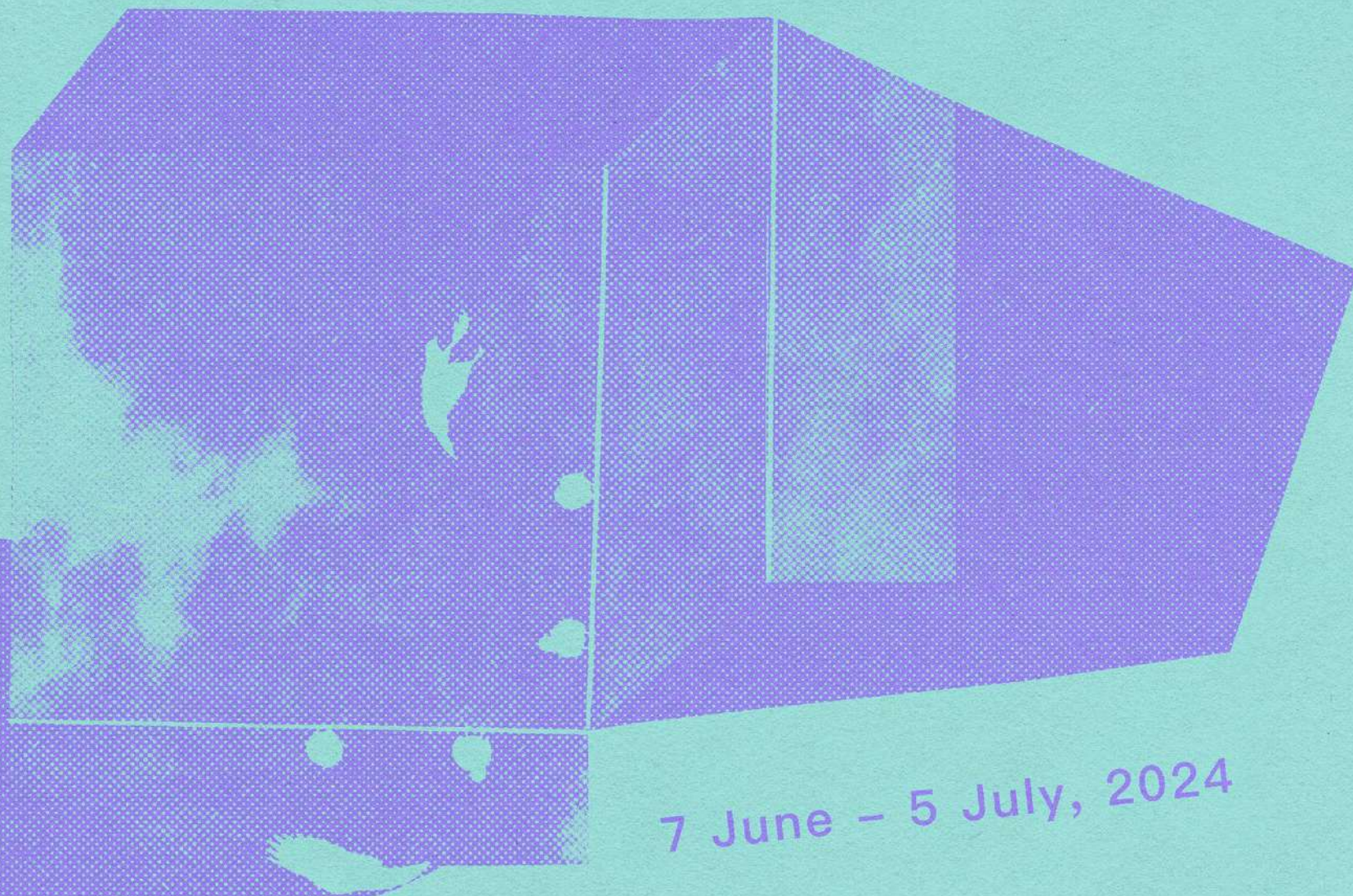


Ascending and Descending

j/

上升與

墜落



7 June – 5 July, 2024

Galerie j/

12, rue Notre-Dame de Nazareth, 75003 Paris, France

Ascending and Descending

Curated by Chris WAN Feng

Ascending and Descending

**Solo Exhibition by
Ivy MA King Chu**

Galerie j / is pleased to present *Ascending and Descending*, Hong Kong artist Ivy MA King Chu's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Ivy has been continuously exploring painting, photography, and installation art for over twenty years. Her work has entered a unique new phase in recent years.

In 2021, Ivy left Hong Kong and began a nomadic travel with her family. They stay in each city for a few weeks to several months and are still on the move. This dramatic lifestyle change has influenced her artistic practice. She began creating with simple, readily available materials, completing all her works during her travels, and they can always be packed up to accompany her on her next journey. This exhibition marks the first display of these light, rich, and powerful new works in France.

The exhibition title "*Ascending and Descending*" includes "Ascending," which encompasses the recurrent bird imagery in the artist's new phase, the metaphysical exploration of abstract art, and the transcendence and spirituality they jointly point to. "Descending" corresponds to the continual repetition and extension of daily life, the sudden interruption of events, and the theme of death, which is closely tied to transcendence.

Upon entering the first-floor exhibition space, visitors will see over a hundred new works from the "*Bird Of Shape: Cities*" series arranged chronologically, providing an archival panoramic record.

The underground exhibition space offers a more intimate feel: a series of works are quietly gathered in various corners, along with letters from the curator, awaiting the audience to open and read them. A group of emotionally intense works about Hong Kong is also hidden here, reminding viewers to feel the omnipresent homesickness in the artist's seemingly romantic and unrestrained journey—not just a sentimental response to a specific city and its turbulent current events, but also a universal contemplation on "how people truly connect with places."

"*A Study of an Episode in The Passion of Joan of Arc*," is a new work specially created for this exhibition, inspired by Danish director Carl Theodor Dreyer's film "La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc" (the bird imagery that continually appears in Ivy's work initially came from this film).

The artist will attend the opening event on June 6 in Paris, France. Please stay tuned.

Ivy MA King Chu

Born in 1973 in Hong Kong



Ivy MA King Chu is a Hong Kong artist working in drawing, painting, photography and mixed media installation.

She received her MA Degree of Feminist Theory and Practice in Visual Art from the University of Leeds in the UK in 2002, and her BA of Fine Arts (Painting) from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) / The Art School, Arts Centre in 2001.

Ivy has had a number of solo exhibitions in Hong Kong. She was an Asian Cultural Council Fellow in 2007 and received the Hong Kong Contemporary Art Awards, Young Artist Award in 2012. Her series *"Numbers Standing Still"* (2012) was collected by the Hong Kong Museum of Art in 2013. Another series, *"Last Year"* (2015), was collected by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) in 2020.

EDUCATION

- 2001–2002 MA, Feminist Theory and Practice in Visual Art, University of Leeds, UK
- 1999–2001 BA, Fine Arts (Painting), Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) / The Art School, Hong Kong Arts Centre

AWARDS

- 2012 Hong Kong Contemporary Art Award, Young Artists Award, Hong Kong Museum of Art
- 2007 Lee Hysan Foundation Fellowship, Asian Cultural Council
- 2001–2002 Hong Kong Arts Development Council – FCO Chevening University of Leeds Scholarship

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Think Of Wind*, Touch Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2020 *Poems, days, death*, Lumervisum, Hong Kong
- 2018 *As Time Folds*, ACO@Footak Building, Hong Kong
- 2015 *Last Year*, Gallery Exit, Hong Kong
- 2014 *Someone*, Goethe-Gallery and Black Box Studio, Hong Kong
- 2012 *Numbers Standing Still*, Gallery Exit, Hong Kong
- 2011 *Still Lives and Waves*, Artists in the Neighbourhood Scheme V, Hong Kong Film Archive and Commercial Press Book Shop
- 2011 *Gazes*, Gallery Exit, Hong Kong
- 2010 *Hardly Entered, Already Gone*, YY9 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2009 *Deer Running*, Gifu Municipal Culture Center, Gifu, Japan
- 2007 *Perhaps Solitude*, Loft 21, Fotanian Studio Open 2007, Hong Kong
- 2001 *Nothing At All*, The Art School Learning Centre Gallery, Hong Kong

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Bird of Shape - A Non-Solo of Ivy Ma*, in association with Carol Chow, Man Mei To and June Wong, Tangent Projects, Barcelona, Spain
- Closer Together*, Pao Galleries, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong
- 2023 *Closer Together*, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- Flower · Mother – A Conversation Exhibition between Ivy Ma and Stephen Lam*, Lumervisum, Hong Kong
- 2022 *Under•Line*, Tangent Projects, Barcelona, Spain
- Lateral Art Space, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- When Will I See You Again?* SC Gallery, Hong Kong
- 31 Women Artists – Hong Kong*, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong
- Under•Line*, Lademoen Kunstnerverksteder, Trondheim, Norway
- 2021 *Residual Heat*, Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Hong Kong
- Future of the Past*, Contemporary By Angela Li, Hong Kong
- 2020 *Drawing as the Core*, Koo Ming Kown Exhibition Gallery, Lee Shau Kee Communication & Visual Arts Building, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
- The spaces Between the Words Are Almost Infinite*, Gallery EXIT, Hong Kong
- 2019 *By the Window*, 1a space, Hong Kong
- 2018 *Social Transformation*, Pao Galleries, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong
- Collections of Tom, Debbie and Harry*, JC Contemporary, Tai Kwun, Hong Kong
- Crossing*, Gallery Exit, Hong Kong
- What Has Been, Will Be Lost Until We Find It*, Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong

- 2017 *Ink Asia Art Fair 2017*, The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
Deep Silence – Hong Kong Art School Alumni Network Exhibition 2017, Pao Galleries, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong
(An)other-Half: Being a Wife/Mother and the Practices of the Self, Osage Gallery, Hong Kong
Art Travellers Exhibition Series I : Decoding Exotic Lands, Art Promotion Office, Hong Kong
- 2016 *Islands' Narrative: Literature X Visual Art*, 1a space, Hong Kong
As the leaves fall, Grey and Green Ping Pong Collaboration Art Project, 1a space, Hong Kong
Art Basel HK 2016, The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
- 2015 *Ceramics Show by Non-ceramics Artists*, 1a space, Hong Kong
- 2013 *Art Basel HK 2013*, The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
Painting On and On: Inter-textuality, Lingnan University, Hong Kong
Hong Kong Art Biennial Exhibition, Hong Kong Museum of Art
- 2012 *Running on the Sidelines – Hong Kong New Media Art Exhibition*, Soka Art Center, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2011 *Rediscover Photography*, China Pingyao International Photography Festival 2011, China
- 2010 *Exhibiting Experiments. Experimenting Exhibitions, Wrong Place*, JCCAC, Hong Kong
City Flâneur: Social Documentary Photography, Hong Kong Heritage Museum
In Details, agnès b.'s LIBRAIRE GALERIE, Hong Kong
- 2009 *Imaging Hong Kong*, Hong Kong Central Library / Edge Gallery
- 2008 *Women's Work*, Osage Gallery, Hong Kong
Art Container Project, West Kowloon Cultural District, Hong Kong
- 2007 *October Contemporary 2007*, Cattle Depot Artist Village, Hong Kong
A Separate Domain, Hui Gallery, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 2006 *Between the Observer and the Observed*, Lianzhou International Photo Festival, Lianzhou, China
Second Skin, 3 Boxes, Hong Kong
- 2006 *Media Art Show*, Vasl International Artists' Collective, Pakistan
Hong Kong Art Biennial Exhibition, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
Stained, the eclipsed pattern, Uma-g Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2005 *Curiosities*, Para/Site, Hong Kong
- 2004 *Dream Garden*, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Hong Kong
- 2003 *Meat*, 1a space, Cattle Depot Artists Village, Hong Kong
- 2002 *Articulation*, University of Leeds, UK
- 2001 *Wo-Man, Female Artists Installation*, Old Ladies House, Macau
Girls' Thing, Fringe Club, Hong Kong

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST WORKSHOP / ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

- 2008–2009 Location One, New York City, USA
2008 The Headlands Center for the Arts, San Francisco, USA
2007 The Åland Archipelago Guest Artist Residence, Kökar, Åland
2006 HIAP (Helsinki International Artist Program), Cable Factory, Helsinki, Finland
2005 HKAIR (International Artists' Workshop), HK Britto International Artists' Workshop, Nikera Kori Center, Nungola, Bora, Bangladesh

THEATRE PRODUCTION

- 2021 *Objects Lie On A Table*, a land|scape performance directed by Ivy Ma and Ng Tsz-kwan, produced by Orlean Lai @ No Discipline Limited, Hong Kong City Hall.

PUBLICATION

- 2012 *Ivy Ma: This Room is not Still*, Gallery EXIT, MCCM Creations

CURATORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019 *By the Window*, 1a space, Hong Kong
2010 *In Details*, agnès b.'s LIBRAIRE GALERIE, Hong Kong
2005 *If Hong Kong, A Woman /Traveller* (Exhibition and Exchange program with Leeds University, UK), 1a space, Cattle Depot Artists Village, Hong Kong

Reference Link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ivy_Ma

Chris WAN Feng

Exhibition Curator

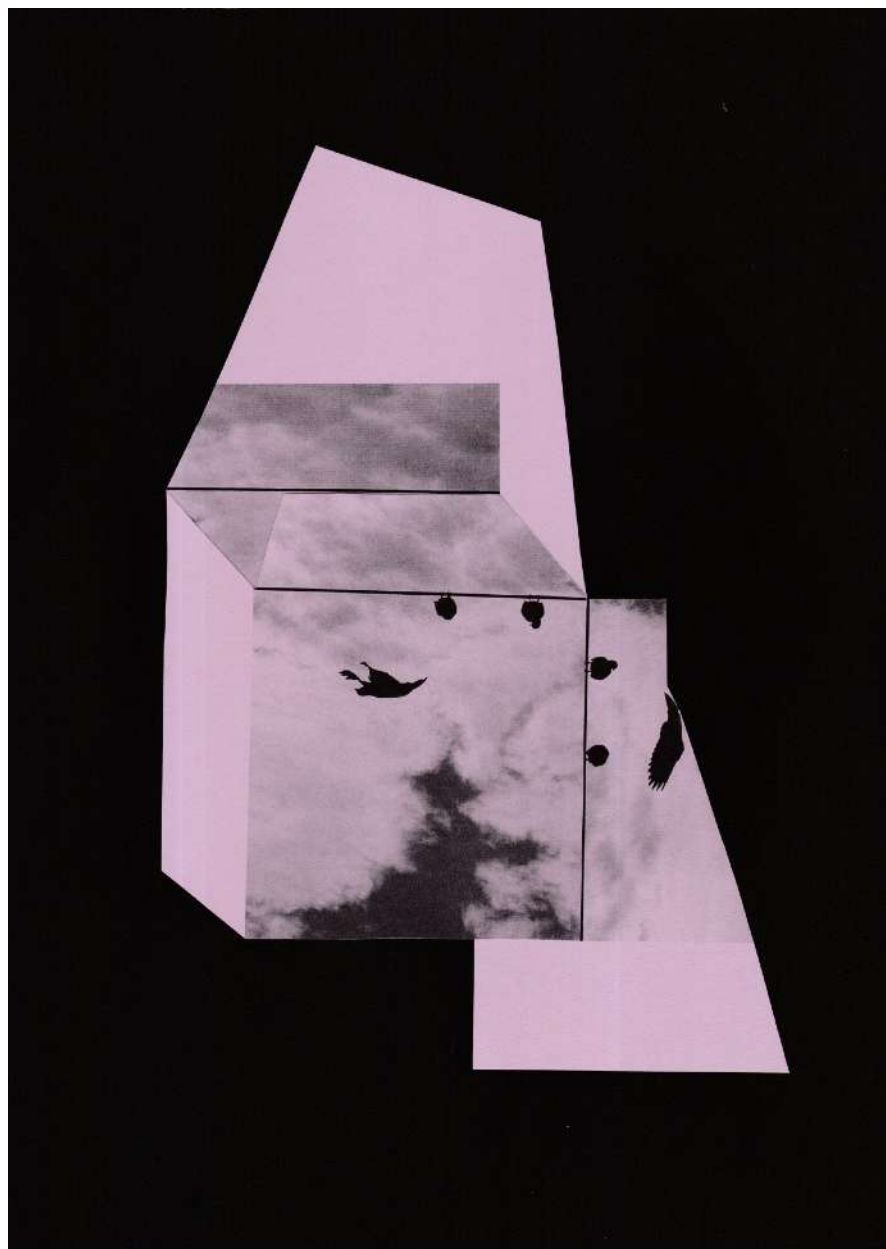


Chris WAN Feng is an independent curator and writer based in Hong Kong. His research, writing, and curatorial work focus on the interplay between locality and artistic ecosystems. Chris has contributed to numerous art publications, such as ArtForum and ArtReview. He is also the founder and executive editor of the art writing platform "Daoju" (www.daoju.art), a non-profit art criticism project that specifically highlights the contemporary art scene centered in Hong Kong. In 2023, he was invited to curate the public program for Hong Kong Art Central and the "Hong Kong Focus" section of Abu Dhabi Art in the UAE.

This exhibition is one of the "Blue Throat" projects he has curated in recent years. Since 2023, this series has been showcased in Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Shenzhen, and other locations, exploring the shared themes of diaspora, displacement, and identity in our turbulent world through experimental curatorial methods and case studies of Hong Kong artists.

Ascending and Descending

**SELECTED ARTWORK
PREVIEW**



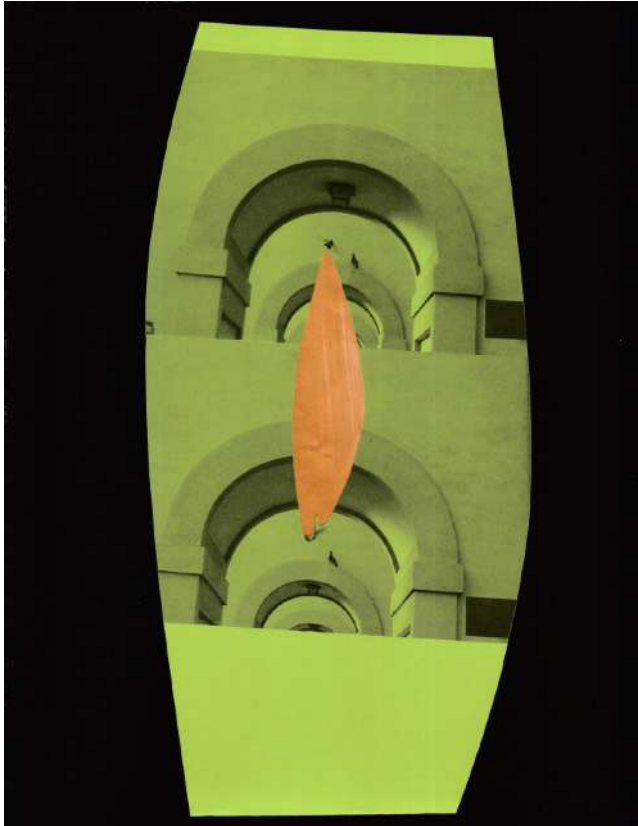
“Bird Of Shape: Cities” series is arranged chronologically in the exhibition, providing an archival panoramic record.

During her long journey, Ivy began capturing images of birds in different cities. She set her camera to take two consecutive frames in rapid succession, printed the captured photos on paper, and then used cutting, collage, and painting to destruct and reorganize them.

As a result, distance and space are rearranged, and the concrete and abstract are intricately juxtaposed. The ascending birds transform into ingenious and witty images that seem to endlessly vary in metaphor.

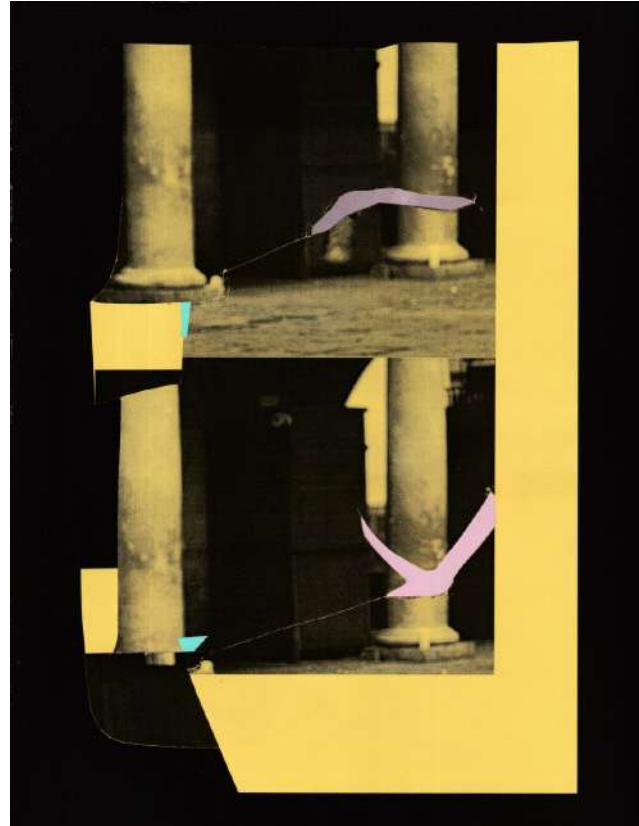
Bird Of Shape: Cities - Istanbul No. 507, 2024

Collage (photographic print on colour paper and acrylic on paper)
297 x 210 mm



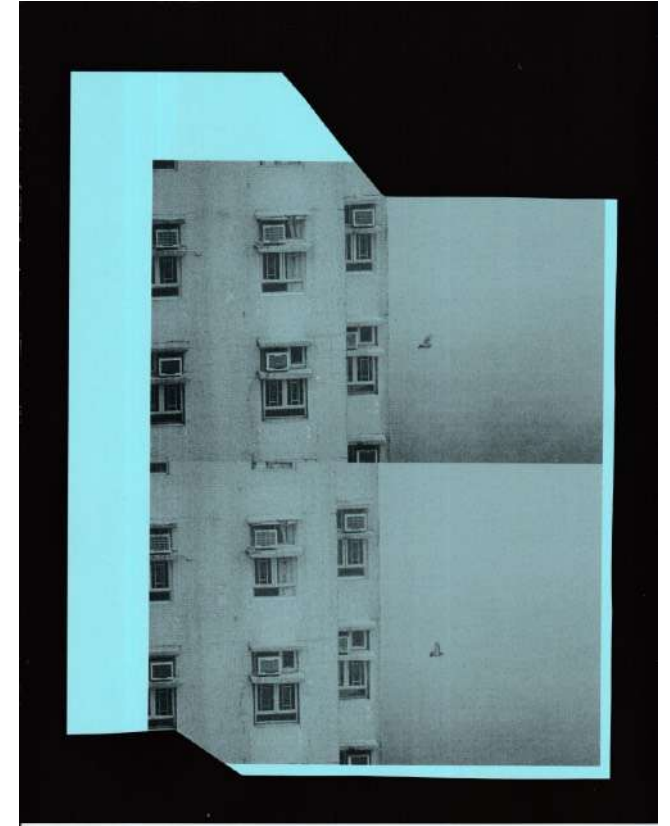
Bird Of Shape: Cities - Venice No. 335, 2024

Collage (photographic print on colour paper and acrylic on paper) mounted on watercolor paper
297 x 210 mm



Bird Of Shape: Cities - Mexico City No. 278, 2024

Collage (photographic print on colour paper and acrylic on paper) mounted on watercolor paper
297 x 210 mm



Bird Of Shape: Cities - Hong Kong No. 570, 2024

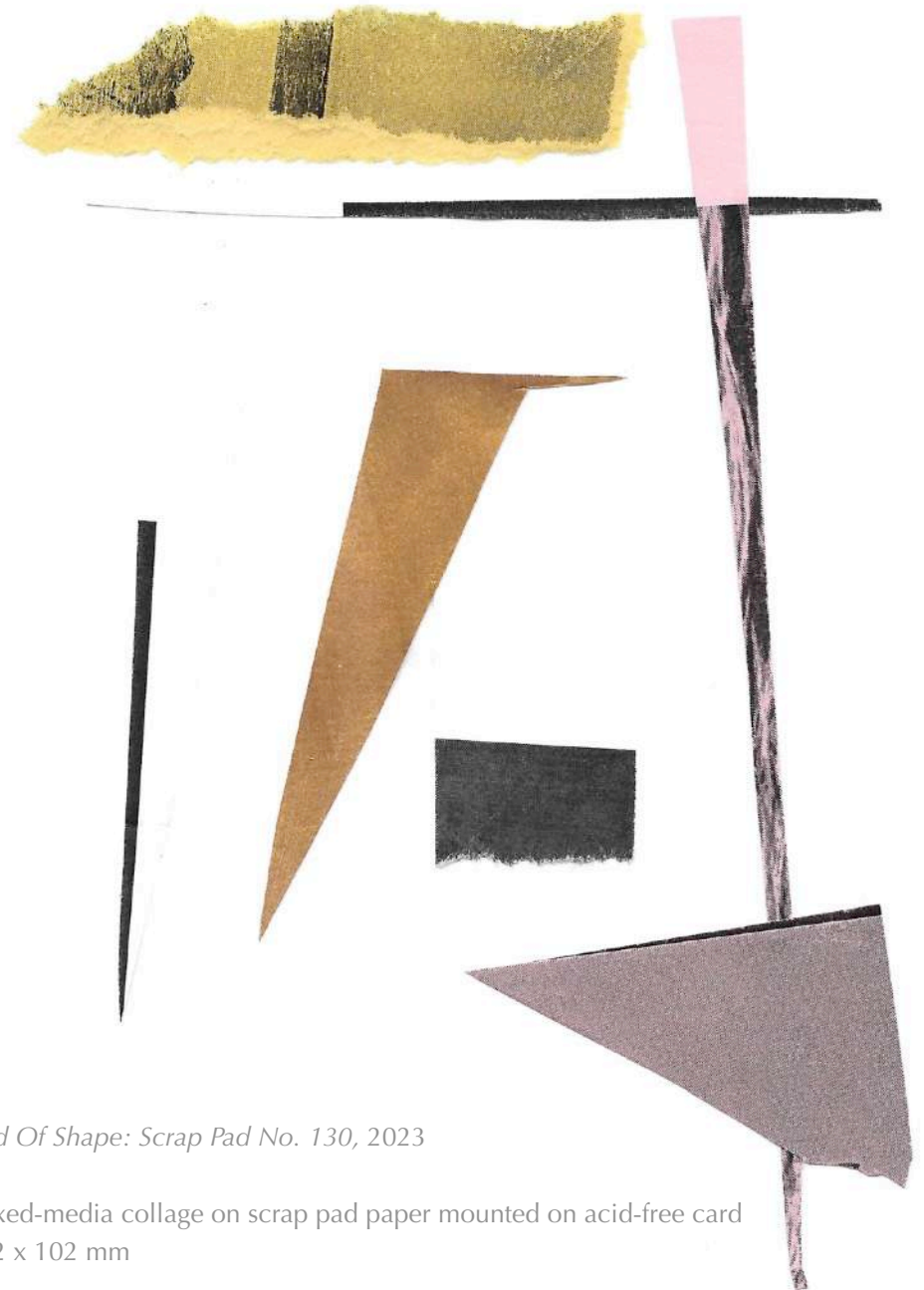
Collage (photographic print on colour paper)
297 x 210 mm

"Bird Of Shape: Scrap Pad" series is an impromptu experiment by the artist using leftover fragments from her creations.



Bird Of Shape: Scrap Pad No. 133, 2023

Mixed-media collage on scrap pad paper mounted on acid-free card
152 x 102 mm



Bird Of Shape: Scrap Pad No. 130, 2023

Mixed-media collage on scrap pad paper mounted on acid-free card
152 x 102 mm



*Bird Of Shape: Four Cut-outs and Two Shades
No. 024, 2024*

Collage (photographic print, colour paper and acrylic on paper) and graphite on acid-free card
210 x 148 mm

*Bird Of Shape: Four Cut-outs and Two Shades
No. 022, 2024*

Collage (photographic print, colour paper and acrylic on paper) and graphite on acid-free card
210 x 148 mm



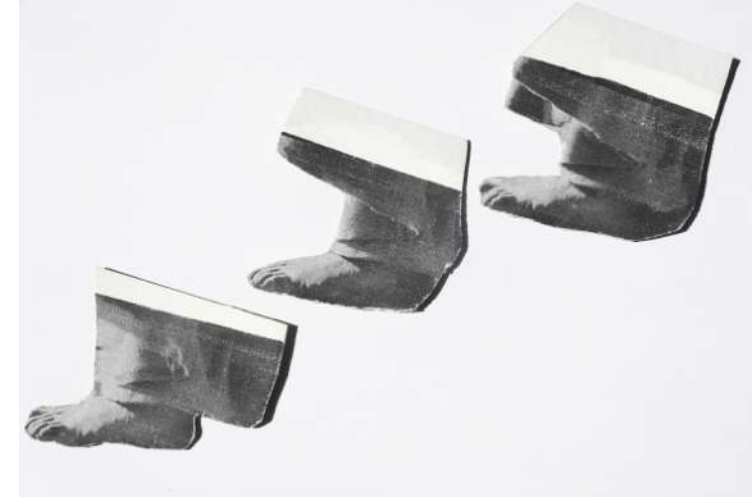
"Bird Of Shape: Four Cut-outs and Two Shades" series attempts to introduce a certain proactive order in the game of cutting and pasting, bringing abstract art into a fascinating position that traverses two and three dimensions.

A Study of an Episode in The Passion of Joan of Arc
No.07 - 08, 2024

Print on paper mounted on cardboard
Size variable



A new work specially created for this exhibition, "**A Study of an Episode in The Passion of Joan of Arc**," is inspired by Danish director Carl Theodor Dreyer's film "La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc". It borrows the close-up of Joan's feet descending the spiral staircase to her death, responding to the unique design of the gallery space and serving as a distinctive counterpoint to the many ascending bird images in the exhibition. Keep walking—ascending, descending, historical, future—they ultimately merge into one through accidental encounters.



A Study of an Episode in The Passion of Joan of Arc
No.018 - 020, 2024

Print on paper mounted on cardboard
Size variable

Vernissage *

6 June 2024, 6 - 9 pm

Press Preview *

6 June 2024, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

*In the presence of the artist

Exhibition Dates

7 June - 5 July 2024

For Media Inquiries, please contact
mika@jpsgallery.com

Gallery Address:

12 Rue Notre Dame de Nazareth,
75003 Paris

Contact number: + 33 1 40 61 04 91



Galerie j / is a contemporary art gallery founded in 2024 focusing on intellectually engaging presentations designed to challenge, inspire, and encourage critical thinking among audiences through thought-provoking content.

We are committed to bridging the gap between the East and West by collaborating with emerging and established creatives across the world to curate experimental exhibitions that push the boundaries of diverse artistic practices and encourage interdisciplinary collaborations in the contemporary art landscape.



Instagram