

## a sharp intake of breath

Lulu Ao, Dalia Atteya, Emma Brassington, Lingyan Cao, Abir Mukerjee, Kim Onslow, Nikhil Patel, Mofan Xu, Fengrong Yu, Jayden Zhang, Zedan Zhang

**Lewisham Art House Project Space**, 140 Lewisham Way, London SE14 6PD.

**Private view:** Wednesday 7 June. **Exhibition open:** 7-11 June 2017, Wed – Sun 12-6pm.

The eleven artists in this **Wimbledon College of Arts MA Painting interim exhibition** are brought together through a mutual interest in painting's enduring capacity for invention and reinvention. The exhibition is also testament to the group's shared dialogues and ideas that centre on subjects such as the informal city, science fiction, body modification, ruins, the architecture of multinationals and anthropomorphism.

**Nikhil Patel** utilises a range of material, from Indian sari fabric to corrugated iron, to explore his own hybrid cultural heritage. Recent work has focused on sites of cultural exchange and on how materials are perceived and valued in different parts of the world. **Zedan Zhang** is interested in how many young women's perception of their outward appearance is shaped by gender archetypes, which masks a more truthful portrait of the self. The growth of social media coincides with a recent increase in cosmetic procedures and modifications.

**Lingyan Cao** is developing an abstract painterly language that describes architectural spaces and reflects upon the ways in which we negotiate the urban landscape. **Emma Brassington's** diverse practice is a form of psychogeography that maps her daily encounters with the city: its architecture, culture and people. **Mofan Xu's** delicate ink drawings are a form of visual excavation as she explores the evolution of the city through its architecture. She sees the buildings as vessels of memory that resonate with the ghosts of their former occupants.

**Kim Onslow** systematically documents the landscape of Cliddesden in rural Hampshire through drawings and photographs. The resultant small-scale paintings follow the horizon, evoking a sense of temporality and movement. **Lulu Ao** habitually paints functional objects that have become obsolete such as a pair of broken scissors. The blunted blades and patterns of rust betray the traces of use and mark the passing of time.

**Abir Mukerjee** draws from a rich variety of sources including art history, folk tales and popular culture. He allows the spontaneity of the process of painting to develop the image. As a result, he is at once the maker and the witness to the process. **Jayden Zhang's** work draws upon the tradition of Chinese painting to make ambiguous and complex images. The work reimagines prehistory through mysterious hybrids drawn from geological collections and shaped by science fiction.

Flowers are the predominant motif in **Dalia Atteya's** paintings, embodying the fecundity of life through their vivid colours and expressive gestures. There is an unmistakable beauty in each single flower depicted and she aims to provoke a frisson of joy in the beholder.

**Fengrong Yu** explores our relationship with, and perception of, the natural world. The animals that populate her bleak, frozen landscapes are the caricatured representations of children's toys. Yu empathises with her animal subjects and so views her work as a series of self-portraits.

This is the second interim exhibition presented by **MA Painting at Wimbledon College of Arts** at the Art House Project Space following 'About Space' April 2016. [paintingresearch.net](http://paintingresearch.net)