Yang Bodu "The Death of Ying" March 23-May 11, 2024

MOU PROJECTS is pleased to present "The Death of Ying," Yang Bodu's second solo exhibition with the gallery. Transporting viewers into enigmatic sanctuaries of expansive interiors and architectural marvels, Yang's paintings spotlight moments of theatricality and "abstract atmosphere" that pervade spaces of exhibition or happening. In "The Death of Ying," Yang unveils a refined selection of eight paintings crafted over the past two years, subtly diverging from her acclaimed *In the Museum* series (2011–ongoing). Infused with an irresistible sense of intimacy and introspection, the exhibition embarks on a poignant exploration of personal narratives and literary allusions, chronicling a heartfelt journey straddling a prevailing persistence and soft reconciliation.

The title of the exhibition, "The Death of Ying," bestows an indescribable sense of drama and cruelty upon the showcased works, with the word "death" pointing to the moment of the grand finale of life's embrace, encapsulating the intertwining elements of fear and bravery, peculiarity and familiarity that lie at the core of human existence. In parallel to Yang's painting practice in recent years, she drafted an essay that recalls and pens a personal tale of her late female painting mentor from childhood, whose name carries the word "ying" (eagle). This memoir-like story seamlessly entwines with vivid excerpts from E. M. Forster's *A Passage to India* (1924), which centers around the enigmatic Marabar Caves. Together, these textual tapestries anchor the central theme that threads the works in "The Death of Ying."

In Yang's narrative, the demise of Ying unfolds as a tale that happened a decade ago—a distant scene akin to those plucked from the script of a mesmerizing film, interwoven with elements of romance, pain, relentless pursuit, and unyielding stubbornness. In the exhibition, three works depicting Marilyn Monroe reverberate with the story of Ying. An icon of the 1950s American cultural landscape, Monroe remains an enigmatic symbol of her era, her untimely passing shrouded in mystery. Through Yang's portrayal, Monroe appears as the enchanting performer in *The Prince and the Showgirl* (1957), gazing into the distance (*Monroe*, 2022–24); serenely lying beneath the sky, carried by shadowed figures (*The Death of Ying—Monroe 17:50*, 2022–24); her name etched against the backdrop of Buckingham Palace, reminiscent of the film's opening sequence (*Marilyn Monroe*, 2022–24). The portrayal of Monroe mirrors the death of Ying, as well as the reflection of a woman's life course. Rendered in moments of pride and glory, the death of the *girl* evokes the imagery of an eagle majestically soaring through the heavens as an emblem of fortitude and unrestrained freedom.

Serving as a recurring motif throughout the exhibition, the cave symbolizes both death and a return to tranquility embodied by all things, its inspiration drawn directly from the Marabar Caves from *A Passage to India*. Through a narrow passageway that stretches from the entrance to the center of the exhibition space, the gallery is transformed to become a cave-like structure. At the end of the passage hangs the centerpiece of the exhibition, *The Death of Ying—The Caves 20:30* (2024). The work features a monumental deep ochre architectural structure nestled within the mountains, with a soft yellow light emanating from its opening at the foot of the mountain signifying the entryway to the cave. At the center of the gallery space, another painting on the theme of the cave, *The Death of Ying—The Caves 5:53* (2024), offers a more serene perspective. Within the composition, the cave is enveloped by a mist, softly receding behind the rocky mountain as a shaded sanctuary. The narrow opening, veiled in darkness, assumes the role of a gateway, leading visitors inside as if entering a private bedroom.

In A Passage to India, the Marabar Caves emit an enchanting aura. Regardless of the words uttered into its depths, the caves only deliver a monotonous reply. "If one had spoken vileness in that place or quoted lofty poetry, the comment would have been the same—'ou-boum." Within this enigmatic space, the reverberating echo symbolizes the eradication of societal inequalities pertaining to class, race, and gender, infusing this fictional space with a utopian vision. Perhaps the essence of Ying's life and death also finds solace within the depths of these caves, just as expressed by Yang in her essay: "First, live life to the fullest and steer your own course."

#### **About the Artist**

Yang Bodu (b. 1986, Tianjin, China) explores the construction and concept of the "art scene" that exists and lingers on in our minds. In her painting-centered oeuvre, Yang depicts a series of architectural landscapes comprising museums, galleries, and art institutions, investigating the intricate contradiction between one's intimate encounter with artworks and the public nature of exhibition venues. Frozen on her canvas are ambers of theatricality, mystery, and balance found within these abstract, empty spaces imbued with idealization. In her recent works, Yang observes the "architectural moments" shimmering within the interplay between light and building structures—elements that form the basis of her personal observation and, ultimately, painting practice. Her works capture the wonders that take place within these ambivalent spaces and further flourish as they negate the relationships between the private and the public, the acts of practicing and looking, as well as being the viewer and being viewed.

Yang received her MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) in 2012 and her BFA from the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in 2008. During her studies at PAFA, she won the Justine Cretella Memorial Scholarship in 2011 and the Fellowship Trust Prize for her presentation at the Annual Student Exhibition in 2012. She has held solo exhibitions and presentations in galleries such as MASSIMODECARLO Beijing and the gallery's Paris outpost Pièce Unique, Tang Contemporary Art in Bangkok and Beijing, as well as MOU PROJECTS in Hong Kong. Her work has been exhibited at various institutional venues, including PAFA, M WOODS in Beijing, and the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts. Her works are also included in the permanent collections of several institutions, including PAFA, M WOODS in Beijing, Long Museum in Shanghai, and Pingshan Art Museum in Shenzhen. In 2021, Yang was featured in The Artsy Vanguard.

The artist currently lives and works in Beijing, China.

# **About MOU PROJECTS**

MOU PROJECTS is a Hong Kong-based contemporary art gallery established in 2019. Since its inception, the gallery has been dedicated to showcasing both local and international emerging artists working in all media and has held many of their first solo exhibitions in Hong Kong as well as in Asia. With an aim to facilitate artistic dialogues and conceptual innovations, the gallery supports artists whose experimental practices and boundary-pushing ethos reflect the current social reality and manifest alternative contemporary aesthetics.

楊伯都 「鷹之死」 2024年3月23日至5月11日

MOU PROJECTS欣然呈現楊伯都於畫廊的第二次個展「鷹之死」。在藝術家的繪畫實踐中,廣闊的室內空間和奇蹟般的建築景觀均化身神秘庇護所,捕捉着充滿戲劇性的時刻和瀰漫在展覽或事件空間中的「抽象氛圍」。在展覽「鷹之死」中,楊伯都呈現了她在過去兩年中精心創作的八件繪畫作品,悄然編排了一個與其《在博物館》系列(2011至今)有着微妙的不同的創作思路。展覽以一種不可抗拒的親密感和內省感為基調,探索了錯綜交織的個人敘事和文學片段,從而展開了一段有關執着與和解的心路歷程。

展覽的標題「鷹之死」使得此次展出的作品被籠罩上了一層難以言說的戲劇性和殘酷性:「死」一字既指向了一種生命結局的偉大瞬間,也濃縮了這一過程背後人類生命最高形式的恐懼與堅毅、陌生與熟悉。在楊伯都近年來的藝術創作之余,她間歇地回憶與撰寫了一篇有關其童年一位已故的名中帶「鷹」字的繪畫女老師的故事。這篇回憶錄般的故事與 E·M·福斯特《印度之行》(1924)中有關馬拉巴山洞的描寫片段交織在一起,組成了「鷹之死」的核心展覽敘事。

在楊伯都的敘述中,鷹的去世是一個發生在十年前夾雜着浪漫、痛苦、追求和偏執的故事,這個遙遠的場景彷彿發生在電影中的情節。展覽中,三件關於瑪麗蓮·夢露的作品呼應了鷹這一角色,這個上世紀五十年代紅極一時的美國影星作為一個時代的文化符號,其死因至今也是一樁謎團。在楊伯都勾勒出的畫面中,《游龍戲鳳》(1957)中舞女妝造的夢露望向畫面之外的遠方(《夢露》,2022-24);在黑衣人的簇擁下安詳地躺在天際之下(《鷹之死—夢露 17:50》,2022-24);其名字也如電影的報幕場景般印刻在白金漢宮的景色之上(《瑪麗蓮·夢露》,2022-24)。夢露呼應着「鷹」,也呼應着每個女性生命歷程中的一個縮影。少女之死渲染着一種驕傲與鮮艷的色彩,彷彿翱翔於天空的鷹,成為力量與自由的象徵。

山洞是一個在展覽中反復出現的意象,在楊伯都的筆下,它呼應着《印度之行》中的馬拉巴山洞,隱喻着死亡以及一種萬物歸於平靜的狀態。在一條從門口延伸至展廳中央的狹長通道的佈局下,畫廊空間被構建成為洞穴的模樣。通道盡頭懸掛着展覽的核心作品《鷹之死—山洞 20:30》(2024),在高聳的畫面中,深赭色如豐碑般的建築嵌入山體,其腳下開口處黃色的光昭示着山洞的入口。而當轉入展覽中心的空間內,另一幅有關山洞的作品《鷹之死—山洞 5:53》(2024)則呈現出更為溫柔的景色。畫面中,山洞籠罩在一陣霧氣中,隱退在岩石之後,變成了一個陰涼所在,而其狹小的開口內一片漆黑,也化身為巨物之下的通向臥室的門。

在《印度之行》中,馬拉巴山洞是一個奇妙的存在,無論來者對其呼喊什麼,它的回應只有單調的音節:「假如先前有人在那山洞裏講粗鄙的言語,或者引述高雅的詩篇,那得到的反響一定都是相同的一聲『ou——boum』。」這個神秘空間內,消弭一切的回聲象徵着階級、種族、性別的不平等皆化為無限的空無,使這個場域渲染上了一層烏托邦的色彩。或許這種歸於寧靜的空無也籠罩着鷹的生與死,正如楊伯都在散文中所寫的那樣,「先盡量完整地活下去,握住你的舵。」

## 關於藝術家

楊伯都(生於1986年,中國天津)的作品探索了一種游離於精神層面上的「藝術景觀」。在其以繪畫為主的藝術實踐中,她陸續描繪了一系列博物館、畫廊及藝術機構的建築景觀,將觀賞作品的私密性與藝術空間的公共性揉雜在一起,探索了筆下這些抽象、空曠而又有些理想化的空間的戲劇性、神秘感以及關係結構。在其近期創作中,楊伯都一直在觀察一些由光線及結構相互作用而形成的「建築瞬間」,並以此作為其個人的觀察方式和最終的繪畫元素基礎。她的創作發生在這些神秘的空間之內,在私人與公共、創造與凝視以及觀看與被觀看之間游走。

楊伯都於2012年獲得賓夕法尼亞美術學院純藝碩士學位·於2008年獲得天津美術學院純藝學士學位。在賓夕法尼亞美術學院就讀期間·她曾於2011年獲得了Justine Cretella紀念獎學金·於2012年在年度學生展覽中獲得了獎學金信託獎。她曾在MASSIMODECARLO畫廊北京及巴黎Pièce Unique空間、當代唐人藝術中心曼谷及北京空間,香港MOU PROJECTS等畫廊舉辦過個展與個人項目。她也曾參與各種機構展覽,包括賓夕法尼亞美術學院、北京木木美術館及天津美術學院美術館。她的作品被多家機構永久收藏,包括賓夕法尼亞美術學院、北京木木美術館、上海龍美術館及深圳坪山美術館。2021年,楊伯都入選The Artsy Vanguard全球藝術先鋒榜單。

藝術家目前生活和工作於中國北京。

#### 關於MOU PROJECTS

MOU PROJECTS成立於2019年,是一間坐落於香港的當代藝術畫廊。畫廊致力推廣本地及國際跨越媒介的新興藝術家,自成立至今,已為許多藝術家舉辦了在香港及亞洲地區的首次展覽。畫廊詣在持續推動藝術對話及觀念性創新,支持藝術家深入探索實驗性的實踐和突破邊界的精神,以反映當代社會現實及創造別樣的當代美學。

杨伯都 "鹰之死" 2024年3月23日至5月11日

MOU PROJECTS欣然呈现杨伯都于画廊的第二次个展"鹰之死"。在艺术家的绘画实践中,广阔的室内空间和奇迹般的建筑景观均化身神秘庇护所,捕捉着充满戏剧性的时刻和弥漫在展览或事件空间中的"抽象氛围"。在展览"鹰之死"中,杨伯都呈现了她在过去两年中精心创作的八件绘画作品,悄然编排了一个与其《在博物馆》系列(2011至今)有着微妙的不同的创作思路。展览以一种不可抗拒的亲密感和内省感为基调,探索了错综交织的个人叙事和文学片段,从而展开了一段有关执着与和解的心路历程。

展览的标题"鹰之死"使得此次展出的作品被笼罩上了一层难以言说的戏剧性和残酷性: "死"一字既指向了一种生命结局的伟大瞬间,也浓缩了这一过程背后人类生命最高形式的恐惧与坚毅、陌生与熟悉。在杨伯都近年来的艺术创作之余,她间歇地回忆与撰写了一篇有关其童年一位已故的名中带"鹰"字的绘画女老师的故事。这篇回忆录般的故事与E·M·福斯特《印度之行》(1924)中有关马拉巴山洞的描写片段交织在一起,组成了"鹰之死"的核心展览叙事。

在杨伯都的叙述中,鹰的去世是一个发生在十年前夹杂着浪漫、痛苦、追求和偏执的故事,这个遥远的场景仿佛发生在电影中的情节。展览中,三件关于玛丽莲·梦露的作品呼应了鹰这一角色,这个上世纪五十年代红极一时的美国影星作为一个时代的文化符号,其死因至今也是一桩谜团。在杨伯都勾勒出的画面中,《游龙戏凤》(1957)中舞女妆造的梦露望向画面之外的远方(《梦露》,2022-24);在黑衣人的簇拥下安详地躺在天际之下(《鹰之死—梦露 17:50》,2022-24);其名字也如电影的报幕场景般印刻在白金汉宫的景色之上(《玛丽莲·梦露》,2022-24)。梦露呼应着"鹰",也呼应着每个女性生命历程中的一个缩影。少女之死渲染着一种骄傲与鲜艳的色彩,仿佛翱翔于天空的鹰,成为力量与自由的象征。

山洞是一个在展览中反复出现的意象,在杨伯都的笔下,它呼应着《印度之行》中的马拉巴山洞,隐喻着死亡以及一种万物归于平静的状态。在一条从门口延伸至展厅中央的狭长通道的布局下,画廊空间被构建成为洞穴的模样。通道尽头悬挂着展览的核心作品《鹰之死—山洞 20:30》(2024),在高耸的画面中,深赭色如丰碑般的建筑嵌入山体,其脚下开口处黄色的光昭示着山洞的入口。而当转入展览中心的空间内,另一幅有关山洞的作品《鹰之死—山洞 5:53》(2024)则呈现出更为温柔的景色。画面中,山洞笼罩在一阵雾气中,隐退在岩石之后,变成了一个阴凉所在,而其狭小的开口内一片漆黑,也化身为巨物之下的通向卧室的门。

在《印度之行》中,马拉巴山洞是一个奇妙的存在,无论来者对其呼喊什么,它的回应只有单调的音节:"假如先前有人在那山洞里讲粗鄙的言语,或者引述高雅的诗篇,那得到的反响一定都是相同的一声'ou——boum'。"这个神秘空间内,消弭一切的回声象征着阶级、种族、性别的不平等皆化为无限的空无,使这个场域渲染上了一层乌托邦的色彩。或许这种归于宁静的空无也笼罩着鹰的生与死,正如杨伯都在散文中所写的那样,"先尽量完整地活下去,握住你的舵。"

### 关于艺术家

杨伯都(生于1986年,中国天津)的作品探索了一种游离于精神层面上的"艺术景观"。在其以绘画为主的艺术实践中,她陆续描绘了一系列博物馆、画廊及艺术机构的建筑景观,将观赏作品的私密性与艺术空间的公共性揉杂在一起,探索了笔下这些抽象、空旷而又有些理想化的空间的戏剧性、神秘感以及关系结构。在其近期创作中,杨伯都一直在观察一些由光线及结构相互作用而形成的"建筑瞬间",并以此作为其个人的观察方式和最终的绘画元素基础。她的创作发生在这些神秘的空间之内,在私人与公共、创造与凝视以及观看与被观看之间游走。

杨伯都于2012年获得宾夕法尼亚美术学院纯艺硕士学位,于2008年获得天津美术学院纯艺学士学位。在宾夕法尼亚美术学院就读期间,她曾于2011年获得了Justine Cretella纪念奖学金,于2012年在年度学生展览中获得了奖学金信托奖。她曾在MASSIMODECARLO画廊北京及巴黎Pièce Unique空间、当代唐人艺术中心曼谷及北京空间,香港MOUPROJECTS等画廊举办过个展与个人项目。她也曾参与各种机构展览,包括宾夕法尼亚美术学院、北京木木美术馆及天津美术学院美术馆。她的作品被多家机构永久收藏,包括宾夕法尼亚美术学院、北京木木美术馆、上海龙美术馆及深圳坪山美术馆。2021年,杨伯都入选The Artsy Vanguard全球艺术先锋榜单。

艺术家目前生活和工作于中国北京。

#### 关于MOU PROJECTS

MOU PROJECTS成立于2019年,是一间坐落于香港的当代艺术画廊。画廊致力推广本地及国际跨越媒介的新兴艺术家,自成立至今,已为许多艺术家举办了在香港及亚洲地区的首次展览。画廊诣在持续推动艺术对话及观念性创新,支持艺术家深入探索实验性的实践和突破边界的精神,以反映当代社会现实及创造别样的当代美学。