

ZIYUZHANG
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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ziyu was born in 1987. Having transitioned from living through the early 90s of China to tiptoeing through the decade end's Israeli conflict, and then locating with family in Cleveland OH USA, Ziyu gathers artistic influence from a variety of cultural sources. She studied painting mostly through her own practices and contemporary observations. She believes that true understanding of oneself and expressing visually of that understanding depends not on formative education, but on one's own initiative to keep on pondering. In late 2009, Ziyu moved to Shanghai, where she currently resides. The return to China has given the artist an unpredicted opportunity to reevaluate the context that we so call a "community," a "nation," or a "world" in which we live.

PRELUDE

The artist herself cannot possibly know the depth of the image she creates. Her work is beyond her. "My work is beyond me. I want you, the viewer to see the image and feel, create a narrative, a story of imagination, of reality. You, then, become the creator. That type of interaction is critical and adorable. Your biggest take away from this exhibit should be your interpretation and your story that you narrate walking through these paintings. To have your own feelings, perspectives, and hopefully come out of the exhibit refreshed in some way would be the ultimate triumph.

“THE ELEPHANT THAT STAYED IN THE ROOM” INTRO

somehow, we have taken humanity's words of natural history. animals came before men. where are their places now in history, in our physical spaces? are these animals in this show symbolic? or a real live being? you are welcome to interpret any of this in any way that you would like. it would be interesting to share with you today how some of the others thought of these art: one said it's "an optimistic outlook of the world when the world ends and the animals take over." Another said it's "reverse civilization, possibly a loss of humanity." Modern humanity confronting traditional humanity and vice versa? Someone else cried out, "playful yet unnerving!" -- On first look, it might see like a colorful happy place, yet when you take closer looks, it really draws on you to think, to enter a world of tensions.

LESSER FLAMINGO

The Lesser Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus minor*) is a species of flamingo occurring in sub-Saharan Africa with another population in India. Birds are occasionally reported from further north, but these are generally considered vagrants.

In the Rann of Kutch salt marsh of India and Pakistan, Greater Flamingos are occasionally electrocuted when they sit on 1000 watt electric cables near their breeding areas. Recently 49 deaths were officially recorded in the region. People are killing them for food in the salt marshes Rann of Kutch in India and Pakistan.

Despite being the most numerous species of flamingo, it is classified as near-threatened due to its declining population and the low number of breeding sites, some of which are threatened by human activities.



Flamingo1 | Oil | 100cm x 80cm

HOLSTEIN CATTLE (COW)

Holsteins (also known as Holstein-Friesian cattle or Friesian cattle) are a breed of cattle known today as the world's highest-production dairy animal. Originating in Europe, Holsteins were bred in what is now the Netherlands and more specifically in the two northern provinces of North Holland and Friesland. They were the regional cattle of the Batavii and Frisii, two tribes who settled in the coastal Rhine region 2,000 years ago.

Milk production: the breed currently averages 7655 litres/year throughout 3.2 lactations with pedigree animals averaging 8125 litres/year over an average of 3.43 lactations. By adding, lifetime production therefore stands at around 26,000 litres.



Cow 1 | Oil | 100cm x 80cm

ANGOLAN GIRAFFE

G. c. angolensis, the Angolan or Namibian giraffe, is found in northern Namibia, south-western Zambia, Botswana and western Zimbabwe. A 2009 genetic study on this subspecies suggests that the northern Namib Desert and Etosha National Park populations form a separate subspecies. It is estimated that no more than 20,000 remain in the wild; and approximately 20 are kept in zoos.

The name giraffe has its earliest known origins in the Arabic word *zarafa* (زرافة), perhaps from some African language. The name is translated as "fast-walker". There were several Middle English spellings such as *jarraf*, *ziraph*, and *gerfauntz*.

The giraffe (all species)'s scattered range extends from Chad in the north to South Africa in the south, and from Niger in the west to Somalia in the east. Giraffes usually inhabit savannas, grasslands, and open woodlands. Their primary food source is acacia leaves, which they can browse at heights that most other herbivores cannot reach.



Giraffe 1 | Oil | 100cm x 80cm

BLUE WHALE

The blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) is a marine mammal belonging to the suborder of baleen whales (called Mysticeti). At 30 metres (98ft) in length and 180 metric tons (200 short tons) or more in weight, it is the largest known animal to have ever existed.

Blue whales were abundant in nearly all the oceans on Earth until the beginning of the twentieth century. For over a century, they were hunted almost to extinction by whalers until protected by the international community in 1966. A 2002 report estimated there were 5,000 to 12,000 blue whales worldwide, located in at least five groups.

Blue whales may be wounded, sometimes fatally, after colliding with ocean vessels, as well as becoming trapped or entangled in fishing gear. The ever-increasing amount of ocean noise, including sonar, drowns out the vocalizations produced by whales, which makes it harder for them to communicate.



Whale 1 | Oil | 100cm x 80cm

TAKIN

The takin (/ˈtɑːkɪn/; *Budorcas taxicolor*; Tibetan: རྩ་གྱུ་, Wylie: ra rgya), also called cattle chamois or gnu goat, is a goat-antelope found in the Eastern Himalayas. There are four subspecies: *B. taxicolor taxicolor*, the Mishmi Takin; *B. taxicolor bedfordi*, the Shanxi or golden takin; *B. taxicolor tibetana*, the Tibetan or Sichuan takin; and *B. taxicolor whitei*, the Bhutan Takin. Mitochondrial research shows that takin are related to sheep, its similarity to the muskox being an example of convergent evolution. The takin is the national animal of Bhutan.

Takin are found from forested valleys to rocky, grass covered alpine zones, at altitudes of between 1,000 and 4,500 metres above sea level. Largely due to overhunting and the destruction of their natural habitat, the takin is considered Endangered in China and Vulnerable per the IUCN. Though they are not a common species naturally, their numbers appear to have been reduced considerably.



Takin 1 | Oil | 100cm x 80cm

AFRICAN BUSH ELEPHANT

The African bush elephant or African savanna elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) is the largest living terrestrial animal, being up to 3.96 m (13.0 ft) tall at the shoulders (a male shot in 1974). The trunk is used for communication and handling objects and food. African elephants also have bigger tusks, large modified incisors that grow throughout an elephant's lifetime. They occur in both males and females and are used in fights and for marking, feeding, and digging.

The adult African bush elephant generally has no natural predators (other than humans) due to its great size. Humans are the elephant's major predator. They have been hunted for meat, skin, bones, and tusks. Trophy hunting increased in the 19th and 20th centuries, when tourism and plantations increasingly attracted sport hunters. In 1989, hunting of the African bush elephant for ivory trading was forbidden, after the elephant population fell from several million at the beginning of the 20th century to fewer than 700,000. Trophy hunting continues today.



Elephant 1 | Oil | 80cm x 100cm

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