



# Li Xu

## *Dogs of Dark*

April 23 – May 23, 2026

VILLAGEONEART

EST. 2011

## **ABOUT THE EXHIBITION**

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Dogs of Dark marks a substantive new exhibition by Xu which probes the ambiguity between human and canine bodies, drawing on themes presented in a recent collection of visceral poems created during time spent in New York City. Referring to this body of work as inhabiting a space that is visually positioned between these elements as potentially dream states, offering a glimpse into the psychological underpinning of anthropomorphic figures within mysterious scenes. The consistent link together: it serves as a functional aspect in Dogs of Dark, a realized suite of paintings, a salvo of fragmented images.

Similar behavior, dogs have been domesticated from the earliest age of prehistory. As such the artist captures the ability of nature to re-inscribe our own social yearning and instinct-driven nature is also depicted, where abstract floors, walls and objects exert themselves with the same perplexing and unsettling tableaux.

Perhaps most unsettling in Xu's inscrutable faces: unlike contemporary portraits, contemporaries Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud, and Egon Schiele, exuding weight and instinctual isolation. His brushwork is subtle yet intransigent. Alternately menacing, seducing, morose, a siren of underground life of a busy cultural dog, like Chaplin.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

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Born in Inner Mongolia, China, Li Xu lives and works in Beijing, Tianjin, and New York. With graduate level studies in Oil Painting at the Central Academy of Fine Arts, his work has been exhibited across Egypt, Italy, France, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Norway, and throughout Europe. His research spans Chinese Oil Painting and Traditional Culture.



*Dogs in Dark*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 48 x 60 in.



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## *Lohengrin*

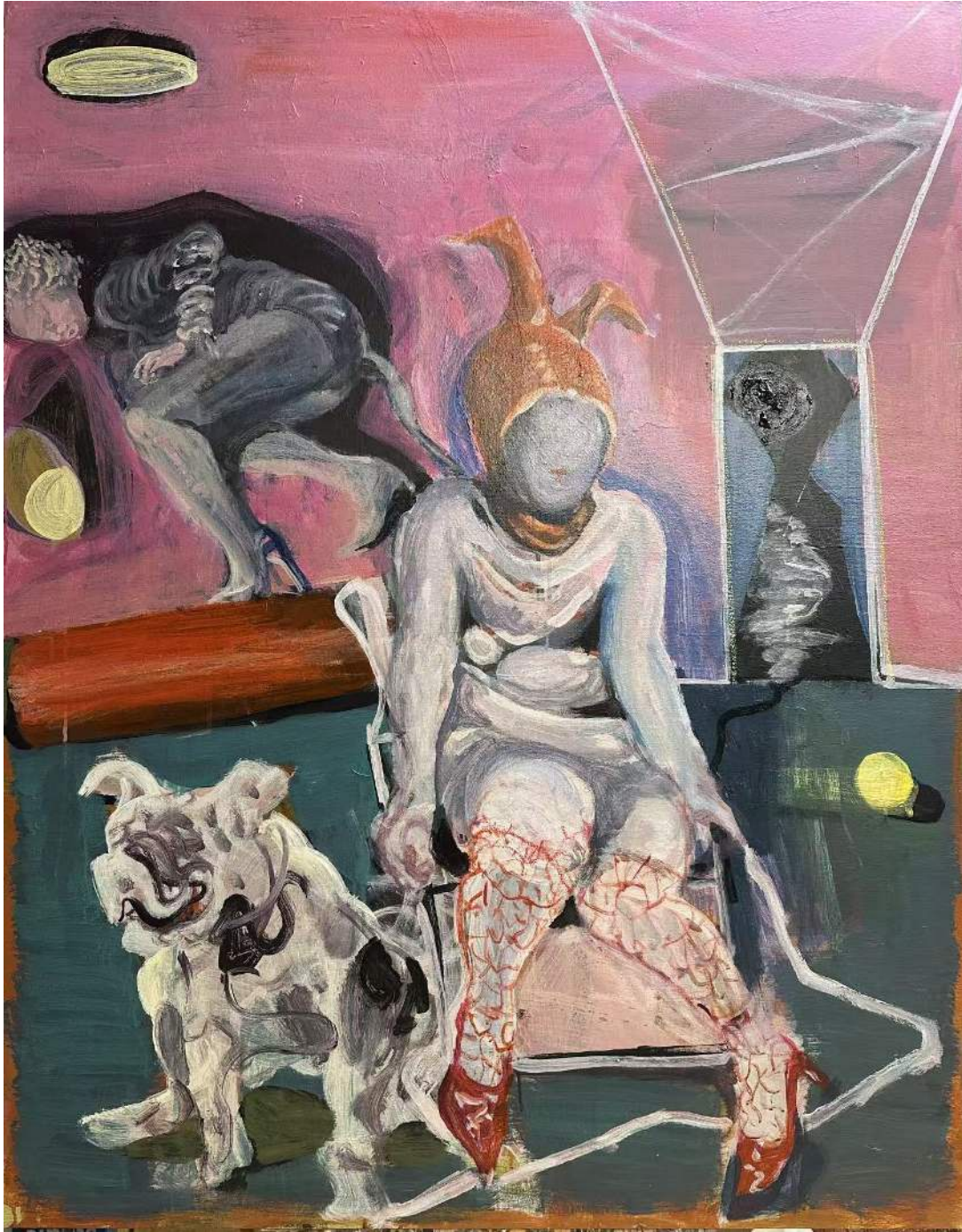
2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 48 x 60 in.



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*A Blonde Wig with Rabbit Ears*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 48 × 60 in.



*Untitled Actor*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 40 x 50 in.



*42nd St. at 10:10 PM*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 40 x 50 in.



*Seeking Rabbit Hole*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 40 x 50 in.



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*White Rabbit*

2023 · Oil on canvas · 24 x 48 in. (61 x 121.9 cm)



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*Crack*

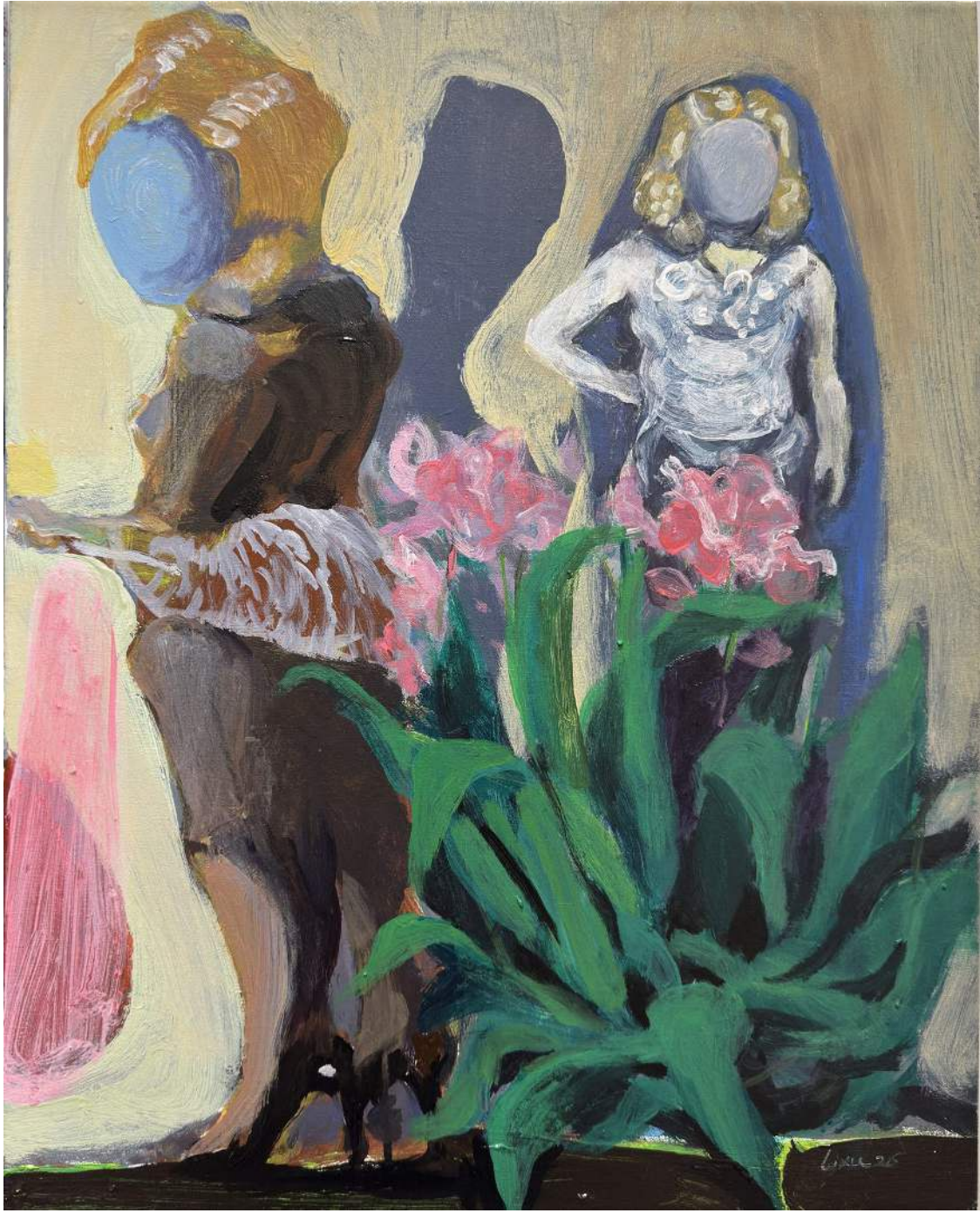
2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 30 x 40 in.



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*Play the Role of a Queen*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 30 x 40 in.



*Agave*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



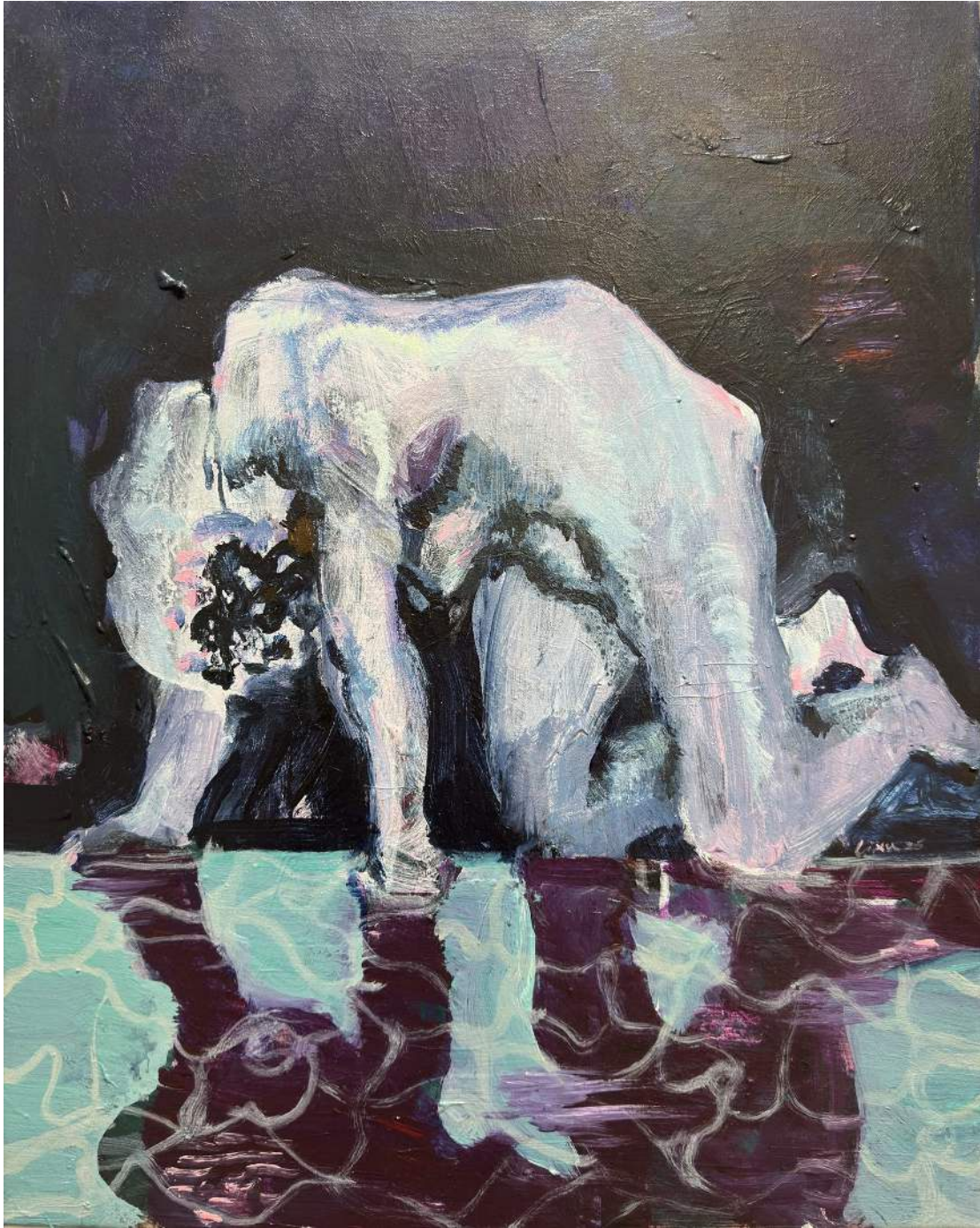
*King and Crown*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



*Waiting Backstage*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



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*Narcissus*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



*Freeze*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



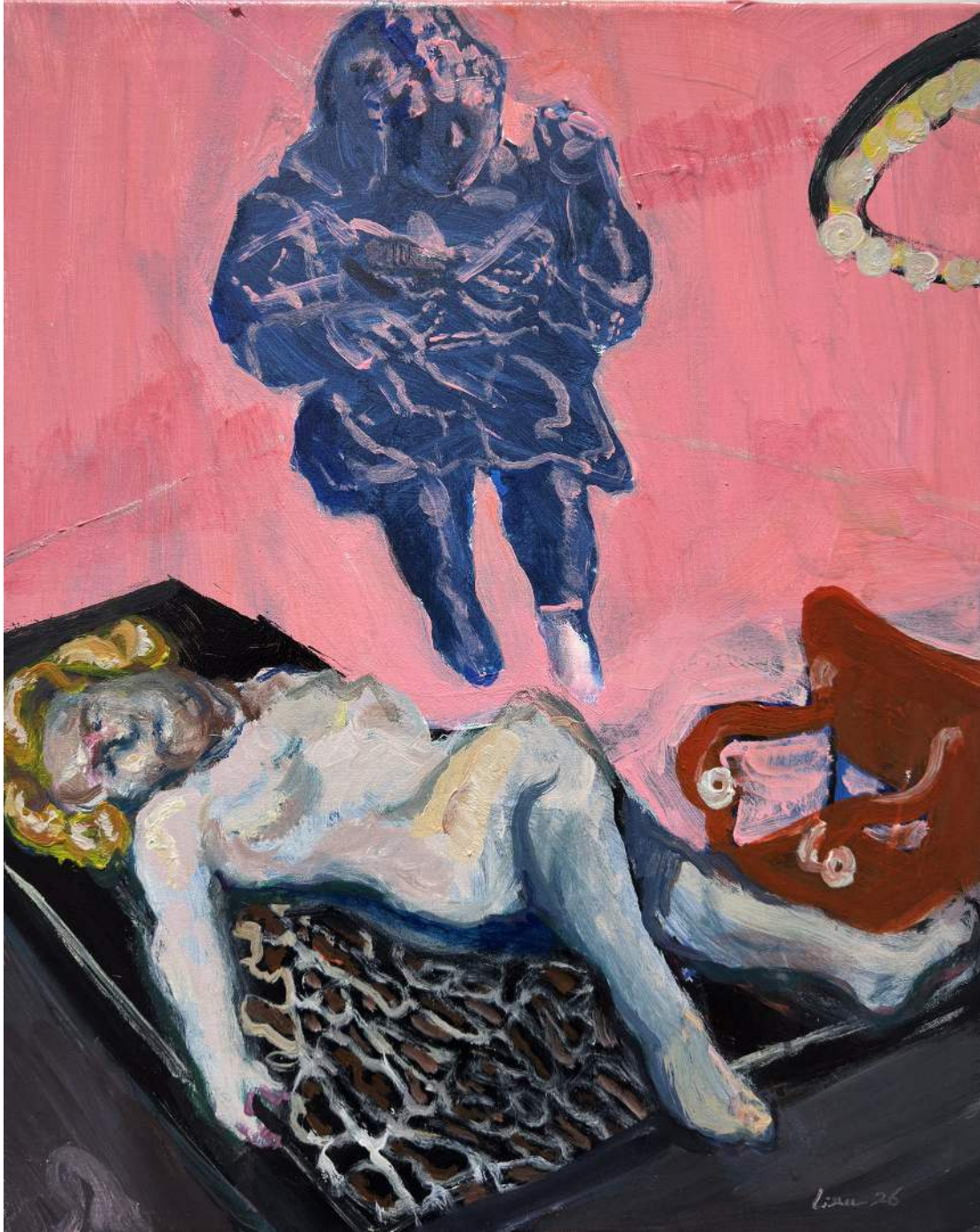
## *White Dog*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 × 20 in.



*The Green Rabbit Woman  
and Her Red Rabbit Hole*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



## *Chelsea Hotel*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



*Rose Garden*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



*Barking*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



*Swift Rise to Nobility*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



*Waiting*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



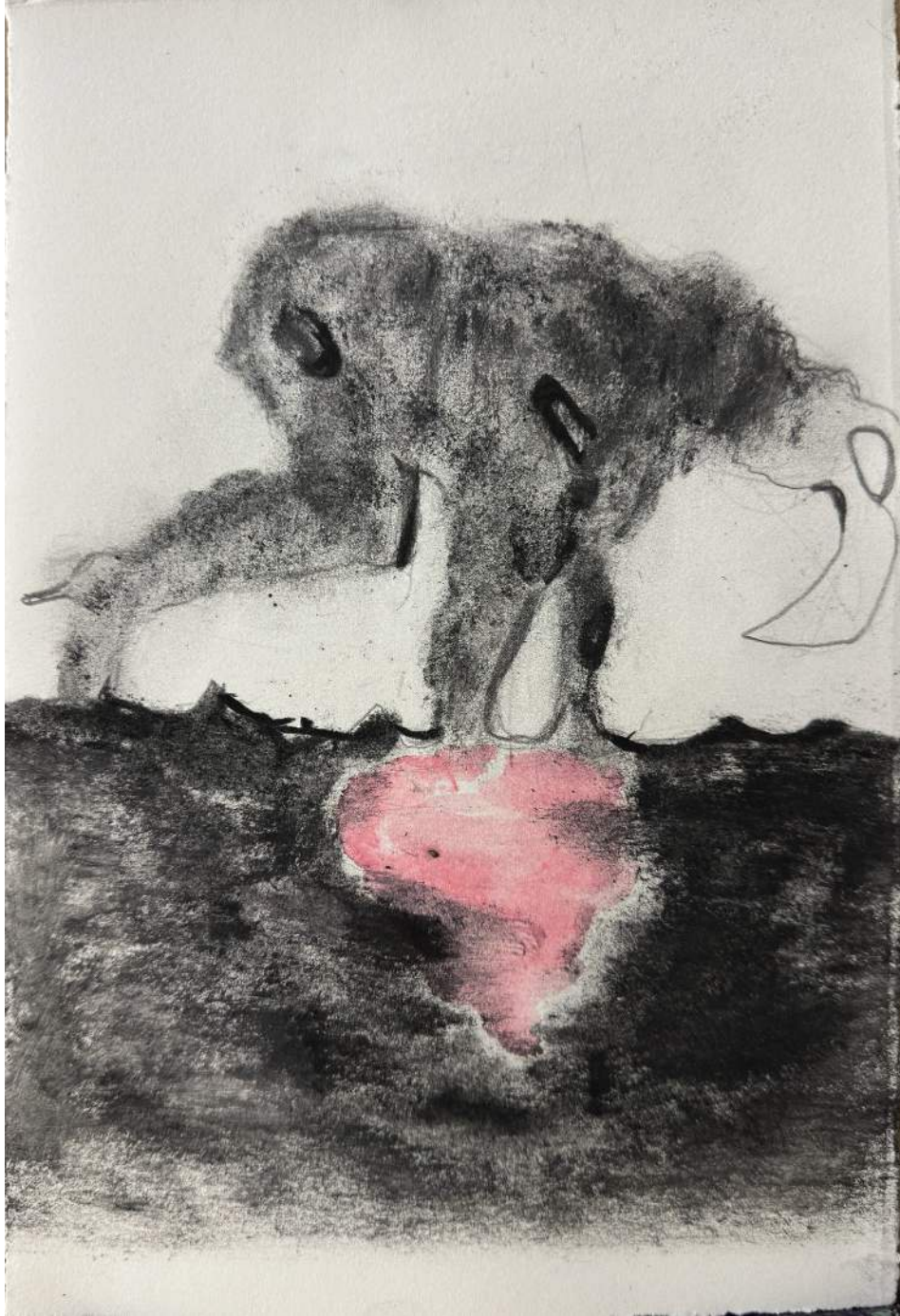
*King Lear 2*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on canvas · 16 x 20 in.



*Unfinished*

2026 · Pencil and acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



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*Pink Rabbit Hole*

2026 · Charcoal and acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



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*Somatic Practice 3*

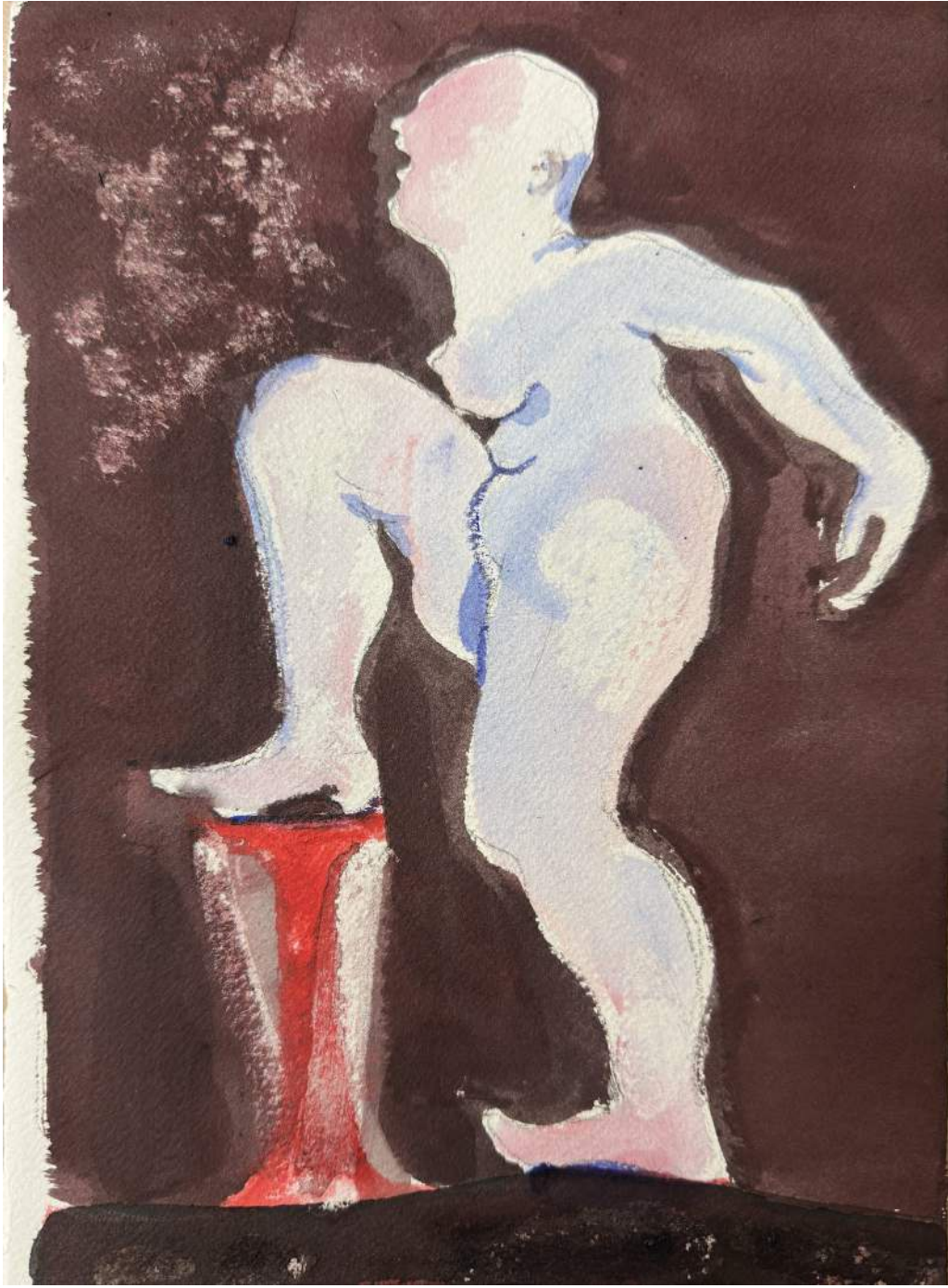
2026 · Acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



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*Somatic Practice 4*

2026 · Pencil and acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



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## *Somatic Practice 5*

2026 · Acrylic and oil on paper · 8 x 10 in.



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*Somatic Practice 6*

2026 · Charcoal and acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



*Somatic Practice 7*

2026 · Charcoal and acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



*Somatic Practice 8*

2026 · Acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



*Somatic Practice 9*

2026 · Acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



*Seated Rabbit Figure*

2026 · Acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



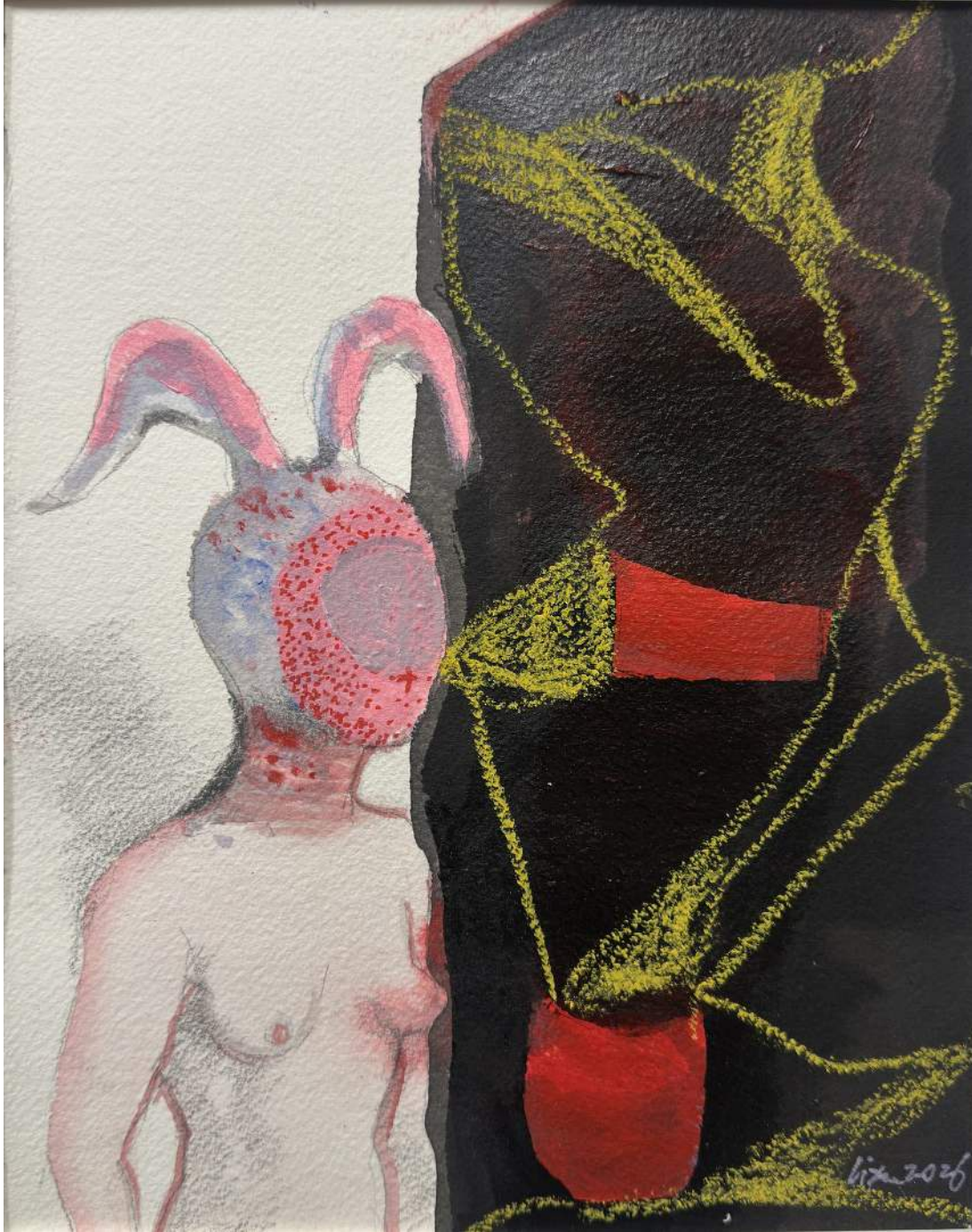
*Seeking Rabbit Hole 2*

2026 · Pencil and acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



*Rabbit Lady and Her Doll*

2026 · Pencil and acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.



*Miss Rabbit and Her Den*

2026 · Pencil and acrylic on paper · 8 x 10 in.

# Li Xu

Lives and works in Beijing, Tianjin, and New York

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## EDUCATION

- 2012** PhD, Oil Painting, School of Plastic Arts, Central Academy of Fine Arts Advisors: Yuan Yunsheng, Zheng Yan
- 2004** Graduate Studies, Fourth Studio, Oil Painting Dept., Central Academy of Fine Arts Advisors: Yuan Yunsheng, Ma Lu
- 1997** BFA, Oil Painting Department, Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts
- 1970** Born in Inner Mongolia, China

## COLLECTIONS

Zhejiang Art Museum  
Huantie Art Museum, Beijing  
Whitebox Art Center, Beijing  
China Millennium Monument  
Yuandian Art Museum  
Galleri Lista Fyr, Norway  
Vest Agder Museum, Flekkefjord, Norway

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2026** Let the Horse Run Free, Latitude Gallery, New York, USA
- 2025** Hunting Travel Notes, Carte Blanche Gallery, Beijing Dragon Slaying, AAIE Contemporary Art Center, Solo, Rome Volta Basel Art Fair, Latitude Gallery, Basel, Switzerland Something Else Off-Biennale Cairo, DARB1718, Cairo, Egypt
- 2024** Rome Arte in Nuvola Art Fair, Project UCA, Rome Artist Book: Pages of Shelter, American Academy in Rome Stretched Out, VillageOneArt, New York Mauritania, AAIE Contemporary Art Center, Rome The 2nd Todi Biennale, Tower Gallery / AAIE, Todi, Italy
- 2023** The 6th Rhythm of Life Xishuangbanna International Art Exhibition, Yunnan Overlapping Memories: Li Xu in Venice, LINLI Art Space, Solo, Venice
- 2022** Plant a Tree: Li Xu Solo Exhibition, AAIE Contemporary Art Center, Rome
- 2021** Open Books — Artists and Their Chinese Albums (Intl. Touring), Kuala Lumpur
- 2020** Li Xu: Free Fall, W.MING / Lianyi International, Online Solo, New York The Book of Disquiet, Funspace Art Gallery, Online, Rome
- 2019** Open Books (Intl. Touring), Barry Cultural Center, Glamorgan, Wales, UK
- 2016** Revelation of Heavenly Craft, Today Art Museum, Beijing
- 2015** Salon Comparaisons, Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 2014** China (Linyi) International Art Exhibition, Linyi, China
- 2013** Object World — Invitational Small-Scale Oil Painting Exhibition, Beijing
- 2011** The Spirit of the Academy III, China Millennium Monument, Beijing Distance — China–Norway Art Exchange Exhibition, Norway & Beijing
- 2010** Salon d'Automne, Grand Palais des Champs-Élysées, Paris
- 2009** Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Carrousel du Louvre, Paris
- 2008** Culture After Culture — 12 Contemporary Chinese Oil Painters, Beijing
- 2006** Theatre, Different Space, Beijing, China
- 2002–03** Chinese Plastic Arts Exhibitions, Cairo & Alexandria, Egypt

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Published on the occasion of the exhibition

Dogs of Dark by Li Xu

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VillageOneArt

150 W 25th St, #403, New York, NY 10001

[info@villageoneart.com](mailto:info@villageoneart.com)

[villageoneart.com](http://villageoneart.com)

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