

WU SIBO

IMPERMANENCE

25 January - 16 March 2024

Preview: Thursday 25 January, 6-8pm

49 Tung Street, Sheung Wan

press@flowersgallery.com
www.flowersgallery.com

Shifting between urban and rural environments, Wu has witnessed two decades of economic and social transformation in Southern China. Inspired by the sentiment and daily scenes in his hometown, Wu continuously narrates the mundane routine of life through atmospheric paintings devoid of color. Clouds, smoke, water and fire, in ritualistic practice combined with ambiguous figures immersed by a nocturnal setting allude to a lasting sensibility and contemplation of a changing habitat.

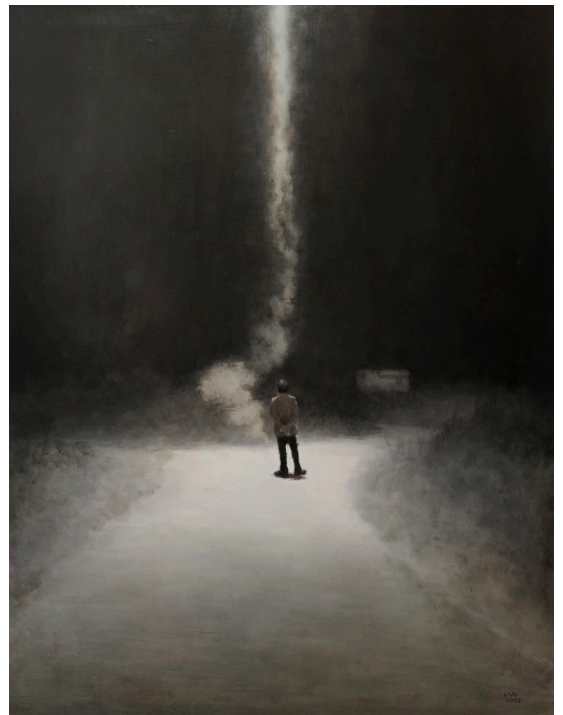
Wu explains *"Our daily life consists of small scenes and ordinary people. But the changes in our era are reflected through these small things. By observing the transformation around me, I paint."*

Fireworks III (2023) depicts a man standing in front of fireworks fading away, a ritualistic scene in rural China to celebrate the coming of new year. Instead of joy, the unspoken anxiety and heaviness are poetically permeated through dark monotonous and composition of the lone figure.

Whether the image is set in a 'village in the city', overly developed countryside or urban-rural fringe area, the message is beyond the nostalgia. *Entrance* (2019) shows an ordinary scene of two people walking into a modern metro station, presenting a paradox between the urban development and impermanence of the rural surroundings.

Wu says *"I am not the spectator, I am one of 'them'"*.

The figures in *Rest Zone* (2021) linger next to an interurban bus pulled over on the side of highway, staring into the night blankly. Wu portrays the uneasiness and incommutable destiny of these ordinary people in our era. Under the dim light, these characters appear to be insignificant, purposefully painted with a pointillistic style suggesting the ephemerality of our existence.



Wu Sibob, *Fireworks III*, 2023
Oil on canvas, 65 x 85 cm



(Left to right)

Wu Sibō
Entrance, 2019
Oil on canvas
68 x 85 cm

Wu Sibō
Rest Zone, 2021
Oil on canvas
20 x 30 cm

Wu Sibō
Farewell, 2021
Watercolor on paper
22 x 33 cm

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Wu Sibō (b.1976, China) was born in Maoming, southern Guangdong Province. He lives and works in Guangzhou since 1994. Wu graduated from Guangzhou Academy of Fine arts in 2005. In his gray-tone paintings, the mood of idleness, detachment and carefree lingers around. Normal people and mundane scenes in the countryside are the common subject matters in his work. From the perspective of an outsider, he presents the social landscape of Southern China in a monochromatic and silent way. Wu's work has been exhibited at Times Museum, Guangzhou, China (2021) and Times Art Center, Berlin (2020). His works are in private collections globally including The Burger Collection (Switzerland).

For more information and images please contact:

Echo Guo: echo@flowersgallery.com or press@flowersgallery.com

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11 am - 6 pm

Notes to Editors

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