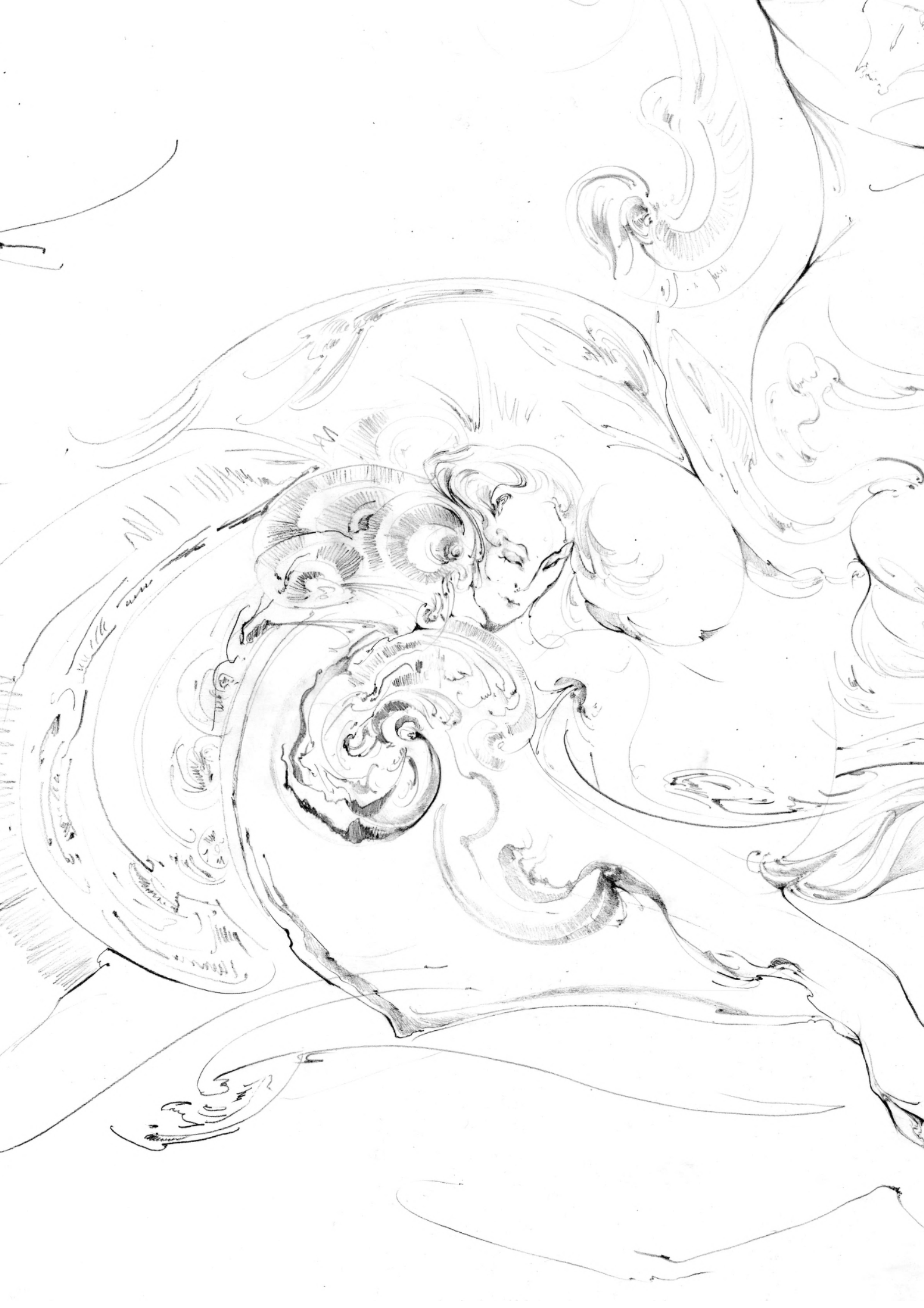
Born	1997	Jiangsu
Education	2023-25	MFA, Painting, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL, London
	2021	MA, Fine Art Painting, Camberwell College of Arts, UAL, London
	2019	BA, Digital Media Design, China Academy of Art, Shanghai
Solo Exhibitions	2024	"Out of Place," Bonian Space, Beijing
Group Exhibitions	2025	"Moving Principle," Arusha Gallery, London
	2024	"Bloomsbury Festival New Wave Art Prize," City Lit Gallery, London
		"Out of the Woods," Mandy Zhang Art, London
	2023	"The Healing Power of Art and Music," Mandy Zhang Art, London
		"Shadows We Cast," The Koppel Project Station, London
		"Floating," The Bomb Factory, London
	2022	"Selects: Vol.2," London Paint Club x Koppel Project Space, London
		"Intimacy," Fitzrovia Gallery, London
		"Flux," Espacio Gallery, London
	2021	"UNMUTE," Copeland Gallery, London
	2018	"Two Person Show: Mengmeng Zhang & Takatomi Mitsuta," Jiemo Gallery, Shanghai
Art Fairs	2024	ART021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair
Awards	2024	Bloomsbury Festival new Wave Fine Art Competition, Runner Up
		The Hari Art Prize, Shortlist
Publications	2023	ArtMaze Mag Issue 30-31
	2022	"The Space Between," London Paint Club



Margarita Galandina
Hүнэнхэн Series, *Spirit I*, 2025
Graphite on paper
140 x 63 cm

£ 1,000

(Prices do not include shipping fees and applicable taxes)



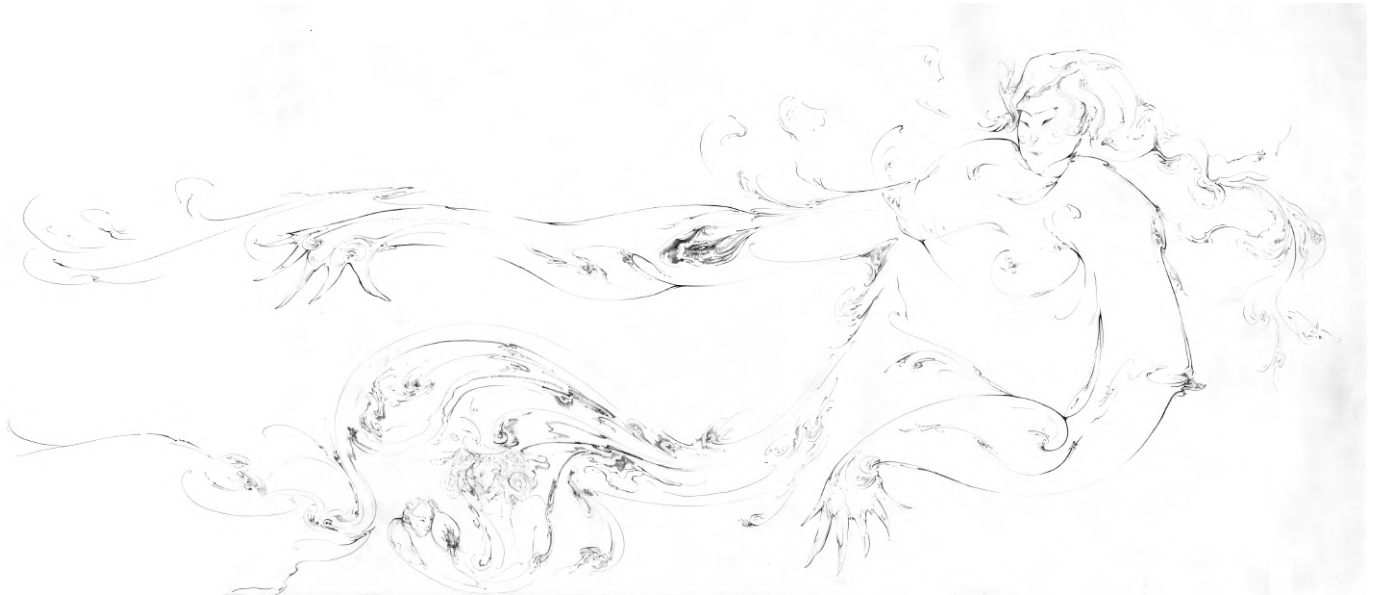


Margarita Galandina
hүнэхэн Series, *Spirit II*, 2025
Graphite on paper
140 x 63 cm

£ 1,000

(Prices do not include shipping fees and applicable taxes)

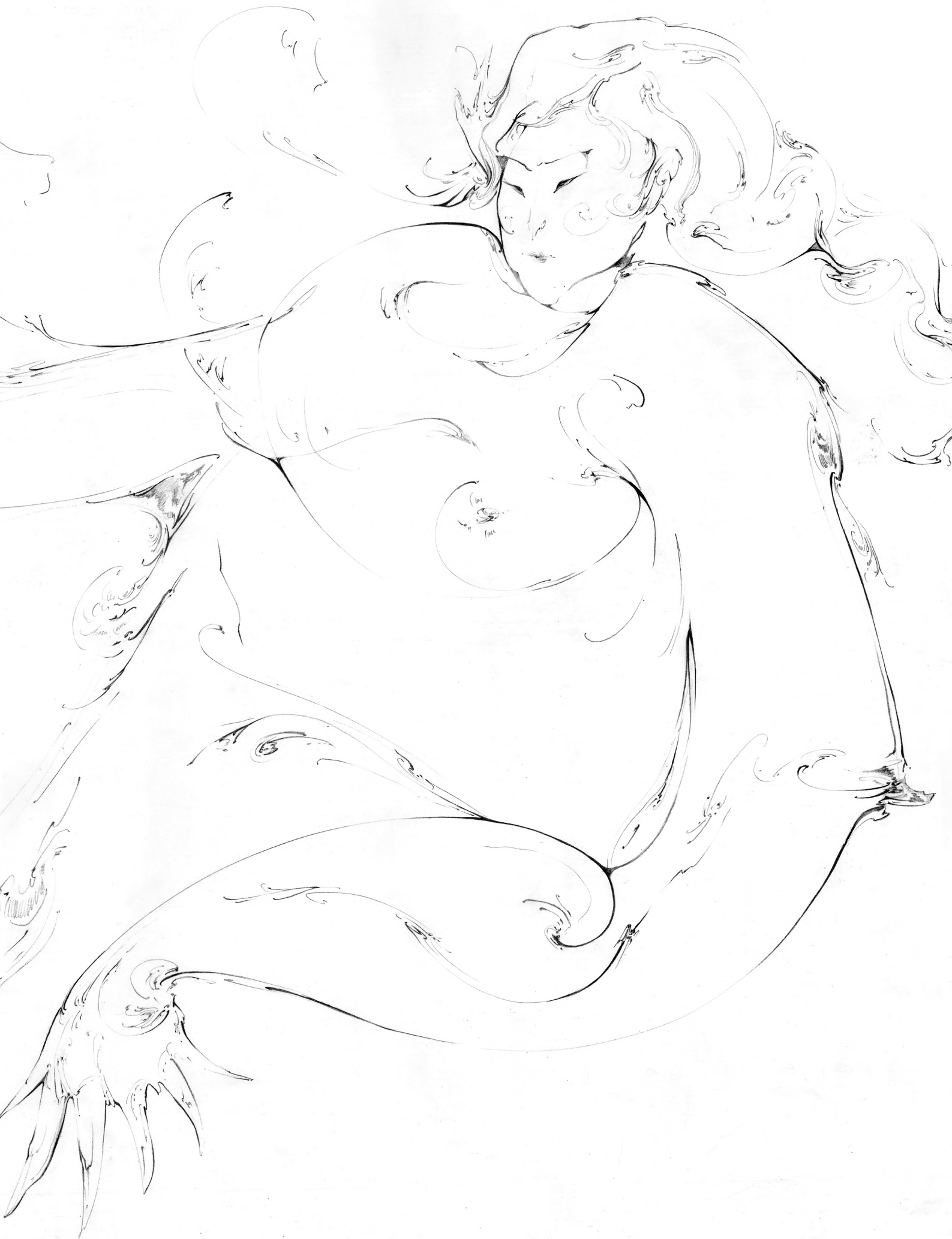




Margarita Galandina
hүнэһэн Series, *Spirit III*, 2025
Graphite on paper
140 x 63 cm

£ 1,000

(Prices do not include shipping fees and applicable taxes)





Margarita Galandina
Ovoo Series, *Self-portrait triptych*, 2024
Glicée print mounted on foam board
42 x 32 cm (each)

£ 600

(Prices do not include shipping fees and applicable taxes)



**Margarita Galandina
Biography**



Margarita Galandina (b. 1999) is a photographer and researcher from Siberia, currently based in London. She was raised in the Republic of Buryatia and maintains a strong connection with her homeland. She studied ballet and academic drawing in her early years before moving to the UK in 2017. Galandina holds a BA in Fashion Communication and Promotion from Central Saint Martins and an MA in Photography from the London College of Communication. Her work is deeply influenced by Indigenous Siberian Heritage, particularly Buryat-Mongolian, and delves into themes of memory, indigenisation, migration, and cultural identity in postcolonial spaces.

Margo has been recognised with several awards and has exhibited her work internationally. In 2023, she was a Mead Fellowship Awardee, included in the Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize 2023 at the National Portrait Gallery, Belfast Photo Festival 2023. She was shortlisted for the Sproxtton Photography Award 2022 and had her work featured in the British Journal of Photography.

Margarita Galandina CV

Born	1999	Buryatia
Education	2021-22	MA, Photography, LCC, UAL, London
	2018-21	BA, Fashion Communication and Promotion, CSM, UAL, London
	2017-18	Foundation, Art and Design, Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts, Cambridge
Solo Exhibitions	2024	"Ovoo: Evocations," The Crypt Gallery, London
Group Exhibitions	2025	"International Photography Exhibition 166," Royal Photographic Society, Saatchi Gallery, London "KLPA Autoportrait," Auckland Festival of Photography, Auckland "Portrait of Britain x JCDecaux, vol. 7, 100 Winning Images" Exhibited Nationwide in the United Kingdom
	2024	"Common Ground," Brighton Photo Fringe, Phoenix Art Space, Brighton "KLPA Autoportrait," Photolux Festival, Lucca "Rethinking Eastern Europe," Arles "Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize," National Portrait Gallery, London
	2023	"Open Submission Photo Book Winners," Belfast Photo Festival, Belfast
	2022	"LCC MA Photography WIP Show," Copeland Gallery, London
	2021	"CSM Fashion Communication & Promotion x London TFL," London
Awards	2025	IPE 166, Royal Photographic Society, Finalist and Exhibitor
	2024	Portrait of Britain, vol. 7, Winning Image KLPA Kuala Lumpur Photography Awards, Autoportrait, TOP30 Finalist International Photography Awards, Honourable Mention Analogue Sparks, Gold Winner in Fine Art/ Conceptual Category
	2023	Infinix x MVA Awards, Best-in-Category Winner Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize, Finalist Mead Fellowship Award

	2022	Belfast Photo Festival, Open Submission Book Winners Sproxtton Photography Award, Shortlisted
Selected Press and Publications	2024	“Echoes of the Steppes: In Search of an Elusive Memory,” VIP Lounge Latvia “UAL Graduate Voices, Margarita Galandina,” UAL website “Portrait of Britain, vol. 7,” Bluecoat Press Capturing and Preserving Memories of Buryat-Mongol Folklore in Siberia, Science Open, EVA London
	2023	Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize Catalogue, National Portrait Gallery “Reflective Nostalgia: Recreating a Lost Russian Childhood,” British Journal of Photography, Performance Issue “Vol. 8,” Docu Magazine “Weekend Portfolio: Margarita Galandina,” Musee Magazine Research Workshop Collected Paper: Capturing Memories: Real and Imaginary, BCS Science Open
Collections		Val Williams Photography Archive London College of Communication archive

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