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Wu Chi-Tsung

*Fading Origin*

Sean Kelly, Los Angeles

January 18 – March 8, 2025

Opening reception: Saturday, January 18, 5-7pm

Sean Kelly, Los Angeles is delighted to present *Fading Origin*, Wu Chi-Tsung's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles. Known for his experimental approach to photography, Chi-Tsung's work bridges traditional Chinese art techniques and contemporary media, integrating Eastern and Western aesthetics. The exhibition features new works in Chi-Tsung's signature *Cyano-Collage* series and marks innovative new developments in his *Wrinkled Texture* works. There will be a reception from 5 to 7 pm. The artist will be present.

Wu Chi-Tsung was initially drawn to the cyanotype – an early form of photography requiring only basic chemicals and sunlight – in response to the rise of digital photography. For Chi-Tsung, what digital photography loses, and what his cyanotypes capture, is the medium's openness to chance and its connection to the

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material world, qualities that make each cyanotype unique. Chi-Tsung's renowned *Cyano-Collage* series synthesize his dual interests in Chinese landscape painting and experimental photography. This process begins by washing sheets of Xuan rice paper in photo-sensitive materials, which, when dried, Chi-Tsung creases by hand and exposes to sunlight. The subsequent abstract elements are collaged together on aluminum panels. The resulting images are open to interpretation perhaps evoking sublime mountainous landscapes or tumultuous seascapes. With their stunning formal cohesion and classical grandeur, the *Cyano-Collages* belie the inventive process of their creation. While Chi-Tsung conjures his panoramas through experimental photography, his use of the cyanotype process retains a connection to both the artist's hand and the natural world. In this way, Chi-Tsung captures the spiritual depth of Eastern painting traditions dating back over a thousand years, while renewing it with a contemporary aesthetic.

In the new *Wrinkled Texture Fading Origin* series the diptych and quadriptych works begin with a single, full sheet of exposed cyanotype paper. This print then becomes the basis for recursive cyanotypes within the same work, with each image becoming the negative for the adjacent sheet. The result is a mesmerizing shift between blue and white tones, where the original image gradually dissipates into a field of color. This process captures the ephemeral and transient qualities of the natural world whilst also emphasizing the slight, irreproducible differences unique to analog processes. By double-exposing the paper and exploring the faded origin of the image, the *Wrinkled Texture Fading Origin* series reflect Chi-Tsung's commitment to advancing the medium while preserving the poetic, tactile qualities of analog photography.

Wu Chi-Tsung believes his generation is the last to transition from analog to digital photography, a shift that profoundly informs his practice. Unlike digital images, where copies retain perfect fidelity, analog processes embrace subtle variations that reflect their individuality. In his *Cyano-Collage* series, breathtaking images emerge from the meticulous accumulation of numerous cyanotype prints, while his *Wrinkled Texture* works explore cycles of emergence and disappearance through innovative multiple exposures. Together, these works emphasize the conceptual depth, material innovation, and aesthetic sensitivity that define Chi-Tsung's body of work.

Wu Chi-Tsung's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Katonah Museum of Art, New York and TAO Art, Taiwan. His work has been included in international exhibitions at institutions such as the Mori Art Museum, Japan; the National Museum Cardiff, United Kingdom; the Long Beach Museum of Art, Los Angeles; the Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'art Contemporain, Luxembourg; the Museo Del Palacio De Bellas Artes, Mexico; the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing; the Shanghai Art Museum and the Minsheng 21st Century Museum, Shanghai, China; the Seoul Museum of Art, South Korea; the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan; the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, and the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan amongst others. Wu Chi-Tsung was the recipient of the Liu Kuo Sung Ink Art Award, Hong Kong in 2019, the WRO

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Media Art Biennial award in 2013 and the Taipei Arts Award in 2003. His work is included in renowned collections such as the Xie Zilong Photography Museum, the Post Vidai Collection, M+ Hong Kong, The Vero Beach Museum of Art, The Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and the Borusan Contemporary Art Collection.

For additional information about Wu Chi-Tsung, please visit [skny.com](http://skny.com)

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Image: Wu Chi-Tsung, *Cyano-Collage 229*, 2024, cyanotype photography, Xuan paper, acrylic gel, acrylic, mounted on aluminum board, 51 3/16 x 118 1/8 inches © Wu Chi-Tsung Courtesy: the artist and Sean Kelly, New York/Los Angeles