

I AM ROOTED, BUT I FLOW

SEPTEMBER 12 - OCTOBER 24 2024

“I feel a thousand capacities spring up in me. I am arch, gay, languid, melancholy by turns. I am rooted, but I flow.” — Virginia Woolf, *The Waves*

Maison Lune, in collaboration with MEY, is delighted to present *I Am Rooted, But I Flow*, an exhibition exploring the duality of human existence, where stability and transformation entangle. Running from September 12 through October 24, 2024, this exhibition invites viewers to survey the tension between grounded experiences and the fluidity of growth and change.

Participating artists — Shuang Jiang, Darcy Brenna, Lau Yee Vanessa Fong, Jiatong Yuan and Alexandria Wallace — offer unique perspectives on the themes featured in *I Am Rooted, But I Flow*. Their works intricately weave personal and collective narratives of transformation, trauma, and identity through a blend of academic depth and abstract innovation.

In *I Am Rooted, But I Flow*, the artists explore the dynamic interplay between stability and transformation through their diverse practices. Shuang Jiang delves into the concept of skin as both a barrier and a gateway, intertwining personal trauma with the natural world to reflect the balance between our rooted experiences and nature’s fluid processes. This exploration of interconnectedness is echoed in Darcy Brenna’s emotive brushwork, where fragmented strokes illustrate the tension between anchoring oneself in past trauma and navigating the fluidity of emotional healing. Lau Yee Vanessa Fong bridges traditional Eastern philosophies with contemporary aesthetics, capturing the delicate balance between historical roots and spiritual evolution. Jiatong Yuan redefines traditional aesthetics within a modern context, examining how identity remains grounded in personal values while adapting to evolving societal and political landscapes. Meanwhile, Alexandria Wallace further extends this theme by abstractly memorializing transient moments, portraying the relationship between the permanence of recorded experiences and the ever-shifting nature of light and movement.

Shuang Jiang’s art transforms the concept of skin into a metaphor for protection and vulnerability. Her prints and paintings articulate the interplay between personal trauma and the natural world, illustrating how our rooted experiences meld with nature’s ongoing processes. Through her portrayal of skin as both shield and gateway, Jiang captures the delicate balance of being deeply rooted in one’s past while embracing the fluidity of nature’s flow. Jiang graduated from the Printmaking Department of Xi’an Academy of Fine Arts in 2022 and is currently pursuing an MFA at the Royal College of Art in London.

Darcy Brenna's fragmented, gestural brushwork vividly captures the turbulence of emotional healing. Her paintings, marked by raw, instinctive strokes, document the conflict between anchoring oneself in past trauma and allowing for the fluid transformation of emotions. Brenna's work invites viewers to engage with the complexity of existence through a visceral and emotive lens. Following her graduation in Fine Art at the University of Creative Arts, Brenna was selected by Tracey Emin to be in the first cohort of artists in residence at T.E.A.R (Tracey Emin Artist Residency), which she is currently participating in.

Lau Yee Vanessa Fong integrates Eastern philosophies with contemporary aesthetics to illustrate the fluid transition between tradition and modernity. Her paintings, inspired by ancient Sanxingdui Bronze Age culture and Buddhist thought, reflect on the balance between historical roots and spiritual exploration. Fong's work embodies a journey from grounded cultural heritage to transcendent experiences, merging the physical with the ethereal. Fong graduated from the Art Center College of Design with a BFA in Fine Art in 2021 and is currently pursuing her MFA in Painting at the Royal College of Art in London.

Jiatong Yuan redefines traditional aesthetics to examine the evolving nature of identity under societal influences. Her layered compositions and evocative titles examine the impact of political and cultural contexts on personal and collective experiences. Yuan's work addresses themes of gender, fertility, and the intersection of political power with personal values, highlighting the fluid dynamics of identity within changing societal frameworks. Yuan completed her BA in photography and is currently pursuing an MA in Art and Ecology at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Alexandria Wallace's abstract forms and textures memorialize transient moments, capturing the interplay between permanence and fluidity. Through her innovative use of painting, drawing, and textile, Wallace documents the ephemeral qualities of light, movement, and perception, reflecting on how moments are anchored in time while continually flowing through the present. Wallace graduated with a BFA from The University of Texas at Austin in 2012 and an MFA from Otis College of Art and Design in 2020. Her work has since been exhibited nationally.

The artists collectively ponder the rich interplay between personal experience and transformation. Their works resonate with themes of trauma, healing, and the evolution of identity, all while drawing from a deep foundation in fine arts tradition. This exhibition highlights how their academic mastery and innovative approaches enable them to blend established artistic practices with fresh, abstract expressions.

I Am Rooted, But I Flow promises to be a profound exploration of the tensions between stability and change, inviting viewers to experience the dialogue between rootedness and fluidity. We warmly invite you to join us for the opening reception on September 12 from 5–8pm, and to engage with this compelling presentation of personal and universal experiences. Please contact Maison Lune or MEY to RSVP for the opening or to arrange for an appointment.

Maison Lune is a contemporary art gallery whose avant-garde format rethinks and decodes the genre of a traditional gallery space. Through a thoughtful and private interaction with art and aesthetics, Maison Lune provides collectors with the ability to discover works from various artists and designers in an intimately personal environment. Envisioned as an hôtel particulier in the Venice Canal's Historic District in Los Angeles, Maison Lune is a multidisciplinary and integrated exhibition space that showcases an immersive experience through spatial continuity of art and design and an intersection in interiors and décor.

MEY is a contemporary art gallery and advisory based in Los Angeles. Born of the idea that contemporary art is a living record of stories that are meant to be shared, MEY aims to bring those passionate about art into a space where they feel empowered to engage earnestly with work being made by rising artists today. Founded by two women determined to help dispel some of the art world's elusivity, MEY seeks to build a community; a community that upholds the belief that art is inherently a series of exchanges—from artist to artwork, artwork to viewer, and so on. Fostering curiosity and connection, MEY asks: art is not sterile, so why should it be approached as such?

For more information, please contact us at info@lamaisonlune.com or info@meygallery.com.