

# ALEXANDRA YUAN

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Alexandra Yuan was born in 1995 in China, raised in Canada, and currently lives and works in New York. She is pursuing an MFA at the School of Visual Arts, where she explores her artistic vision through painting, mixed media, and installation. Her work reflects a search for belonging and identity while transforming personal experience into universal forms of abstraction.

Yuan approaches abstraction as a language of subtle expression, where struggle and vulnerability are distilled into contemplative forms. While deeply personal in origin, her work resists direct autobiography, instead creating spaces where viewers can find echoes of their own inner landscapes. Rooted in both Eastern and Western cultural lineages, she draws from traditions that honor what is left unsaid: the Daoist ideals of emptiness and stillness, and the atmosphere of ancient European architecture designed for devotion and reflection. These spaces, with their chiaroscuro light, translucent stained glass, and vast interiors, share with Chinese painting the belief that absence can hold as much power as presence, inviting reflection and awe.

Layering and concealment are central to her process. Guided by the Chinese principle of *hánxù* (subtlety) and the practice of *liúbái* (leaving blank space), Yuan works through accumulation and restraint, allowing suggestion to guide the imagination. In dialogue with this quiet discipline, she draws from Renaissance and Baroque traditions: dramatic contrasts of light and shadow, refined palettes, and the sense of transcendence evoked by scale and atmosphere. Through this dialogue, she has developed a hybrid form of expression: one that is emotional yet restrained, personal yet open-ended.

Her imagery often turns to nature's most fluid forms: water, clouds, smoke, bubbles, and wind. Water recurs as a central metaphor for resilience and duality, calm yet turbulent, fragile yet impossible to wound. In its shifting states, it reflects her negotiation between concealment and intensity, embodying fragility, strength, and transformation in a single image.

For Yuan, artmaking is a meditative practice and a form of renewal. Each work crystallizes emotion into layered abstraction, where pain becomes less about suffering than about transcendence. Both deeply personal and deliberately open, her art offers spaces of silence, reflection, and spiritual weight, not to prescribe meaning, but to invite discovery.