

# JUPITER

Yirui Jia

*Naïve and Sentimental*

March 30 – May 10, 2025

Opening reception: March 30, 6–8 PM

1217 71st Street

Miami Beach, FL 33141



Jupiter is proud to present **Yirui Jia's** new show *Naïve and Sentimental*, which takes inspiration from the German poet Friedrich Schiller's *Naïve and Sentimental Poetry*. Instead of presenting opposites, the show introduces a spectrum of complex human emotions and their intertwined encounters. The chromatic world of Yirui Jia shifts away from the previous show's contemplation of nature and changing seasons; this show is shaped by her summer travels in Europe, taking on a light, melodic tone with compositions freely flowing between the naïve and the sentimental.

This new body of work offers a layered, immersive experience where artificial and natural objects coexist, coalescing into works that capture Jia's enduring fascination with the fluidity of perception, memory and transformation. Jia creates relationships between figures and objects that feel at once familiar and disorienting, constructed yet inevitable. The works embrace a series of new approaches, where floating forms, distortion, and painterly forces create an ephemeral world caught between figuration and abstraction.

The three sister works, *Polyphonic I–III*, juxtapose Jia's recurring imagery in a surreal yet grounded manner. These works dissolve the boundaries between the animate and the inanimate, the sacred and the mundane. Her process involves concealment and revelation—layers of paint are overlaid, erased, obscured, and reemphasized until figures and forms merge into a new, integrated whole. This allows for a continuous state of emergence, where backgrounds recede and reappear, and objects oscillate between materiality and translucence.

In *Angel II*, a skeleton with wings emerges in prayer from behind blooming flowers. Gel-like layers soften the figure, making it appear both present and distant, fragile yet assertive. This interplay of transparency and opacity invites viewers to experience the works not as fixed images, but as transitional moments.

Throughout her paintings, Jia depicts human emotions with an enhanced sense of sanctity, drawing compositional inspiration from Italian Renaissance works, where divine presence was expressed through emotional immediacy and unguarded expression. In the paintings *A Naïve Singer* and *The Maiden's Prayer* a horizontal figure perches atop a standing one, echoing the shape of a cross. According to Jia, 'the presence of the trumpet growing behind the

figure's back gives a wing-like energy,' adding to the vein of religious symbolism running through the show.

More than a meditation on form, *Naïve and Sentimental* unearths the possibility of hope and harmony within the tensions between contradictions and coexistence. It invites a dialogue that inhabits the space between the naïve and sentimental, real and abstract, past and future.

**About the Artist:**

Yirui Jia (b. 1997, Binzhou, Shandong, China) moved to the United States in 2015, where she subsequently received her BFA from Gettysburg College, PA and her MFA from the School of Visual Arts, NY. Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; COMA, Sydney; Jupiter Gallery, Miami; Bill Brady Gallery, Los Angeles; LKIF Gallery, Seoul. She has been featured in group exhibitions at Kiang Malingue, Hong Kong; the Historical Hampton House, Miami; David Castillo Gallery, Miami; Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing; TUBE Culture Hall, Milan; PM/AM Gallery, London; LATITUDE Gallery, New York; Hive Art Center, Beijing; WerkStadt Berlin. Yirui currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

**Caption:** Yirui Jia, *Polyphonic II*, 2025, Acrylic, gel, glitter, Indian ink and collage on canvas, 92 by 71 in. 233.68 by 180.34 cm.

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