

# MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

**Yirui Jia: *Seasonist***

534 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, New York

March 14 – April 20, 2024

Opening Reception: March 14, 6-8 PM



**NEW YORK (February 27, 2024)** – Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to present our first solo exhibition with Yirui Jia on view from March 14 to April 20, 2024. Featuring ten new paintings and one sculpture, the show will introduce prominent themes from the artist's surreal world through two new series: *Bouquet Body* and *Emotional Flowers*. *Seasonist* explores physical and psychological presence, change and impermanence through natural phenomena.

Jia creates a new ensemble of fictionalized figures as they emerge from invented scenes surrounded by everyday objects, elements from nature and the changing of seasons. For the artist, each character represents a various range of emotions and tells a story of their individuality. Her iconic bride with an eyepatch conveys anger, desire and happiness seen either alone as an empowering female or blended into a group to show her sense of belonging. Whereas Jia's astronaut depicts the unconquered territories and unknowable feelings we face in a futuristic world, her skeleton becomes a character of great vulnerability identifying with a distant past.

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A *Bouquet Body* painting, *stand shall I, shall I* illustrates an astronaut and a bride standing side-by-side among a calamitous whirlwind. On the bride's dress, log cabins and haystacks swirl around the hem while her bust is stuffed with dried leaves, recalling the summer tornados and autumn winds. Flames and roses grow from the astronaut's body, evoking the rebirth of spring. Each figure seeks to find harmony within nature and themselves.



In *Yellow is the color of their eyes*, a skeleton stands in an upside-down field of blooming sunflowers while the word “mama” seems innocently written into a snow flurry. The infinity loop acts as a disruptive force of tension like a hovering UFO. It's a deeply personal recollection of a photograph from Jia's childhood of her own anxious face, indicating the yearning for her home and family.

Jia's sculpture, *Yooray-256* is made up of found objects which function like a canvas with added dimension. Painted red roses encompass the astronaut in the image and artificial green roses materialize at the end of the antenna, displaying their dual uses within Jia's practice.

### About Yirui Jia

Within Jia's work resides a cast of characters—many of whom are derived from popular culture and cartoon influences to anthropomorphic objects and animals. Each character has their own complex identity within the childlike worlds in which they are portrayed, empowered by the reinvention of the ordinary. Jia embraces the idea of her paintings serving as visualized narratives to the sculptures and vice-versa. The first of her family to become an artist, Jia is inspired by daily life—the personal and shared experiences, “the undifferentiated universality of objects,” and, perhaps most importantly, the humor of it all.

Yirui Jia (b. 1997, Binzhou, Shandong, China) moved to the United States in 2015, where she subsequently received her BFA from Gettysburg College, PA and her MFA from the School of Visual Arts, NY. Her work has been featured in previous solo and group exhibitions at Kiang Malingue, Hong Kong; PM/AM Gallery, London; COMA, Sydney; Bill Brady Gallery, Los Angeles; Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing; LKIF Gallery, Seoul; TUBE Culture Hall, Milan; LATITUDE Gallery, New York; WerkStadt, Berlin; and Hive Art Center, Beijing. Yirui currently lives and works in New York.

### About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded in 1996 by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, who previously headed the worldwide Contemporary and Impressionist & Modern Art divisions of Sotheby's, Mitchell-Innes & Nash places exemplary contemporary artists within a historical context revealing a continuity of ideas

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and aesthetic distinction from the Modern era through the present day. Lucy Mitchell-Innes has served as a member of the selection committee of Art Basel Switzerland and is a former president of the Art Dealers Association of America.

Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program fosters excellence within artistic practice while forging an informed dialogue between emerging and established internationally recognized artists. From acclaimed surveys of 20th century masters such as Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Willem de Kooning, Leon Kossoff, Kenneth Noland, Roy Lichtenstein, and Nicolas de Stael, to solo exhibitions of Sarah Braman, Keltie Ferris, Daniel Lefcourt, Eddie Martinez, Pope.L, Martha Rosler, and Jessica Stockholder, Mitchell-Innes & Nash has proven expertise in both advancing the careers of emerging artists and maintaining the superior standard set by established artists.

## **Images (top to bottom):**

YIRUI JIA, stand shall I, shall I, 2024, Acrylic, gel and glitter on canvas, Diptych, overall: 92 1/2 by 142 1/2 in. 235 by 361.9 cm.

YIRUI JIA, Yellow is the color of their eyes, 2023, Acrylic, gel, Indian ink and glitter on wood panel, 90 by 72 in. 228.6 by 182.9 cm.

© Yirui Jia. Courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York.

**Sales Inquiries:** Jaimie Park, [jaimie@miandn.com](mailto:jaimie@miandn.com)

**Press Inquiries:** Elizabeth DiSabatino, [elizabeth@miandn.com](mailto:elizabeth@miandn.com)