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# ART 119

Global Perspectives in Contemporary Art

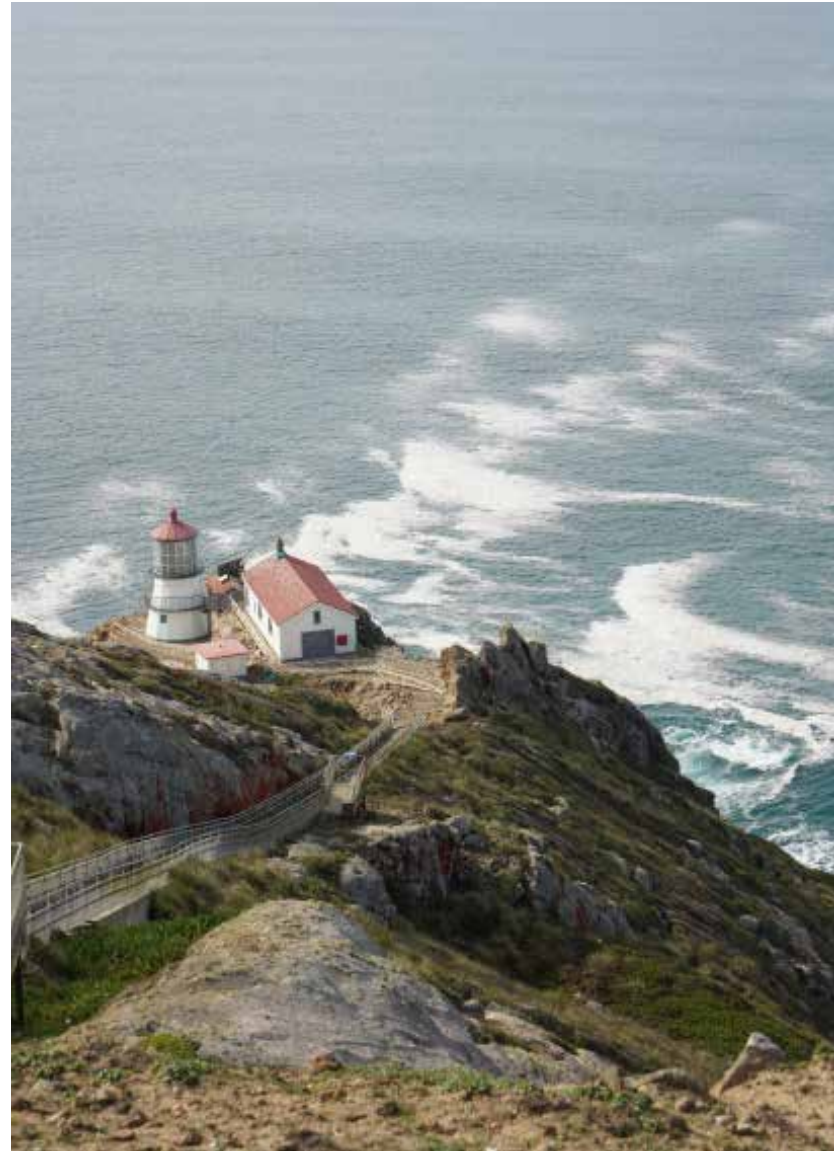


Dreamscapes,  
imagination, & the  
human psyche

*Rêverie*

Art interviews  
with Chib &  
Miranda Zhang

Nov 2023  
**ART 119**  
Global Perspectives in Contemporary Art



*Reverie*  
curated & edited by Elaine Hong

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## Letter from the Editor

The mysterious realm of dreams serves as a captivating canvas for the human imagination, enticing individuals from every corner of the world, regardless of age, culture, religion, or political belief. The fascination with dreams lies not only in their enigmatic and deeply personal nature but also in the diversity of their content, as dreams take on unique meanings for each individual.

Dreams transcend the boundaries of reality, becoming surreal and fantastical landscapes where the mind explores the uncharted territories of desires, fears, and aspirations. Regardless of how seemingly far-fetched or challenging to attain, everyone harbors something in their dreamscape—something they fervently hope and pray will manifest in their waking lives.

Conversely, dreams also serve as repositories for moments that ended too swiftly, lingering only in the recesses of memory. They become fragments of experiences that individuals yearn to revisit, creating a profound connection between the subconscious mind and the conscious self.

This complex interplay between the ethereal world of dreams and the tangible reality of waking life is a subject of exploration in the latest edition of *Reverie*. This issue delves into the thoughts behind the human psyche, showcasing an array of artwork contributed by individuals spanning diverse skill levels and age groups. From the expressive works of middle school students to the seasoned creations of individuals with decades of artistic practice, *Reverie* captures the essence of the human experience through the lens of dreams.

Within its pages, you'll encounter a rich tapestry of artistic expression, where creators, ranging from hobbyists to established community figures, share their interpretations of the dream realm. By bringing together perspectives from various walks of life, *Reverie* seeks to unravel the intricate threads that connect our dreams, our art, and the universal human quest for meaning and self-expression.

Enjoy your journey through the dreamscape.

ELAINE HONG

# 01 Fantasize

I believe that dreams—day dreams, you know, with your eyes wide open and your brain machinery whizzing—are likely to lead to the betterment of the world.

L. FRANK BAUM



## *Deep Dream*

ALAN HERON  
2023 | United States

### **Digital Art**

Deep into your imagination there is a vast majority of endlessness that is beyond the human eye.



## *Siren's Song*

MIKAELA PARRISH  
2023 | United States

### **Drawing**

Since Ancient Greece, we've heard stories of sirens and sailors that lost their lives to their song. They became entranced by their melody and lured to a watery death. Sirens represent temptation and desire, most importantly they symbolize a loss of control. Just like being lulled away by a siren's song, we have no control of our thoughts or actions in our dreams. We surrender, like the sailors, and follow, no matter where they lead.



## *Delicacy of Dreams*

SAM SMUK  
2023 | United States

### **Painting**

This piece is inspired by the feeling of waking up and not being able to remember your dream. The feeling of trying to piece together what you remember but not remembering how it all went together. It is an empty feeling because you just can't remember what happened and you just can't put the puzzle pieces back into place.

# Daydreamer's Hideaway

CHIB, 15 has a condition known as **maladaptive daydreaming**. Often abbreviated MD or MaDD, sometimes known as daydreaming disorder “usually occurs as a coping mechanism in response to trauma, abuse or loneliness.”<sup>\*</sup> Maladaptive daydreamers often “create a complex inner world which they escape to in times of distress by daydreaming for hours.”<sup>\*</sup> Some describe it as an “addiction,” due to their emotional attachment to the characters and world featured in their daydreams. While dissociating from reality, maladaptive daydreamers might subconsciously act out the behavior or speak the dialogue of the characters in the daydream.<sup>†</sup> Despite its minimal recognition, those with MaDD have found each other through niche corners of the Internet that are relatively hidden from the rest of the netizen population.

Hi, thanks for taking to me! So I know it began when you were really young, but can you describe your first experience with daydreaming? I'm not sure I can pinpoint the first daydream I've had, but I can tell you what the first few were about. It's a little fuzzy though, and I'm assuming you mean how I felt about it, so I'll go into that. Before I knew about MD, I'd describe it as a little movie in my head. It kind of gave me the same joy from actually watching media, but that's the only thing I can remember about my first daydreaming experiences. I never really thought about it, but I guess it started as a way to cope? I wasn't a very happy kid back then, but I'm not sure why I started.

What is the day-to-day like with daydreaming? Usually, my daydreaming just starts randomly. I get an urge sometime and I act on it (this is especially true for days I don't have class). When I need to go to school though, I'll make do with listening to music in the car, but I'd rather be pacing for it. I think one thing I can say for certain is that I'm almost always listening to music; I sometimes daydream without, but that doesn't happen often. On free days, it's very very very time consuming. I wake up at around 8-9 am on those days, and usually find myself daydreaming till lunch; the only reason I stop is to go eat with the family. Then I'll usually do something else until 2-3 pm, but then I feel the need to daydream again and I do so until 6-7 pm, which is when I have to eat dinner. Even after dinner, and when my parents send us to sleep (8-9 pm), I'll still be up, and I find myself staying up until midnight daydreaming (on some rare occasions I've been up at 2 am) which is why I wake up so late. And the cycle continues. It ends if I've run out of ideas for what to dream about, or if I'm being interrupted. If the interruption is brief (like someone asks me a question), I just go back to dreaming, but if it's long enough I usually end up doing something else.

I'm so invested in your paracosm concept. Can you go more indepth on your paracosms and paras? Well, my paracosm is much bigger than just Dynamo; Dynamo and it's surrounding kingdoms are situated in a sort of giant pocket dimension. It has four opening portals: One on Earth (a slightly modified version), one on a planet called Togoldor (the name changes fairly often because I can't decide),... and two on a (pretty big) moon named AB-13 by human astronomers. So yeah, I have a good few paracosms who take place outside of the pocket dimension and on these planets, but the main paracosm is situated in Dynamo! Many of the citizens in the pocket dimension were born there or stumbled through one of the four openings (usually the openings from AB-13, because the ones on Earth and Togoldor are very hard to get to). So yeah, my paracosm focuses on Dynamo's demigods and them interacting with the other nations! most of the demigods stumbled in from AB-13's openings, but a couple were brought in from the other two portals. There's a whole backstory to the lines of deities and there are many different environments within Dynamo, but that'll take forever to explain.

“ I guess it started as a way to cope? I wasn't a very happy kid back then...”

## MD Vocab

**parame:** a “self-insert,” or how you appear in your own daydream

**para:** a character, or someone who is not you, who appears in your daydream

**paracosm:** a world in which your daydream takes place



Enzo  
CHIB

### Digital Art

This is my para Enzo!! His celestial animal is a Flare Dragon. He likes flying around the incredibly cloudy skies above one of Dynamo's cities, Arumadome, so whenever he visits, he's up there the entire day!

I noticed that you're not featured in your daydreams. Why do you think that is? I'm not sure; I assumed nobody else included themselves in their daydreams. The closest I'd get to an “ideal version” of myself would be that I make a couple of characters go through my experiences, but that's really all. I actually have tried daydreaming about myself and inserting myself in daydreams in the past, but it makes me feel weird. It never felt right, and I wasn't obligated to include myself in daydreams, so I just never did it again.

Do you consider MD a hindrance? Is there anything you would or wouldn't do if you didn't have MD? I'd say it's a hindrance, but not unwanted. If I didn't have MD, I would've learned how to study better, made more friends and focused more in general. I also have calluses on my palms and feet because of how often I pace and me pushing on the walls due to not having a proper space to pace. But I do lose weight thanks to it. But I definitely wouldn't want to get rid of it. I'm too attached to the world I've made for that.

“ I definitely wouldn't want to get rid of [MD].”

I'm too attached to the world I've made for that.

What do you wish people knew about MD? Well, I wish people knew about MD itself in the first place; maybe if it were more well known, I would've found out about it sooner. But also I would want them to know that some of us can't control it! I was always worried my friends got mad when I randomly began pacing (thankfully they don't mind) because I couldn't explain that it wasn't really me who decided.

Do you have any advice for people who may have MD but are unaware of it or maybe afraid to talk about it? I don't know what to say about “advice.” In my personal experience, I haven't told anyone about my MD because the people around me don't believe in mental health and I don't think it's a good idea to talk about it if that were the case. I do encourage seeking out other daydreamers, though! Not only is it fun to converse about para/paracosms together, you might enlighten someone who didn't know they had MD! Also, my fellow daydreamer friend and I have a system where, whenever he comes over to my house, we use it as an excuse to daydream. He sits in my room and does his thing while I pace in the hallway. It's cool.

\* Tapu, Maria. “Maladaptive daydreaming.” The British Psychological Society, 07 Nov., 2016, <https://www.bps.org.uk/psychologist/maladaptive-daydreaming>.

† Summer, Jay and Heather Wright. “Maladaptive Daydreaming.” Sleep Foundation, 08 July, 2022, <https://www.sleepfoundation.org/mental-health/maladaptive-daydreaming>.



## *A Walk Among the Clouds*

PAIGE WILLIAMS  
2023 | United States

### **Photography**

Dreams appear in all sorts of shapes. Dreaming can feel like entering another world, or like wandering above the clouds. In this world, maybe the birds can rest their wings and walk instead of fly. We can't see this while awake, as we are far below, and the bottom of the clouds would block the view. The only way to explore a land such as this is to dream of it. In a dream you can explore a new reality without ever leaving your bed, or maybe it's your lily pad.



## *Fish Market of the Subconscious*

AIDEN EVANS  
2023 | United States

### **Drawing**

My piece takes place in an aquarium. A place where you go to look at sea animals. But, not only that, in a far hallway where no one really goes, you can buy fish. The fish sellers are fish themselves but are also part human. Even though the hallway is unknown to most people the two friends are walking through, joking and laughing as they walk.



## *The Shell's Dream*

PANSA AMARINNAWA  
2023 | United States

### **Digital Art**

It came from my dreams. In my dream I realized I was dreaming. At that time, I thought... "If this existed in the real world, it would be good."



## *The Judgement from Within*

ABIGAIL RALPH  
2023 | United States

### **Photography**



## *Kings and Queens of the Household*

VALERIA JAIMES TORRES  
2023 | United States

### **Painting**



## *Dream Weaver*

MARCUS RIDEOUT

### **Digital Art**

Dreams are powerful visions into an artist's mind and soul, especially when interpreted and expressed on the canvas... I chose to focus on dreams as a whole, rather than attempting to force myself to dream up an inspirational idea. I fell in love with the vision of a being who shapes dreams of the waking world, a Dream Weaver.



## *Dust Comes Alive Under Your Bed*

GRACE WATERS

### **Sculpture**

# 02 Hopes & Dreams

Every child is an artist;  
the problem is staying an artist when you grow up

PABLO PICASSO



## *Art Student's Dream*

KATHERINE KEAN

United States

**Oil on Linen on Panel**

**42 x 56 in.**

Painted from a dream: A chair in a narrow room with art books stacked on and around it. The left wall is on fire and through the right water comes into the room. I am mesmerized watching to see which; the the fire or the water, will reach the chair and the books first.



## *Sailor Student*

YVONE KOO

2020 | United Kingdom

**Oil on Canvas**

**12 W x 12 H x 0.8 D in.**

It was inspired by a sailor student who passed by while on holiday in Prague.



## *Dream of My Future*

KAITLYN SUDDUTH

2023 | United States

**Painting**



*The Visionary*

FINN REDDICK  
2023 | United States

**Drawing**

When I think about my dreams, I don't necessarily see them as "normal". I believe my dreams, and my nightmares, don't have a fine line to distinguish them from each other. When I dream, I see it as my emotions but in a visual perspective. My life and its innerworkings come together to create my pieces, and I believe it makes each of them unique.



*The Freshman*

DARREN THOMPSON  
2022 | United States

**Painting, Oil on Wood**  
12 W x 16 H x 0.2 D in.

*The Freshman* is part of a series depicting the figure reading. I use subdued colors and loose brush strokes, as in most of my paintings, in order to create the mood and feel of spontaneity. Art buyers may see a symbolic reference to prominent 20th century American painters like George Bellows, John Sloan, Isabell Bishop, and Edward Hopper.



*Afro-Futurist Dreams*

SHIORI KOSAR  
2023 | United States  
**Digital Art**



*Afro-Futurist Dreams*

SHIORI KOSAR  
2023 | United States  
**Digital Art**



*Rote Sonne - Red Sun Painting*

BENJAMIN ORTLEB  
2015 | Germany

**Painting, Oil on Canvas**  
51 W x 35 H x 0.8 D in.

The picture is derived from the movie "Rote Sonne" by German film maker Rudolf Thome starring Uschi Obermeier, actress and musician of the Krautrock group "Amon Düül". The image reveals a dream-like state whereas the female protagonist falls into a misery while her companion tries to keep her awake. The painting features a kind expressionistic mood by expanding the palette with greens and reds.



*Plato as a Boy in Greece*

JAMES MERCER  
2020 | Canada

**Painting, Oil on Wood**  
11.8 W x 17.7 H x 0.1 D in.

The works' of Plato inspired me to paint a portrait of the philosopher as a boy. He is sitting at sunset, wondering about the nature of human consciousness—the cave of the unconscious is filled with the infinite Forms of Being-in-the-world. The robe he wears captures an essence of his supreme intellect in time and space. He gazes into the future pondering what may come to pass in the cosmos.



# 03 Memory

There is no greater sorrow  
Than to recall a happy time  
When miserable.

DANTE ALIGHIERI



*If only we had said love earlier*  
MING YING  
2020 | China  
**Oil on Canvas**  
23 3/5 × 35 2/5 in. | 60 × 90 cm



*A Summer Day*  
MING YING  
2020 | China  
**Oil on Canvas**  
19 7/10 × 30 3/10 in. | 50 × 77 cm



*Lost in Thought*  
ISA ISHAK  
2019 | Malaysia  
**Oil on Canvas**  
70 9/10 × 70 9/10 in. | 180 × 180

# Photography for the Fleeting

MIRANDA, 20 on photography, drawing inspiration from nature, and living in the moment.

## What inspires you to create?

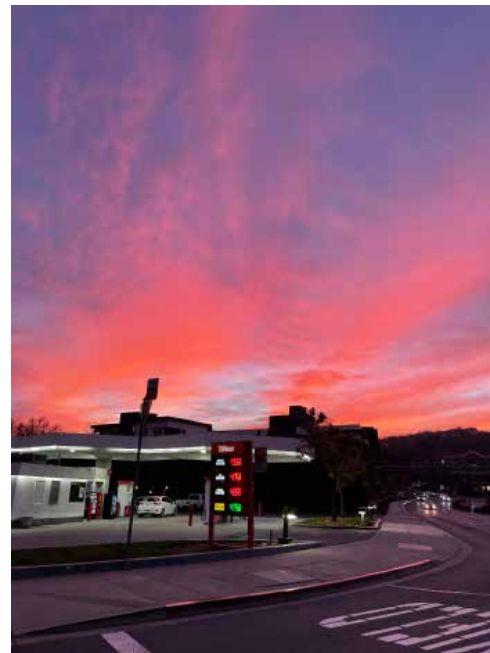
I feel like photo is really easy, especially now that we have phone. I would prefer to use a camera, but phone is really easy when I want to capture fleeting moments. Like for example, the sunset. It would be really hard to describe it or to paint it in that short time frame because sunset only lasts so long. But if you use your phone it's as close as it can get to the naked eye and can capture exactly when it happened, where it happened, and how it look like, what your surrounding look like, and even occasionally how you might feel at that moment—which, I think that picture [a bay area sunset] does for me.

Creating is very spontaneous for me. Personally I think photo is just a really easy to create. But the quality—as in how “good” your photo is—is really subjective. It depends on how you feel. I feel like there's nothing that is a bad photo as long as it means something to you. So it's just really, “does what I'm seeing resonate with me at that moment.”

## What do you aim to convey with your work?

Just a sense of presence. I want to look back at my photo and be like “I was there.” Even though I don't personally like to be in my photos, but looking back at them and capturing them makes me feel present. Not a mark of like, *I've been there*, but more of *I was there*—I don't know if that conveys the difference, but *I was there*, not *I've been there*—that was the difference for me. Just being present and feeling that presence all over again through my photos.

“There's nothing that is a bad photo as long as it means something to you.”



*a bay area sunset*

MIRANDA ZHANG  
2022 | United States  
**Photography**

## What or who are your biggest influences or inspirations?

Mother nature. I don't like to change anything in my photo. If anything, I edit as little as possible. Like the sunset, I know it's really saturated, but that's the original, I didn't change a thing. So I like seeing things unedited because it feels natural, like more present. I don't create for an audience, so I don't edit for an audience either. I just capture it for myself.

As for who inspires me, my dad. He's a really photography guy. Whenever we go traveling, he would always have this camera with him. And that motivated me to start creating and capturing stuff.

## How has your work developed?

I feel like initially, I would capture the entire scene. It would be kind of aimless? Like, I'm in the moment and this moment felt cute to me, so let me just, like, take a picture of whatever is in front of me. Over the years, I started focusing on specific objects. Like, for example, the sunset, there was this gas station with the gas prices. It wasn't really relevant to the sunset or to nature, but I would just focus on a specific object. There's another picture of the early morning with the moon and trees in front of it. The decorations would be more intentional to create a scenery, rather than just to capture it. It would be like, I intentionally look for things that exaggerate how I feel, rather than complement it.



*Untitled*

MIRANDA ZHANG  
2023 | United States  
**Photography**



*early morning with moon and trees*

MIRANDA ZHANG  
2023 | United States  
**Photography**

\*

†



*Untitled*

MIRANDA ZHANG  
2023 | United States  
**Photography**



*Untitled*

MIRANDA ZHANG  
2023 | United States  
**Photography**



*Untitled*

MIRANDA ZHANG  
2023 | United States  
**Photography**



### *Lost Landscape No.37*

SAORI HASEGAWA

2016 | Japan

Oil on Canvas

17 9/10 × 15 in. | 45.5 × 38 cm



### *Düsseldorf Gasse (Düsseldorf Alley)*

DANNY HERMANN

2023 | Germany

Painting, Oil on Canvas

9.4 W x 7.1 H x 1 D in.

This painting shows an alley from my last holiday in Düsseldorf, Germany. I love the sunlight there and I paint it directly on my canvas.



### *Mountain Dreams*

SHELBY GOODWIN

2023 | United States

Sculpture

My family has a cabin in the mountains in Idaho, so I dream of being there all the time. My overall vision for this piece is a deity figure morphing from the mountains. I wanted to include visuals of snow, trees, grass, moss rocks, a cave and lava from a volcano. I've never done a nature themed project before and I had a great deal of fun with this piece.



### *Solace in the gulag*

QIJUN LI

2020 | China

Oil & Acrylic on Canvas

11 4/5 × 7 9/10 in. | 30 × 20 cm



### *Night Reflection*

LEYLA ZHUNUS

2023 | Kazakhstan

Painting, Watercolor on Paper

16.5 W x 11.4 H x 0 D in.

In this piece of art, you will find a young man sitting in the darkness of his bathtub. Only soft light emphasizes his white, thin body, creating an atmosphere of mystery and intimacy. Every detail of this picture fills you with feelings and emotions. The fascinating play of light and shadow gives the image depth and mystery, and the image of a young guy with his back to the viewer leaves room for one's own thoughts and interpretations. This art can inspire you to new thoughts and experiences... Let this painting tell its story, adding a touch of mysterious beauty and sophistication.



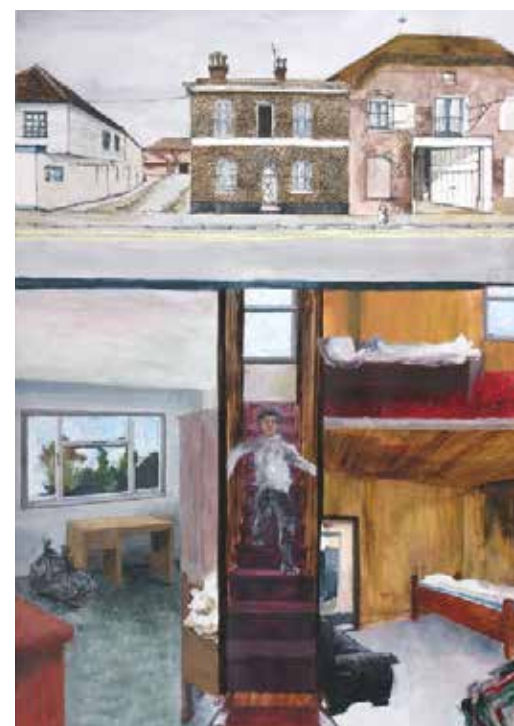
### *Uphill 2*

YICHEN ZHOU

2022 | China

Video game running on Game Boy and internet

5 1/2 × 3 1/10 in | 14 × 8 cm



### *5 North Lane Painting*

FELIX FELBERMAYER

2015 | Austria

Painting, Acrylic on Paper

16.5 W x 23.4 H x 0.1 D in.

This is one of the companion pieces to the painting "Linda's flatshare full of lies" and has a similar story behind it. The one main difference is though that in this picture I included, among the various perspectives of the interior, an outer view of the building. The contrasting styles and divergent use of mediums between the outer view (the upper part of the painting) and the interior views (lower part) were a conscious decision. I chose for the street view the classic technique of pen and wash to create what can be called a nostalgic imagery of old-fashioned British village architecture, sharply differing from the mucky paint layers of the interiors. But I do not wish to manipulate the viewer's thoughts on this painting any further...

## Featured Artists

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