

Hilarie Hon at Gallery Exit

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By China Daily Lifestyle Premium

Local artist Hilarie Hon brings her painterly gaze to Gallery Exit



Hilarie Hon, Sunlight Murmur, 2020, acrylic and oil on canvas, 75x100cm

Local artist Hilarie Hon invokes bold colours and comical imagery to create a nightmarish, surreal world. Her canvases depict fleeting moments tantamount to watching a film in a cinema – a tree about to fall, a man walking in heavy rain, fireworks. She deploys notions of gazing and painting as a visual art device and a metaphor. All of this is readily apparent in her latest exhibition, *Yesterday Brightness*.

The site-specific work *Tree in Kowloon Park* explores the nature and functions of windows through a juxtaposition between the actual space and the painted space. The work consists of a three-panel painting of a large bare tree, with a curtain in front of it that can be drawn open or closed.

With form and function comparable to an actual window, *Indoor* is a painting with foldable wooden panels, which allows the painted scenes to be seen or hidden from view. It's a triptych when opened and an installation object when closed, thereby transforming between 2D and 3D forms.

Sparkly Waters, Blurry Eyes is a four-metre long work comprising 11 panels with different scenes, sizes and perspectives, all loosely connected with each other on a grid. Many of the painted scenes look near-identical to Hon's previous paintings, such as the centrepiece of the sunset, another panel depicting birds flying in the darkening sky, and a scene of human figures drifting in boats. The work is a response to her 2018 series *The Daily Disappearance of the Sun*.

The human figures in Hon's work have no strong identity, and co-exist both inside and outside the painted panels, reinforcing a sense of alienation and spatial ambiguity. Discover Hon's transformative world at *Yesterday Brightness*, showing until November 28. *Gallery Exit*, 3/F, 25 Hing Wo Street, Tin Wan, Aberdeen; galleryexit.com

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