

JUPITER

Mie Yim: *Inferno*

Miami Beach

December 2, 2024 – January 25, 2025

Opening reception: December 2, 2024, 6-8 PM



Jupiter Contemporary is thrilled to announce **Mie Yim: *Inferno***, the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery in collaboration with **Villa Magdalena** and cocurated by **Cy Schnabel**. This show of paintings from 2021 to the present is loosely inspired by the canvas, *Last Dance* (2023), a recent work which reveals the artist's exploration of certain symbolic forms and subjects. Yim's mutant imagery continues to morph: layered surfaces and unstable organic compositions distinguish her mature painting practice. The title of this presentation, a reference to the epic poem by Dante Alighieri and The Tramm's hit song, "Disco Inferno", creates a liminal space that symbolically accompanies the pictures on view as they relate to a vulnerable but formative period of the

artist's assimilation into American culture. Throughout the exhibit, the artist constructs her own fiction of heaven and hell, good and evil.

Mie Yim (b. 1963, S. Korea) is a New York-based Korean artist working primarily in painting, drawing and occasionally other media. The juxtaposition of brilliant colors and dramatic content is a fundamental feature of the artist's notion of beauty—which is almost always accompanied by an underlying sense of horror. Yim's mode of expression bridges compelling dichotomies: luminosity and darkness, artificiality and organic matter, order and chaos, harmony and violence.

Hell is a nightclub. Yim's bittersweet teenage years in Honolulu, characterized by the loss of innocence through her emersion in the city's underground nightlife scene and experiments with drugs, have been fertile source material for her paintings and drawings throughout most of her career. *Inferno* is a manifestation of this legacy along with other representative themes and art historical references. Every element forms part of an allegorical narrative that addresses immigration, loneliness, identity and ultimately human existence.

In Mie Yim's rendering of an invented planetary realm we are confronted by myriad scenes and characters. Sinister figures emerge from the shadows, suspended abstractions turn into surreal topographies, biomorphic depictions of disco balls and dance floors become soft and lose their familiarity, animals and other organic matter never cease to evolve into unknown forms. Throughout these altered states the viewer feels a rhythmic current that make these painterly visions feel alive and eternally present.

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Recent solo exhibitions include: Nightshade (Simone Subal Gallery, New York, NY, USA, 2023), Belladonna, (Olympia Gallery, New York, NY, 2023), Mie Yim: Saints, Shamans, and Batshit Crazies (Inna Art Space, Hangzhou, China, 2023), Fluid Boundaries (Brattleboro Art Museum, Brattleboro, VT, USA, 2022), Mie Yim: Mutants (Villa Magdalena, Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain, 2021). Recent group shows include Wonderland (Lehman Maupin, Seoul, South Korea, 2024), Cathartic Creatures (Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA, 2023), and Notions (Canada, New York, NY, USA, 2023).

Caption: Mie Yim, *Sisyphus*, 2023, Oil on canvas, 72 by 60 in. 182.88 by 152.4 cm.

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