

展览：炼金师（ALCHEMISTS）

艺术家：

阿利亚·阿赫马德，帕姆·伊芙琳，杰德·法多朱蒂米，索菲亚·勒布，艾玛·麦金太尔，伊拉娜·萨维迪，玛丽娜·佩雷斯·西芒，黛西·帕里斯，安·特兰

策展人：伊琳娜·斯塔克

开幕：2024年11月6号（周三）

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展览地址：池社，中国上海市徐汇区龙腾大道2555-1号

池社欣然呈现《炼金师》群展，汇集了九位当代女性艺术家——阿利亚·阿赫马德（Alia Ahmad）、帕姆·伊芙琳（Pam Evelyn）、杰德·法多朱蒂米（Jadé Fadojutimi）、索菲亚·勒布（Sophia Loeb）、艾玛·麦金太尔（Emma McIntyre）、伊拉娜·萨维迪（Ilana Savdie）、玛丽娜·佩雷斯·西芒（Marina Perez Simão）、黛西·帕里斯（Daisy Parris）和安·特兰（Anh Tràn）。这些艺术家通过多样的媒介和风格，挑战传统叙事方式，提供超越字面表达的新视角。

此次展览将于池社的上海新空间开幕，庆祝抽象艺术的变革力量以及这些艺术家们如何将无形转化为可见的创新方式。展览标题来自保罗·科埃略的同名书籍《炼金师》，书中展先了牧羊男孩圣地亚哥追寻“个人传奇”的变革之旅——即每个人的人生目的和命运。追寻个人传奇被视为一种重要的任务，它鼓励我们真实地生活，追随梦想，并为生活带来深刻的满足感和意义。

传统的炼金术旨在将普通金属转化为黄金并追求“贤者之石”，而艺术炼金术则强调将原始、普通的材料转化为深刻且具有变革意义的艺术作品。艺术创作充满了转化的神秘性，这往往为创作者和观者提供一种超凡体验。

《炼金师》展览汇聚了来自不同文化背景的艺术家，尽管她们关注的主题各异，但她们选择通过抽象语言来表达自己的故事。她们可以被称为“隐喻的炼金师”，因为她们在创作过程中使用炼金术的概念作为隐喻。

阿利亚·阿赫马德（Alia Ahmad，1996年生于沙特阿拉伯）、帕姆·伊芙琳（Pam Evelyn，1996年生于英国）、索菲亚·勒布（Sophia Loeb，1997年生于巴西）和玛丽娜·佩雷斯·西芒（Marina Perez Simão，1980年生于巴西）的绘画作品可以被视为一种“精神”或“情感”的转化，她们的创作过程均将个人经历、情感或想法转化为引人注目的视觉表达。

阿赫马德常常探索动态和人们的姿态来理解地方感和归属感；她通过交汇景观与记忆的绘画，探讨了变化、适应和记忆在贝都（Bedouin）的人口迁徙仪式中，在她的家乡利雅得（Riyadh）的环境变化中，以及工业变革中的重要性。勒布的作品则倡导在普遍的体系中实现和谐，她试图创造一个基于“统一”哲学的空间，在其中土地不受人为破坏的影响。西芒则善于对巴西本土景观的记忆和图像进行并置与积累，使其绘画具有一种脉动的特质。对西芒来说，她的画作是“连接过去、现在与未来的未知领域的门户”。而伊芙琳的抽象画作充满了线条和色彩的纠缠，通过冲动与偶然的创作过程再现具象形态和景观结构。她在一次采访中说：“我的绘画几乎是对持续积累的伤疤的疗愈，这些伤疤是在一次次尝试描绘形体的失败后而留下的。”

炼金术富含象征意义，艺术家们将这些象征——如贤者之石、咬尾蛇（吞食自己尾巴的蛇）或代表作的概念——融入她们的创作中，以唤起更深层次的主题与意义。神秘和象征元素往往构成艺术作品的核心。杰德·法多朱蒂米（Jadé Fadojutimi）的作品描绘了神秘的景观，它介于具象与抽象之间，试图创造一种与现实世界平行且独立的现实。法多朱蒂米（1993年生于英国，尼日利亚裔）解释说，她的作品“质疑情感的存在及对日常体验的反应。它们质疑我们的感知和视角，同时呈现出内心的挣扎。它们承认一种自我缺失，那是一种由于无意识地认为自己的身份已经被定义而导致的缺失，也表现了绘画比我更能接受这些特征的挫败感。”

正如炼金师试图将普通材料转化为珍贵物质，艺术家们通过各种技术将普通材料转化为突破性的艺术作品。这可能涉及对颜料、混合媒介或非传统创作材料的创新型使用。艾玛·麦金太尔（Emma McIntyre 1990年生于新西兰）的“铁锈画”通过将氧化铁倒在画布上，开启一段铁锈形成的过程，使画作会随着时间演变。

随着化合物中原子的运动逐渐稳定，进一步的形态标记和浇注层被加入其中。这是麦金太尔对在颜料中发生的“炼金术转化”热情的最清晰的体现，这也为她提供了探索新的画布表面处理方式的机会。

艺术实践中的炼金术涉及对材料和技术的实验，推动传统艺术形式的边界，发现新审美和新概念的可能性。安·特兰（Anh Trần 1989 年生于越南）的绘画实验包括大幅沉浸式的表现，以自传形式探讨她的移居经历。从越南到欧洲，再到新西兰度过的十年，她发展了抽象风格作为自己对社会主义现实主义的学术历史局限的回应——这种风格围绕大胆的笔触、富有表现力的色彩、层次、厚涂法和拼贴进行结构化创作。作为移居经历的一部分，她的美学语言强调了西方和东南亚国家之间艺术方法的语言差异，及其与地方性政治策略的紧密联系。

对艺术家而言，创作过程可被视为一种“个人的或是精神的炼金术”，创作艺术的行为可促成个人成长和转变，正如炼金师对启蒙和转化的追求一样。

黛西·帕里斯（Daisy Parris, 1993 年生于英国）是一位善于描绘心理空间的画家，她充满情感的抽象画作仿佛是从日记中撕下的页面。它们亲密而又脆弱，展现了关于人际关系和经历的思考与感受的“记录”意识流。伊拉娜·萨维迪（Ilana Savdie, 1986 年生于美国，在哥伦比亚巴兰基亚长大）的作品则探索了与人类行为、心理状态和社会动态相关的主题。她的创作深入探讨了身份的复杂性以及人际关系的细微差别。萨维迪将具象元素进行扭曲或抽象化，反映出人类身份的内在动荡或是碎片化的状态。她表示：“绘画提醒我有一个身体……我可以颠覆、重构、重新配置并重新引导在画布上共同存在的力量，创造多种形体之间的路径，形成对比的质感、形态和颜色。我将这些形态视为器官、断裂的骨骼、和无拘无束的部分，它们可以打破权力和依赖之间的平衡。”

关于艺术家

- 阿利亚·阿赫马德（1996 年生于沙特阿拉伯利雅得）
<https://www.aliaahmad.com/>
- 帕姆·伊芙琳（1996 年生于英国吉尔福德）
<https://www.pacegallery.com/artists/pam-evelyn/>
- 杰德·法多朱蒂米（1993 年生于英国伦敦）
<https://jadefadojutimi.com/>
- 索菲亚·勒布（1997 年生于巴西圣保罗）
<https://www.houldsworth.co.uk/artists/216-sophia-loeb/overview/>
- 艾玛·麦金太尔（1990 年生于新西兰奥克兰）
<https://chateaushatto.com/artist/emma-mcintyre/>
- 伊拉娜·萨维迪（1986 年生于美国迈阿密，在哥伦比亚巴兰基亚长大）
<https://www.ilanasavdie.com>
- 玛丽娜·佩雷斯·西芒（1980 年生于巴西维多利亚）
<https://mendeswooddm.com/artists/36-marina-perez-simao/>
- 黛西·帕里斯（1993 年生于英国肯特）
<https://www.daisyparris.com/>
- 安·特兰（1989 年生于越南 Bến Tre）
<https://societeberlin.com/artists/anh-tran/>

关于策展人

伊琳娜·斯塔克（Irina Stark）是一位常驻洛杉矶的艺术顾问，特别关注亚太地区。连续两年，她被《ARTnews》评为“艺术界 75 位顶尖专业人士”以及“艺术界 135 位顶尖专业人士”之一。在创立自己的创意咨询公司之前，伊琳娜在欧洲和美国的知名商业画廊及艺术机构工作了超过 15 年。她拥有艺术史与策展研究硕士学位，以及地缘政治哲学硕士学位（MPhil）。

关于池社

池社，由收藏家薛冰先生发起创建，面向全球艺术家开放的非盈利艺术空间。关注多元文化思潮并实践于中国当代语境。旨在推动最前沿艺术文化的国际交流与合作，繁荣艺术创作、学术研究及收藏。空间名称源自张培力、耿建翌、王强、宋陵等艺术家于 1986 年创办的艺术团体“池社”，创始人薛冰先生也借此向艺术家致敬。

自创立 2017 年之始，池社立足上海西岸，与众多专业的国际艺术机构、艺术家、策展人和媒体进行深度合作，为众多艺术家举办了中国乃至亚洲首个主题展览、论坛及出版等。

如需更多信息，请联系：

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Exhibition: *ALCHEMISTS*

Artists:

Alia Ahmad, Pam Evelyn, Jadé Fadojutimi, Sophia Loeb, Emma McIntyre, Ilana Savdie, Marina Perez Simão, Daisy Parris, and Anh Trần

Curator: Irina Stark

Opening Ceremony: 6 November 2024

Duration: 7 November 2024 - 17 December 2024

Location: Pond Society, No. 2555-1 Longteng Avenue, Xuhui District, Shanghai, China

Pond Society is excited to present *ALCHEMISTS*, a group exhibition of nine contemporary women artists - Alia Ahmad, Pam Evelyn, Jadé Fadojutimi, Sophia Loeb, Emma McIntyre, Ilana Savdie, Marina Perez Simão, Daisy Parris, and Anh Trần - all of whom, through diverse mediums and styles, challenge conventional storytelling and offer new perspectives on how narrative can be conveyed beyond literal representation.

Inaugurating Pond Society's new Shanghai space, the show celebrates the transformative power of abstraction and the innovative ways these artists turn the intangible into the visible.

Exhibition takes its title from Paulo Coelho's eponymous book *The Alchemist*, which delves into the transformative journey of Santiago, the shepherd boy who dares to pursue his *Personal Legend*, - an individual's purpose and destiny in life. Pursuing one's Personal Legend is highlighted as an essential task as it encourages us to live authentically, follow our dreams, and bring a deep sense of satisfaction and meaning to life.

While traditional alchemy was concerned with transforming base metals into gold and seeking the philosopher's stone, artistic alchemy involves the idea of turning raw, ordinary materials into profound and transformative works of art. Artistic creation is transformative and mystical, often providing a transcendental experience for both the creator and the viewer.

ALCHEMISTS features artists from diverse cultural backgrounds, who despite their varied concerns, choose to convey their stories through the language of abstraction. They can be described as agents of *Metaphorical Alchemy* as they use the concept of alchemy as a metaphor for their creative process.

Alia Ahmad (b. 1996, Saudi Arabia), Pam Evelyn (b. 1996, UK), Sophia Loeb (b. 1997, Brazil) and Marina Perez Simão (b. 1980, Brazil) make paintings that are felt as a form of "spiritual" or "emotional" transformation, where their creative process transforms personal experiences, emotions, or ideas into compelling visual statements.

Ahmad explores gesture and movement in order to understand place and belonging; she narrates the convergence of landscape and memory, negotiating the vital role of change, adaptation and remembrance in the migratory rituals of the Bedouin, and the environmental and industrial fluctuations of her home city, Riyadh. Loeb's work advocates for harmony within the universal system, a space predicated upon a philosophy of oneness where the land is unimpacted by manmade destruction. Perez Simão's paintings have a pulsating quality and are based on juxtaposition and accumulation of memories and images of landscapes from her native Brazil. For Perez Simão these paintings are 'portals to uncharted territories that bridge the past, present, and future'. Evelyn's abstract paintings are textured with entanglements of line and colour and are informed by figuration and landscape structures, recreated through a process guided by impulse and chance. '*My paintings are almost the accumulative healing from scars of failed attempts to realise a form*', - Evelyn states in one of her interviews.

Alchemy is rich with symbolism, and artists incorporate these symbols - such as the philosopher's stone, the ouroboros (a serpent eating its tail), or the concept of the magnum opus (great work) - into their practice to evoke deeper meanings and themes. *Mystical and Symbolic elements* often constitute the core of an artist's work.

Jadé Fadojutimi's works depict mysterious landscapes which straddle the line between figuration and abstraction, an attempt to create a form of reality which is parallel to but separate from the real world. Fadojutimi (b. 1993, UK, of Nigerian heritage) explains that her works '*question the existence of feelings and reactions to daily experiences. They question our perceptions and perspectives whilst manifesting struggles. They recognize a lack of self, caused by automatically thinking that my identity is already defined, and also a frustration that paint can accept these characteristics better than myself.*'

Just as alchemists sought to transform base materials into something precious, artists use various techniques to transform mundane materials into groundbreaking artworks. This could involve innovative uses of paint, mixed media, or unconventional materials. Emma McIntyre's (b. 1990, New Zealand) 'rust paintings' materialize with the pouring of iron oxide on a canvas, setting in motion a rusting process that sees the painting evolve over time. As the movement of atoms in the chemical compound begins to settle, gestural marks and further pours are slipped on top. This is the most articulated example of McIntyre's enthusiasm for the *Alchemical Transformation* that takes place within the paint and that offers her opportunities to explore new processes of working the canvas surface.

Alchemy within artistic practice involves experimentation with materials and techniques, pushing the boundaries of traditional art forms to discover new aesthetic and conceptual possibilities. Anh Trần's (b. 1989, Vietnam) painting experimentations consist of immersive representations, operating autobiographically within her own displacements. From her departure to Europe from Vietnam, after a decade spent in New Zealand, she developed abstraction as a response to historical academic restrictions - structured around Socialist Realism - by encompassing bold brushstrokes, expressive colors, layers, impasto, and collage. While living a diasporic experience, her aesthetic language underlines interest in the linguistic differences between Western and South-Eastern countries' artistic methods, in their closeness to situated political strategies.

For artists, the creative process is seen as a form of *Personal or Spiritual Alchemy*, where the act of creating art leads to personal growth and transformation, much like the alchemists' quest for enlightenment and transformation.

Daisy Parris (b. 1993, UK) is a painter of psychological space, their emotionally charged abstract paintings feel like pages ripped from a diary. They are intimate, vulnerable, and revealing streams of consciousness - "entries" of thoughts and feelings about human relationships and experiences. Ilana Savdie (b. 1986, USA and raised in Barranquilla, Colombia) explores themes related to human behavior, psychological states, and social dynamics. Her practice delves into the complexities of identity and the nuances of interpersonal relationships. Savdie incorporates figurative elements that are distorted or abstracted, reflecting the inner turmoil or fragmented nature of human identity. *"Painting serves as a reminder that I have a body... I can pervert, rescale, reconfigure, and reroute the paths of power in figures that co-exist intimately on the canvas as contrasting textures, gestures, and colors. I see these gestures as organs, fractured bones, unbound parts that displace the equilibrium of power and dependence."*

About Artists

- Alia Ahmad (b. 1996, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)
<https://www.aliaahmad.com/>
- Pam Evelyn (b. 1996, Guildford, UK)
<https://www.pacegallery.com/artists/pam-evelyn/>
- Jade Fadojutimi (b. 1993, London, UK)
<https://jadefadojutimi.com/>
- Sophia Loeb (b. 1997, Sao Paulo, Brazil)
<https://www.houldsworth.co.uk/artists/216-sophia-loeb/overview/>
- Emma McIntyre (b. 1990, Auckland, New Zealand)
<https://chateaushatto.com/artist/emma-mcintyre/>
- Ilana Savdie (b. 1986, Miami, USA and raised in Barranquilla, Colombia)
<https://www.ilanasavdie.com>
- Marina Perez Simão (b. 1980, Vitória, Brazil)
<https://mendeswooddm.com/artists/36-marina-perez-simao/>
- Daisy Parris (b. 1993, Kent, UK)
<https://www.daisyparris.com/>
- Anh Trần (b. 1989, Bến Tre, Vietnam)
<https://societeberlin.com/artists/anh-tran/>

About Curator

Irina Stark is a Los Angeles-based art advisor with a particular focus on the Asia Pacific region. In the last two consecutive years, she was included in ARTnews' s lists of 'The Top 75 Art World Professionals' and 'The 135 Top Art World Professionals'. Prior to establishing her creative consultancy, Irina worked for over 15 years at leading European and American commercial art galleries and institutions. She holds an MA in Art History and Curatorial Studies as well as an MPhil in Geopolitics.

About Pond Society

Founded by the collector Mr. Xue Bing, Pond Society is a non-profit art institution open to artists from all over the world. Focusing on multicultural perspectives and practices in the context of contemporary Chinese society, Pond Society aims to promote international exchange and cooperation in cutting-edge arts and culture, prosper art creation, academic studies, and collection.

The name of the space is derived from the art group "Chi She" founded in 1986 by artists such as Zhang Peili, Geng Jianyi, Wang Qiang and Song Ling, with the founder Mr. Xue Bing paying tribute to the artists. Since its inception in 2017, Pond Society has collaborated intensively with professional international art institutions, artists, curators, and media. Based on West Bund, Shanghai, Pond Society has held the first themed exhibitions, forums and publications in China and Asia for numerous artists.

Press Information

For more information, interviews, and images, please contact:

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