

# MONYA ROWE GALLERY

224 West 30th Street, No. 1005  
New York, NY 10001  
info@monyarowegallery.com

**For Immediate Release**

## GUIMI YOU

### *Mystical Moist Night Air*

May 24 – June 23, 2018

Opening reception: Thursday, May 24, 6-8 PM

**Monya Rowe Gallery** is excited to present the first New York solo exhibition of paintings by **Gumi You** titled *Mystical Moist Night Air*.

In this suite of paintings, You explores the intersection between reality and illusion through the lens of motherhood. In You's own words: "I see where the imagination and real world are mingled with my own eyes." At first glance, in *Mystical Moist* (2018), it's difficult to discern if the toy dinosaur atop a table amid books and plants is part of a fantasy or a still life. The desire to transmogrify the overlooked is a strong thread throughout the exhibition. Adding to the fantastical element, You uses hallucinatory hues, evoking Magic Realism, while the low saturation and gradation of colors enforces a dream-like haze. One can see George Tooker (1920–2011) in the work, and also traditional East Asian painting.

The underlying personal narrative is driven by an inner conflict to balance child-rearing and domestic responsibilities with being an artist. Some works hint at fatigue and pressure, but amid the overwhelming energy there is a calmness to the work. A prevailing mood of acceptance and tranquility. Embracing the absurdity of life, You preserves the spirit of the moment, however mundane, and however difficult it may seem, with a sense of humor and curiosity.

**Gumi You** (b. 1985, Seoul, Korea) received a MA in Painting from *Royal College of Art*, London, United Kingdom and a BFA and a MFA in Oriental Painting from *Seoul National University*, Seoul, Korea. Recent group exhibitions include *Kristian Day*, London; Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, U.K.; and *A.P.T Gallery*, London. You has completed residencies at *Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA)*, North Adams, MA (2017) and *Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT* (2016). You lives and works in Farmingville, Long Island and Brooklyn, NY.

Gallery hours:

Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 6 PM

Image:

**GUIMI YOU**, *I Can't See You*, 2018, oil on canvas, 48 by 42 inches

Upcoming:

June: **ANGELA DUFRESNE & LOUIS FRATINO**

August: Group show

September: **LARISSA BATES**



###