

**Guimi You**

***When the Sun Shines Again***

June 11 – August 14, 2026

New York



Photo by Guimi You Studio

Lehmann Maupin is pleased to present *When the Sun Shines Again*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by South Korean artist Guimi You. In this exhibition, the artist turns toward a quiet yet profound gesture: the act of beginning again. Conceived as a tribute to those who have returned to creating after time away, the works unfold through a recurring image of sunlight, an enduring symbol of clarity, renewal, and hope. If darkness unsettles us because it obscures what lies ahead, morning offers a gentle correction. As light enters, forms reappear, and with them, the possibility of continuation. It is within this passage, from obscurity to illumination, that the artist's works take shape. *When the Sun Shines Again* marks You's first major solo presentation in New York.

At its center is *Painting, Again*, a meditation on return. The artist draws from the lives of close friends, women who, after years devoted to caregiving and domestic life, have begun to reclaim their artistic practices. Once immersed in the shared experiences of art school, their paths diverged as time and responsibility intervened. Now, in the margins of their daily routines, they have carved out space to paint again. A corner of a room, a patch of floor, a quiet morning after sending children to school, these become sites of reawakening. Within the composition, works created by these friends are embedded into the painting itself, following conversations in which each selected the piece they felt most deeply connected to. Their images, of a woman at the sink, of a solitary figure, of landscapes and fleeting gestures, coexist within the artist's own pictorial space. In this layering, authorship becomes shared, and painting becomes a site of quiet solidarity.

The *Shape of Silence* and *Let the Sunlight In* extend this reflection through the artist's encounter with ceramics. Inspired by time spent in a sunlit pottery studio, these works trace a parallel narrative of transformation. Ceramics are shaped through a series of unseen processes, throwing, glazing, firing, each guided by variables that resist full control. Immersed in this environment, the artist found a resonance between the tactile act of shaping clay and the emotional terrain of beginning

anew. The spinning wheel, steady yet open-ended, became a quiet metaphor for a life reoriented around process rather than outcome. In a contemporary context saturated with spectacle and immediacy, You's work insists on slowness, attention, and emotional restraint. Her images resist narrative resolution and monumental drama, instead proposing a form of looking rooted in duration and contemplation. This refusal of excess situates her practice within a broader contemporary return to affect, interiority, and the ethics of seeing.

This sensibility carries into her landscapes drawn from places of personal memory. You renders misty, finely detailed environments where form and atmosphere dissolve into one another, transforming the landscape into a psychological and emotional terrain. In *Violet Haze*, a woman stands smoking within a park veiled in mauve fog, surrounded by softened foliage and warning signs she quietly ignores as she steps deeper into the garden. The drifting smoke, damp vegetation, and hazy atmosphere blur the boundary between figure and environment, suggesting a state of inward wandering shaped by longing, alienation, and emotional uncertainty. Yet within this darkness and obscurity lies the possibility of clarity and renewal, a tension that recurs throughout the artist's work, where light and hope emerge precisely because darkness exists. The figure appears on the verge of dissolving into the landscape itself, suspended between isolation and revelation, uncertainty and quiet perseverance. Her approach synthesizes East Asian pictorial traditions of evocation and atmospheric transparency with Western lineages such as Romanticism and Surrealism, positioning landscape not as an escapist subject, but as a space for reflecting on memory, subjectivity, and how we situate ourselves within the world.

Bringing these intertwined narratives together, the exhibition serves as a meditation on time, resilience, and the fragile courage required to begin again. Here, painting is not simply an act of production, but a space of return, where light gathers, forms reemerge, and, slowly, hope takes shape once more.

Guimi You (b. 1985, Seoul, South Korea; lives and works in Seoul) is a painter whose work explores the emotional resonance of landscapes, interiors, and solitude. Through vibrant and poetic use of color, she creates atmospheric scenes that blend observation and imagination, capturing the fleeting sensations of memory, reflection, and presence. Her paintings often depict tranquil environments—flower-filled hillsides, still ponds, domestic spaces—that become sites for introspection and deeper engagement.

Originally trained in East Asian painting, You's understanding of its pictorial traditions—where painting is not an act of depiction, but of evocation—anchors her approach. Her surfaces are built through a sensitive modulation of tone and translucency, where forms emerge gradually rather than being firmly outlined, echoing the atmospheric principles of traditional Korean landscape painting. After studying in South Korea, she lived in the United Kingdom and the United States, where she began working with oil paint and immersed herself in Western painting, wherein the external world often functions as a mirror for inner states. Today, You's work sits at the intersection of Eastern and Western traditions, combining the delicacy and fluidity of ink with the depth and materiality of oil.

You's paintings invite sustained attention and close looking in the midst of the accelerated rhythms of contemporary image culture. In works such as *Breath* and *Rest*, scenes unfold with minimal action—figures lingering within quiet interiors or drifting through open environments—where meaning emerges not through narrative but through time spent with the image. Her mark-making recalls the layered transparency

of ink washes and the restrained harmony of traditional Korean landscape painting, evoking Jeong Seon's *Inwangjesaekdo*, where form and atmosphere are inseparable. This sensibility finds a parallel in Romanticism, particularly in Caspar David Friedrich's use of the *Rückenfigur* (a figure seen from behind that invites the viewer into a contemplative, subjective encounter with the scene), as You's anonymous figures operate not as fixed surrogates but as traces of presence that invite slowness and introspection. At the same time, her work engages a Surrealist sensitivity to the uncanny, where subtle shifts in color, scale, and spatial logic transform everyday scenes into sites of perceptual ambiguity.

You has exhibited widely at institutions across Asia, Europe, and the United States. Notable presentations include group exhibitions at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; the Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio; and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami. Recent solo presentations include exhibitions at Almine Rech, London, Jessica Silverman, San Francisco, and Make Room, Los Angeles, among others. You's work is included in public collections internationally, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; de Young Museum, San Francisco, California; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, California; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, Florida; Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio; Orange County Museum of Art, Costa Mesa, California; Roberts Institute of Art, London, United Kingdom; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; Museu Inima de Paula, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; X Museum, Beijing, China; Yuz Foundation, Shanghai, China; and the Seoul National University Museum of Art and College of Fine Art, South Korea, among others.

**Lehmann Maupin**

Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin co-founded Lehmann Maupin in 1996 in New York. Since inception, Lehmann Maupin has served as a leading contemporary art gallery with locations in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. For over 25 years, Lehmann Maupin has been instrumental in introducing international artists in new geographies and building long-lasting curatorial relationships. Known for championing diverse voices, the gallery's program proudly features artists whose work challenges notions of identity and shapes international culture. Today, the gallery has permanent locations in New York, Seoul, and London, as well as team members throughout Asia and Europe.

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