

Gao Ludi

Album

20 January – 31 March 2018

Ibid Gallery is pleased to present the debut US solo exhibition of the Beijing-based painter Gao Ludi. These new paintings come out of a pictorial vocabulary for which Gao Ludi has become known, a language stemming from his (and our) daily engagement with digital imagery, social media, and screen-based landscapes. Formal aspects of unnamable structures, shapes, and colors become irregular silhouettes of a reality. The paintings' anonymous, unreasonable, and decontextualized content allows them to unravel with pleasure as much as they demand a rigorous type of looking.

Gao Ludi's paintings are oddly physical for their relationship to the digital realm. He considers his painting practice primarily in relation to the body, as a fundamental intervention and reaction to his environment. The rhythm of composition and color float to the foreground of his consciousness as he reconciles issues within the pictorial space. For all their digital sources, his paintings feel more like matter coalescing on a support rather than a backlit screen. The images open themselves to be read as projected and reflected, personal and public, subjective and objective. Points of reference continually shift as the paintings' fixed references recede into an individually-held archive.

The exhibition title *Album* refers to the unit of images or songs bound by a commonality – in this case, the artist. The collection of paintings is presented like images on a cell phone, as fragments and images which, according to the artist, have no grand narrative or ideological struggle. Rather than declaring a singular narrative or ideology, the paintings are consequential to their always already present historical and contemporary contexts. Almost as a form of resistance, the paintings are part of a daily and disciplined practice turned inward by Gao Ludi. The tempting, crystallized, ecstatic, and miniature of everyday life is held dear as viewer and artist make meaning from the pictures. The paintings' images flicker over the eye and through memory, caught between being collected, digested, and absorbed.

The high frequency of Gao Ludi's recent paintings bounce between high and low forms image making. The back of a Polaroid film is presented with a similar magic as the window of a microwave – both technological sorcerers which, over time, became accessible by the masses. Energy is transmitted between beings and caught on Gao Ludi's scrims and screens as he picks up on the halos and specters present. Through the work of Gao Ludi, paintings, cameras, and smart phones, while non-living, begin to show signs of being haunted and blessed with the affect of the living.

Gao Ludi was born in 1990 in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, China. He graduated in 2013 from the Academy of Fine Arts of Capital Normal University in Beijing. Past solo exhibitions include WHITE SPACE BEIJING, China (2013, 2015, 2016) and J Gallery, Shanghai, China (2014). Gao's work has been included in institutional exhibitions at Yang Art Museum, Beijing, China, the Hive Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China, and the Tianjin Art Museum, Tianjin, China. Gao lives and works in Beijing.

For additional information or images please email john@ibidgallery.com or call +1 (323) 395-8914.

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Tuesday – Saturday, 11am – 6pm