





22 April - 27 May 2023

CIAN-YU BAI THE ICE IN YOUR EYES

STEVENSON

STEVENSON is pleased to present *The Ice in Your Eyes* by
Cian-Yu Bai, the artist's first exhibition in our Prinsengracht space.

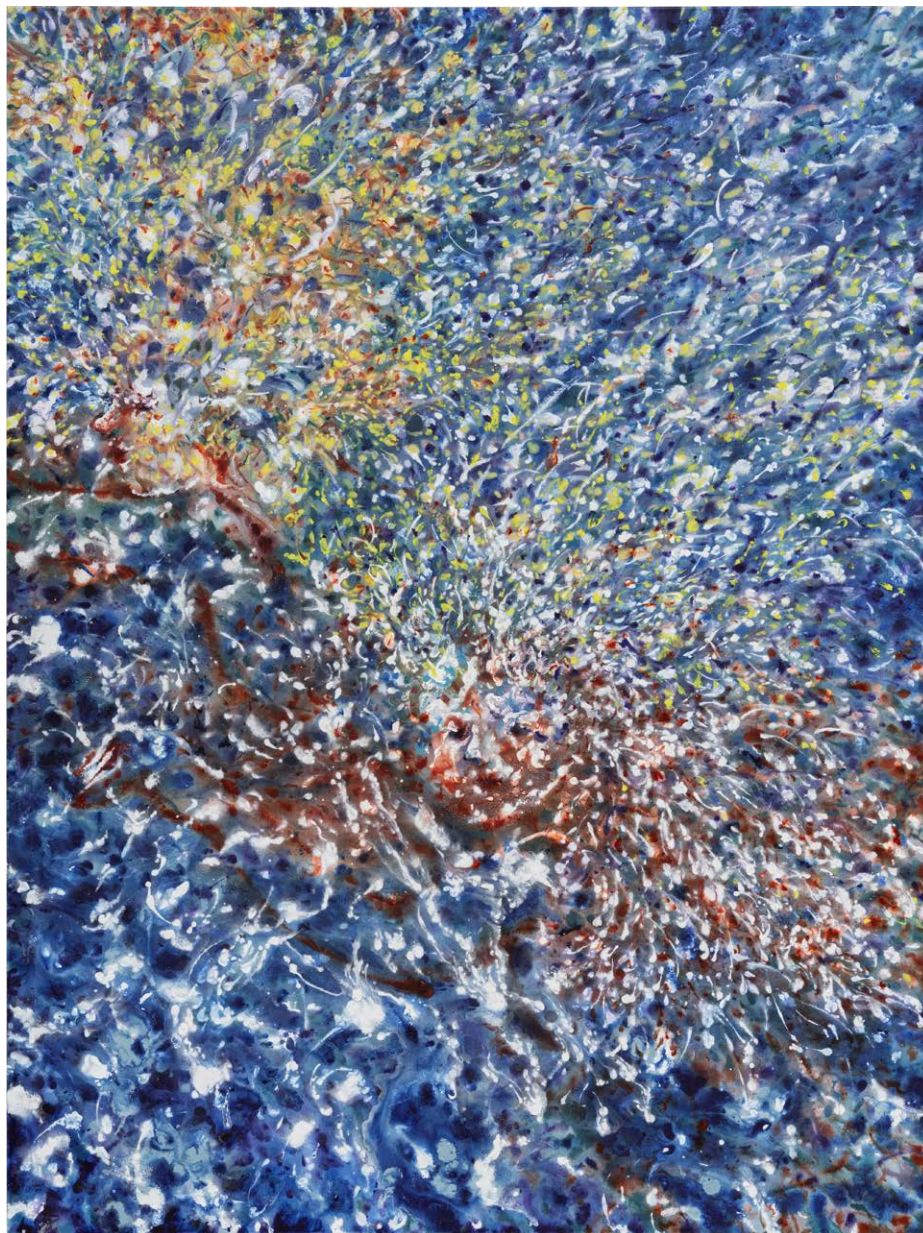
In December 2022, Bai spent time travelling around the mountains, lagoons and beaches of Iceland, where she observed fire and ice as elements that co-exist within nature. This body of work, created immediately after her return, reflects her experiences of fire and ice transmuting their forms in the presence of the other. For Bai, the ways in which they leave their marks on nature's scenery - sometimes obscure and gentle, other times explosive - reflect matter as both pensive and animated. She states:

In the Icelandic landscape, it seemed like anything liquid immediately turned into ice upon contact with the cold atmosphere. At the same time, I was standing at the foot of volcanoes. It's an island of such large contrasts. As much as the title of this exhibition can be metaphorical, it also directly refers to how a tear can escape your eye and turn straight into ice amid the freezing temperatures. There is an isolating and solitary element in this anticipation, and in the atmosphere itself.

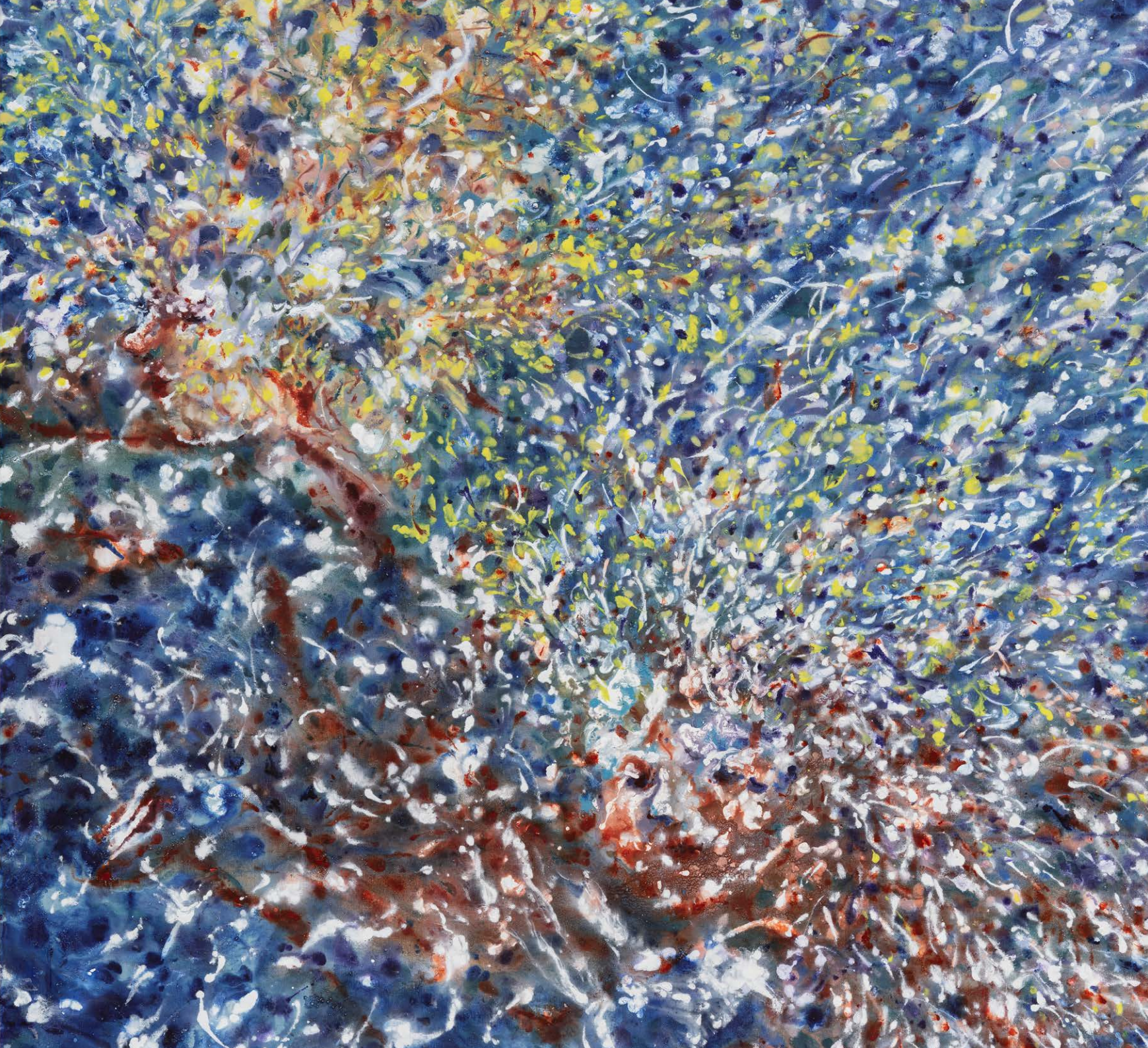


Strangers, 2023
Acrylic on linen
160 x 120cm





We Forget Each Other in the Galaxy, 2023
Acrylic on linen
160 x 120cm





The Unknown, 2023
Acrylic on linen
160 x 200cm



Bai's intuitive use of colour now makes specific reference to the dance of light and elements of the day, from dawn to midday sun to dusk, as well as the atmospheric Nordic evenings when the focus shifts from land to sky. The plentitude of stars, together with hints of the northern lights, created a nocturnal vista that particularly inspired Bai for *The Ice in Your Eyes*. Her experiences in Iceland determined her cool palette - as she explains:

After I came to the Netherlands in 2012, I refrained from travelling altogether, and my paintings as a result were referring to past experiences and my Amsterdam city life. During my residency and show in Cape Town in 2022, I realised I could conceive new memories for myself, and I started adapting my palette. When I was in South Africa, the landscape was filled with sprouting flora, but in Iceland it was winter. All the purple I use came from the very cold feeling, as is the blue and the white.

The mysterious shadow figures that appear throughout Bai's paintings are again to be seen in these new works, often deeply integrated with the landscape and sky. Her intention is 'to make faces almost like dirty dots, like stains - like life. All these marks compose who you are. It's a metaphor for how people leave a stain in your life, and it becomes part of you.'







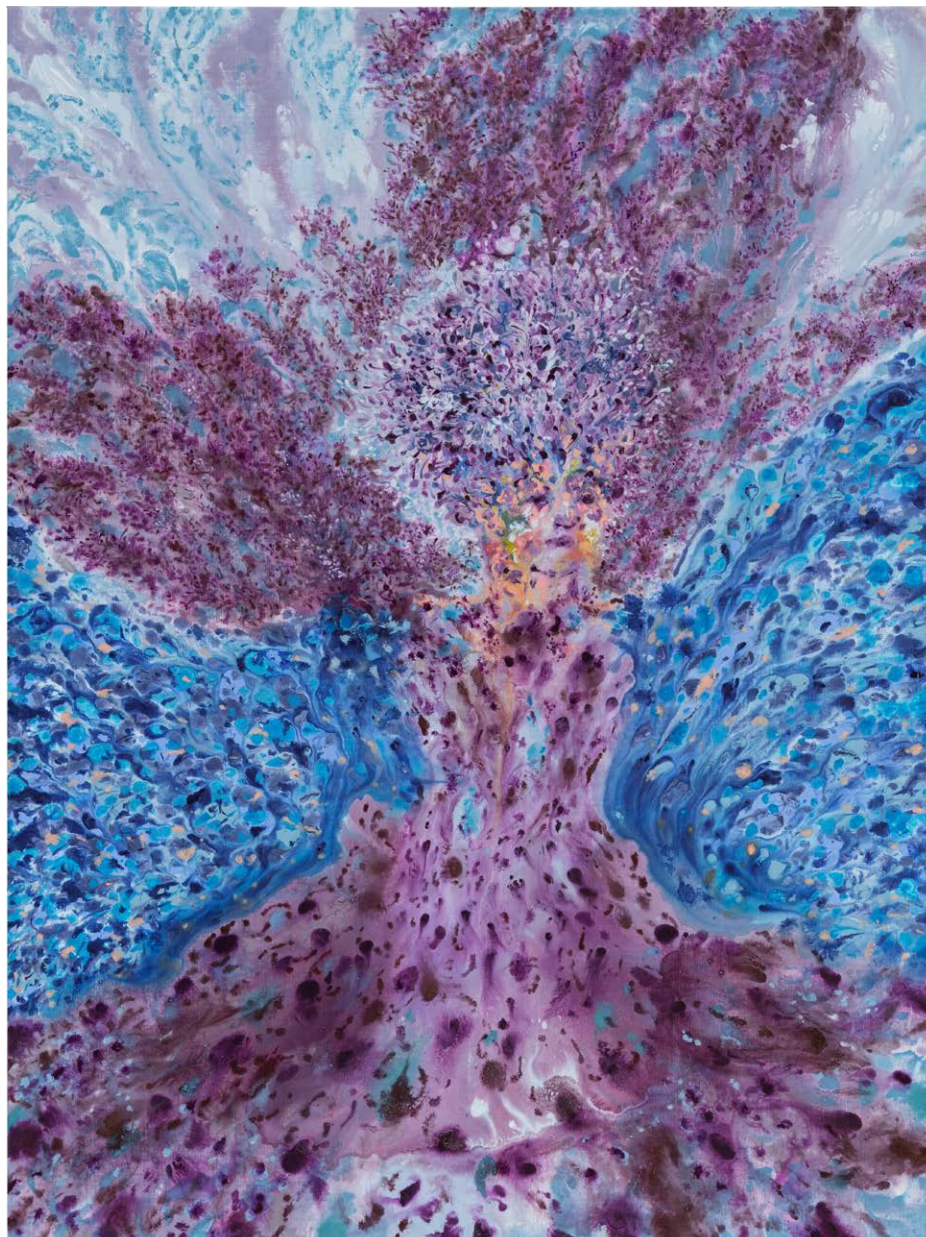
The Place Where the Memory is, 2023
Acrylic on linen
160 x 120cm



A Glimpse of Love, 2022
Acrylic on linen
160 x 120cm







Blue Wings, 2023
Acrylic on linen
160 x 120cm



Cian-Yu Bai was born in 1984 in Changhua, Taiwan; she lives and works in Amsterdam.

She received an MFA from the Taipei National University of the Arts in 2012 and completed a two-year residency at De Ateliers in 2014.

Solo exhibitions have taken place at Stevenson, Cape Town (2022); AdK Actuele Kunst, Amsterdam (2018, 2016); St. Johannes-Evangelist-Kirche, Berlin (2016) and T.N.U.A 8&1/2 Gallery, Taipei (2011). Bai has featured in group exhibitions at Stevenson, Cape Town (2021); Galerie Helder, Den Haag (2020); Royal Palace, Amsterdam (2015-19); VT Artsalon, Taipei (2010-17); Marres - Center for Contemporary Culture, Maastricht (2017); Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam (2014); Nanhai Gallery, Taipei (2010); A Gallery, Taipei (2010); Show Gallery, Kaohsiung (2009) as well as AdK Actuele Kunst, Amsterdam (2015-20).

Bai won the 2019 Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst, and 2016 Public Prize of the same award. She is the recipient of the Buning Brongers Prize (2014).



www.stevenson.info
info@stevenson.info

@stevenson_za

[Click here to view a video
on the exhibition](#)



STEVENSON

Prinsengracht 371B
1016HK Amsterdam
+31 (0)62 532 1380

Buchanan Building
160 Sir Lowry Road
7925 Cape Town
+27 21 462 1500

46 7th Avenue
Parktown North
2193 Johannesburg
+27 11 403 1055

[Click here to view the publication
Cian-Yu Bai \(2022\)](#)

