

Press Release

HAIYING XU  
"Three Hundred Mountains"

Opening: Thursday, February 01, 2024 | 7 pm  
Duration of the exhibition: February 01 – March 30, 2024

Under the title *Three Hundred Mountains*, Gallery Andreas Binder is showing new works by the Chinese artist Haiying Xu, who has lived in Germany since 2001, for the fourth time.

The theme *Sanbaishan* is the most recent development of the Chinese artist Haiying Xu, to which she has intensely dedicated herself since 2018. It can be divided into two phases. In the first phase, the artist chose a yellow boat to connect people and nature. In the second and current phase, this connection is a hot-air balloon.

Significant bodies of water and countless high mountains and forests shape *Sanbaishan*. The artist identifies with the various manifestations of the element of water. The rising mist emerging from the water lends the landscape an impressionist quality, connecting the artist's perception with that seen in traditional Chinese paintings of mountains and water, which she has studied intensively. The ground cannot be seen in the large-format oil paintings. This floating sensation of traveling by boat makes the artist long for the riverbank, making the yellow boat appear to be the only salvation to navigate in the fog again. Yellow is the lightest colour in the spectrum of colours. Her decision to paint a vibrant light against a somber background shows her effort to find hope. The artistic treatment of Haiying Xu's study of nature hints at her soulful qualities and receptivity to different atmospheres. This is the guiding thread in traditional Chinese paintings, which the artist has studied in great detail.

In the second and at the same time current phase of the artist's creative output in connection to this topic, Xu lifts her gaze from the water to the air. It dramatizes the sensation of floating. Specific landscapes gradually become abstract and lose all sense of dimension. The protagonists leave the ground and rise into the air. The cool shade of her previous creative phase transforms into a shade of pink, which does not exist in *Sanbaishan*'s surroundings. All these changes mean that her latest works have become more surreal. In her artistic and intellectual transformation, where Haiying Xu seeks to alienate her paintings, she emphasizes human emotions that are not rationally explainable.

How does it feel to work and live as a Chinese artist in Germany? Where are the cultural differences between female identity in the East and the West? While on her quest for answers, she discovers the dimension of the unconscious, which we have repressed in our shadow, because in day-to-day interactions with other people, we consciously or often unconsciously make efforts to portray a perfect version of ourselves that corresponds to the social norm.

With this intention in mind, the dancing girls, who are floating in the pink-coloured air can be seen as goddesses of liberation. They are reminiscent of the characters in *Feitian*, taken from Dunghuang culture. The *Feitian* are little goddesses who are flying through the skies to celebrate paradise. In principle, Haiying Xu's intuition guides her when creating images. She is an artist who paints the mood with which she reacts to the outside world and, thus, how she relates to her intuition. Her self-critical view is tangible in her artistic expression, which, through aesthetic form, leads the artist Haiying Xu along the path to self-recognition.

(Text excerpts from Dr. Xiao Xiao)

Kerber Verlag publishes a comprehensive book accompanying the exhibition.

*Haiying Xu (born 1975 in Jiangxi) studied design at the Chinese University of Hainan and painting at the Munich Academy of Fine Arts in the master class of Anke Doberauer. In 2009, she won a DAAD Diploma Prize for foreign graduates. She has shown her works in numerous national and international exhibitions (including Biennale mulhouse 010, France; Draiflessen, Mettingen; Kunsthalle Rostock; Berchtoldvilla Salzburg; St. Annen Museum, Lübeck; Kunstverein Loiz; Kunstverein Ebersberg; etc.). The artist lives and works in Munich.*