

The background is a deep purple with a repeating damask pattern in a lighter shade. Three large, vertically oriented, almond-shaped ornaments hang from thin gold cords. Each ornament is light pinkish-purple and features a large, realistic human eye with a brown iris and eyelashes. The top ornament has a white fabric bow at its top. Two blue birds, resembling hummingbirds, are shown in flight. One is in the upper left, and the other is in the lower right. The text is centered over the middle of the image.

# *Invisible Rituals*

Flying Knight · Jun Kuang · Joe Velez · Wei Yan

May 28 – July 4, 2026

**VILLAGEONEART**  
NEW YORK CITY

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Invisible Rituals — a group exhibit featuring work by noted artists Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight,) Jun Kuang, Joe Velez and Wei Yan — deftly explores the ways in which perception shapes aspects of contemporary representational painting. Where pattern, repetition and atmosphere appear vibrantly in the paintings and mixed-media work by Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight) and Jun Kuang, works by Joe Velez and Wei Yan display a keen, concentrated self-awareness and psychological depth. Works by Velez present nuanced yet structured subject matter, while in Yan's paintings, subjects appear contorted or concealed. Figuration forms the crux of the exhibit, while meaning appears clouded under the auspice of mystery: intimated by a knowing glance, a gesture, a curve, or an edge. Each artwork appears to hold the truth just out of reach, whether behind patterns, a turned shoulder, or just beyond the horizon line.

Where Velez suffuses his subjects with expressions that intimate a deep longing or self-confidence, aligned with Old Masters portrait painters such as Diego Velazquez and Francisco Goya, other artworks on view take a more oblique approach. Wei Yan's paintings depict inscrutable figures whose bodies are obscured or only partially revealed. Her adroit curvilinear sensibilities only add to the sense of deliberate obfuscation embedded within these compositions. Unnatural colors and curves meander through Jun Kuang's otherworldly compositions, while Flying Knight combines disparate elements to form unified and unexpected whole tableaux that feel mythic yet germane to our present day moment. Each artist perceives aspects of the world around them and shapes a visual experience for the viewer that feels prescient and fantastical, yet furtive. On view from May 28 – July 4, 2026, this daring and curious group survey explores contemporary approaches to representational painting ripe with a sense of curiosity, questioning us to reflect on the ways in which we view the world we inhabit: both the reality in front of our eyes and the version that is shaped by our imagination.

# Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight)

British and Kurdish multidisciplinary artist

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Receiving both Fine Art and Architecture degrees from the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design, Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight) is a British and Kurdish multidisciplinary artist whose conceptual approach spans sociocultural realities, enmeshing these commentaries within a stylistic and deceptively ornamental art lexicon. Knight is a grant recipient of the Gottlieb Foundation and the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs and her work is held by the Coral Gables Museum, the RISD Museum and in other private collections.

Knight's practice is rooted in a deliberate tension between aesthetic pleasure and intellectual critique. Utilizing what the artist calls a "sweet style with a salty subtext," the work functions as a visual Trojan Horse. By employing a decorative style—often historically dismissed as merely ornamental—Knight lures the viewer into a space of comfort before confronting them with the complexities of social and cultural reality. Her conceptual framework extends into public art through monumental site-specific interventions, exemplified by her 2020 Lincoln Road windows in Miami Beach, where she transformed 24 vacant storefronts with unique wallpaper installations.



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## *Tiffany Twisted*

Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight) · 2025 · Oil, acrylic, gold leaf on canvas · 64 x 46 in.



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*Tag (Hotel California series)*

Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight) · 2025 · Oil, acrylic, gold leaf, stitched-in thread on canvas · 70 x 28 in.



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*Birds of a Feather (Hotel California series)*

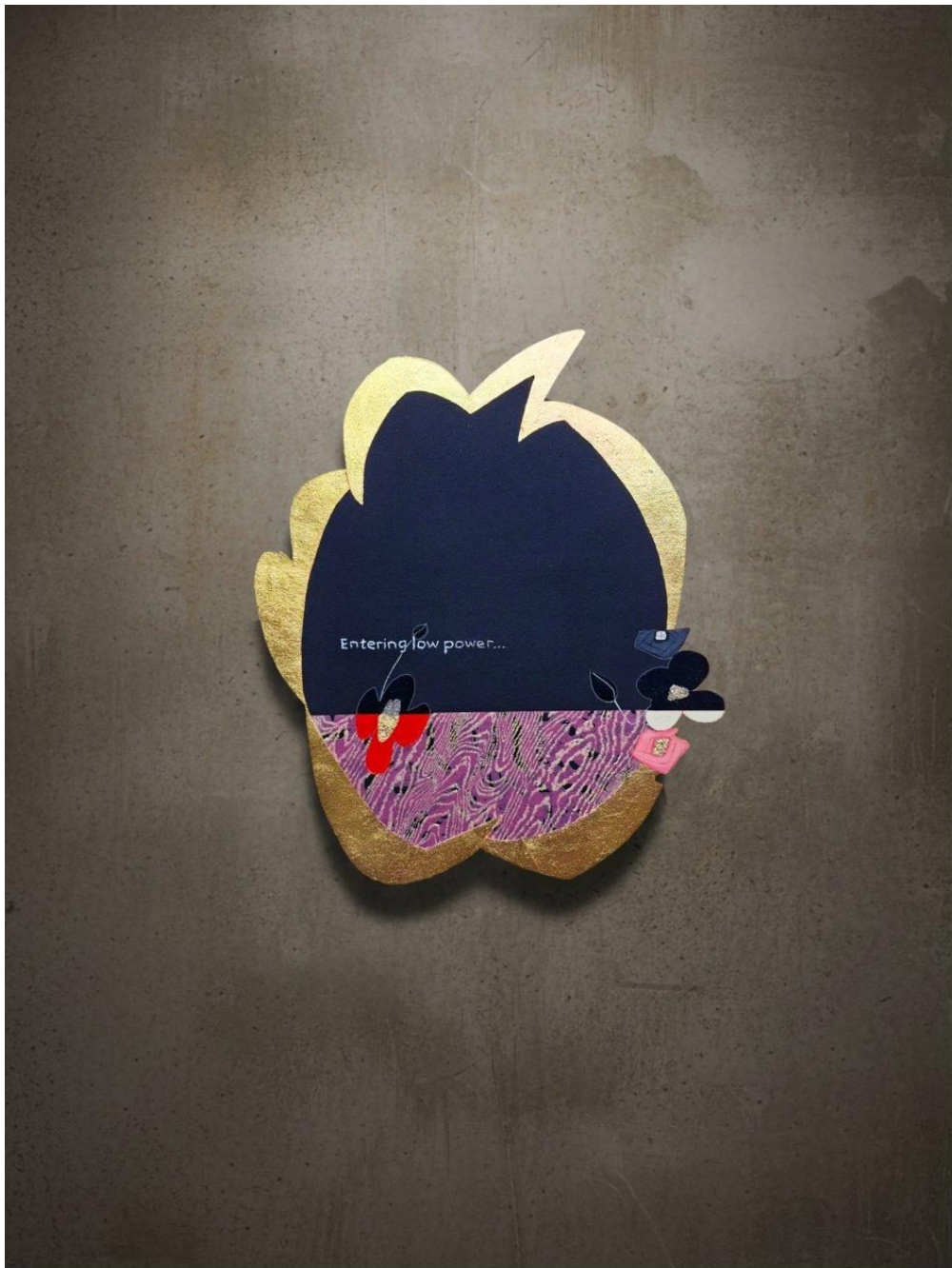
Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight) · 2025 · Oil, acrylic, gold leaf, stitched-in thread on canvas · 49 x 37 in.



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## *Algorithm (Gilded Clickbait series)*

Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight) · 2026 · Oil, acrylic, gold leaf, stitched-in thread on canvas on wood · 25 x 22 in.



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*Systemic Fatigue (Gilded Clickbait series)*

Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight) · 2026 · Oil, acrylic, gold leaf, crushed white diamonds, stitched-in thread on canvas on wood · 20 × 16 in



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*over exposed (Gilded Clickbait series)*

Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight) · 2026 · Oil, acrylic, black leaf, crushed black diamonds, stitched-in thread on canvas on wood · 18 x 15

# Flying Knight (aka Jayda Knight)

British and Kurdish multidisciplinary artist

## EDUCATION

**BFA / BArch** Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

## COLLECTIONS

Rhode Island School of Design Museum, RI

Coral Gables Museum, FL

Madnani Collection — Private, New York, NY

Seiler Collection — Private, Zermatt, Switzerland

Whitman-Hess Collection, Miami Beach, FL

## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

**2025** Arts 14C Residency, Jersey City, NJ

**2023** Miami-Dade Dept. of Cultural Affairs —  
Individual MIA Grant

**2023** Gottlieb Foundation — Emergency Grant, New  
York, NY

**2022** Peekaboo Artists' Studios Residency, Miami  
Beach, FL

**2020** Honorary Award for Art Distinction, Lincoln  
Road BID, Miami Beach, FL

**2000** Award of Excellence, Rhode Island School of  
Design

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

**2026** Hotel California, Canopy by Hilton Jersey  
City Arts District, NJ (Solo)

**2026** The Showcase, 7th Edition, Art Fair 14C,  
Jersey City, NJ

**2026** Every Woman Biennial, Pen & Brush Gallery,  
New York, NY

**2026** Art Official Intelligence, Gallery 14C,  
Jersey City, NJ

**2023** Honoring Women in Arts & Leadership Auction,  
Coral Gables Museum, FL

**2022** Floating Garden, Miami Art Week, Design Inc,  
Lincoln Center, Miami Beach, FL (Solo)

**2022** Two: The Liaisons of Opposites, Peekaboo  
Gallery, Miami Beach, FL

**2021** Enter As You Will, Peekaboo Gallery, Miami  
Beach, FL

**2019** Pale Side of Tuesday, Williams McCall  
Gallery, Miami, FL (Solo)

# Jun Kuang

Born 1978, China. Lives and works in the United States

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Born in China and now living and working in the United States, Kuang is a graduate of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing in sculpture. A co-founder of the UNMASK art group, the artist has shown regularly across the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and the United States, with recent exhibits at Michael Ku Gallery (Taipei) and Space Station (Beijing.)

Kuang's work has been presented at institutions including the V&A Museum (London), Arnolfini Gallery (Bristol), CAFA Art Museum (Beijing), the National Museum of China (Beijing), White Rabbit Gallery (Sydney), and at international art fairs and biennials across Europe, Asia and the Americas. He co-founded the UNMASK art group in 2002 alongside Tan Tianwei and Liu Zhan, with which he exhibited extensively until the group disbanded in 2014.



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*Tornado in the Evening*

Jun Kuang · 2024 · Pigments, acrylic on canvas · 60 × 102 in.



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*waterfall in summer*

Jun Kuang · 2024 · Pigments, acrylic on canvas · 60 × 68 in.



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*Bellflowers in Botanical Garden of New York, U.S.*

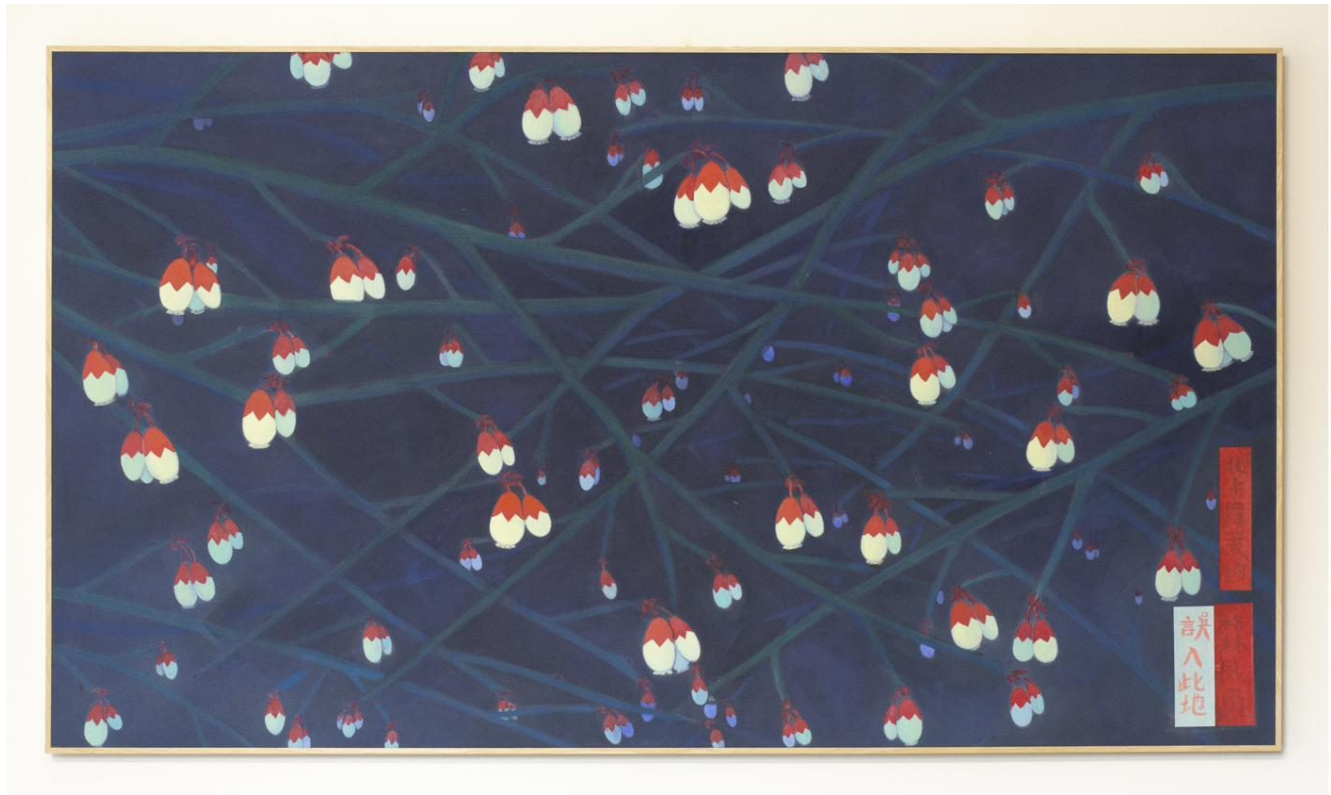
Jun Kuang · 2024 · Pigments, acrylic on canvas · 60 x 34 in.



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*A Flower Like Durex in Botanical Garden of New York, U.S.*

Jun Kuang · 2024 · Pigments, acrylic on canvas · 60 × 34 in.



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*stumbled into this place, North Carolina, U.S.*

Jun Kuang · 2023 · Pigments, acrylic on canvas · 34 x 60 in.

# Jun Kuang

Born 1978, China. Lives and works in the United States

## EDUCATION

- 1978** Born in China
- 2002** BFA, Sculpture Department, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing
- 2002** Co-founded UNMASK art group with Tan Tianwei and Liu Zhan
- 2014** UNMASK art group disbanded

## COLLECTIONS

White Rabbit Collection, Sydney

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2019** Annual of Contemporary Art of China 2018, Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing
- 2018** The Fragility of Matter, Space Station, Beijing (Solo)
- 2016** The Third CAFAM Biennial, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing
- 2015** Dawn — New Art from China, ZHONG Gallery, Berlin
- 2014** Decorative Metaphor — Atonement, Michael Ku Gallery, Taipei (Solo)
- 2013** Those Leading Contemporary Art Practices, Today Art Museum, Beijing
- 2012** Omen — Chinese New Art, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai
- 2011** Start from the Horizon, Si-Shang Art Museum, Beijing
- 2010** Negotiations — The Second Today's Documents, Today Art Museum, Beijing
- 2009** 60, 70, 80 — Contemporary Art of China, Tours Museum, France
- 2009** The Big Bang, White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney
- 2008** China Design Now, V&A Museum, London
- 2008** SUPERTOYS, Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol
- 2008** China — Facing Reality, NAMOC, Beijing; MUMOK, Vienna
- 2007** China Now, Cobra Museum, Amstelveen
- 2006** Jiang-Hu, Tilton Gallery, New York

# Joe Velez

Lives and works in Jersey City, NJ

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Velez lives and works in Jersey City, NJ. He is a self-taught artist and educator who has exhibited across the Tri-state and Pennsylvania, with teaching credits at art institutions including the Jersey City Art School, The Hudson School, the Baird and others. His work has been exhibited at commercial galleries, university galleries, museums and nonprofit art spaces, and he was recently featured in both Bold Journey Magazine and the Jersey City Times, with a front page feature.



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## *Swimmers*

Joe Velez · 2025 · Oil on canvas · 48 x 36 in.



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## *A Fresh Start*

Joe Velez · 2025 · Oil on canvas · 36 x 24 in.

# Joe Velez

Lives and works in Jersey City, NJ

## EDUCATION

Self-taught artist

## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

**2025** Project 14C Special Project Residency, Spring & Summer

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

**2026** SIBYLS, Dacia Gallery, New York City (Solo)

**2025** Annual Figurative Art Exhibition, Dacia Gallery, New York City

**2025** Holiday Show, Dacia Gallery, New York City

**2025** Art Fair 14C, Jersey City, NJ

**2025** Garden State Art Fair, Neumann Building, Hoboken, NJ

**2025** Body of Work, Art150 Gallery, Jersey City, NJ

**2018** Polarity, 313 Gallery, Jersey City, NJ (Solo)

**2018** Vigil, The A Building, Jersey City, NJ (Solo)

**2015** Signal Loss, The Art House Gallery, Jersey City, NJ (Solo)

**2011** APOCRYPHA, 58 Gallery, Jersey City, NJ (Solo)

**2009** Summer Show, Connexions Gallery, Easton, PA

**2008** Salmagundi Arts Club, New York City

# Wei Yan

Lives and works in New Jersey

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Wei Yan is a figurative painter who holds a BFA, Tsinghua Academy of Art & Design (Beijing.) Wei has exhibited across China as well as in the United Kingdom, Belgium and the United States. A recipient of the New Jersey Arts Council's individual artist fellowship and the New Jersey Art & Culture Renewal fund grant, Yan is also an artist in residence for 14C art fair in Jersey City (2026.) Exploring the tension between our inner worlds and public personal socioculturally within the context of the artist's own upbringing between Northeastern China and Beijing, she now makes her home in the United States. The artist's work is held in public and private art collections including the Shanghai Art Museum.



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## *Nightmare*

Wei Yan · 2025 · Oil on linen canvas · 38 × 19 in.



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## *Good Night*

Wei Yan · 2024 · Oil on linen canvas · 30 × 24 in.



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## *Heat*

Wei Yan · 2025 · Oil on linen canvas · 23 × 27 in.

# Wei Yan

Lives and works in New Jersey

## EDUCATION

BFA, Tsinghua Academy of Art and Design, Beijing

## COLLECTIONS

Shanghai Art Museum

## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

**2026** Individual Artist Fellowship, New Jersey Arts Council

**2026** Special Project Residency, 14C, Jersey City

**2024** NJ Art & Culture Renewal Fund Grant

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

**2025** Pure Joy, Paul Robeson Gallery, Newark, NJ

**2018** Vanity, Hi Art Center, Beijing (Solo)

**2015** 4 above Frozen, Hi Art Center, Beijing (Solo)

**2014** Hi 21, Hi Art Center, Beijing

**2013** On the Paper, Hi Art Store, Beijing

**2012** Portraits, Hi Art Store, Beijing

**2011** Unknown, J Gallery, Shanghai

**2011** Myth, Zan 8 Art Center, Beijing (Solo)

**2010** 3rd Lv Xiao Exhibition, Tokyo BTAP, Beijing

**2010** Get It Louder, Shanghai, Beijing

**2009** Infantilization, Antwerp Photo Gallery, Belgium

**2008** The Death of Color, Gallery 1949, Beijing

**2008** Whaleless, Strychnin Gallery, London

**2007** Infantilization, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai

**2007** The Muscle of Galaxy, NYARTS Gallery, Beijing

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