

JOHN YOUNG SPECTRUMFIGURES, NATURESCAPES 19 APRIL- 20 MAY

ARC
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GALLERY



ARC ONE Gallery presents *Spectrumfigures, Naturescapes*, from the influential contemporary artist JOHN YOUNG. This exhibition features Young's major investigations of Abstract Paintings, a reassessment of technology's modification of bodily skills, accompanied by a poetic reflection of The History Projects.

Where is John Young taking us? Into the light? Into nature? Into a removable hard-drive with 10,000 jpegs, ready to merge? This is how his majestic abstract paintings are made. For this exhibition, Young harvested thousands of images from rainbows to landscapes, which he combined in layered composites. The transformation makes something beautiful out of something overwhelming. All we see is the resonating blur left in their wake.

This is digital art, albeit meticulously hand-painted. Oil painting is an ancient and dense process that Young uses to conceal and control the presence of technology. Young is a critic of technocracy and seeks

to "step over" it if only "to say farewell to its impoverished promises". To this end, the spirit of our age is filtered through the traditions of our ancestors. Young takes us through this melancholy process because, "I miss Cézanne", he writes, "and Shi Tao too". Young is taking us back to art history then, back to artists who had hands that changed our eyes.

The stakes are high for Young, as they are for us all. These paintings,

"look through the lens of techne, but hopefully in order to bid it adieu, and thereby atone".

Young's work is an offering to the future, a statement about today, through the medium of yesterday's expressive promise. Walter Benjamin wrote about a storm "blowing from Paradise" creating a great "pile of debris" that "grows skyward" before the Angel of History. Benjamin observed, as Young is keenly aware, "This storm is what we call progress". This is an exhibition of rainbows turning into clouds, and landscapes made of wind.

JOHN YOUNG ZERUNGE AM is a Hong Kong born, Australian artist who lives and works in Melbourne/Naarm. Since his first exhibition in Rosroe, Connemara, Ireland in 1982, Young has held more than 83 solo exhibitions nationally and internationally, including four survey exhibitions, the first at the Tarrawarra Museum of Art, while his work has been examined in four monographs, including the upcoming publication John Young: The History Projects published by the Power Institute of Fine Arts, University of Sydney. His works have been shown in major exhibitions including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York and collected in most public institutions in Australia and abroad, including substantially at the newly opened M+ museum in Hong Kong.

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IMAGE: JOHN YOUNG, Spectrumfigure XXII, 2023, oil on Belgian linen, 160 x 126 cm.