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Press Release

CLAUDIA KEEP

Shimmering Waves

Le MONDE de SHC, Shanghai
9 November - 8 December 2024



When I first viewed Claudia Keep's work in 2023, I was indeed quickly captured by her sense of 'the moment'. Seemingly random romantic moments, fleeting moments The artist revels in her own observations of life, while at the same time having a chic New York attitude that resonates with me as a viewer.

— Eric Young, founder of LMDS

Galerie Marguo is thrilled to announce *Shimmering Waves*, a special presentation of a series of new paintings by Claudia Keep at Shanghai's style destination Le MONDE de SHC (LMDS), opening during Shanghai Art Week and on view from 9 November to 8 December 2024.

Claudia Keep's small, meditative tableaux of everyday scenes are often referred to as little jewels. Like gems, they seem to radiate bursts of color, catching our eye and luring us in. Their vibrant pigments applied *alla prima* refract light off their textured brushstrokes surfaces. In the case of her diurnal and nocturnal vistas of rippling bodies of water, they literally twinkle. Their constellations of irregular white dabs unfurl across the picture plane, and like the cropped views of flowering shrubs, come to resemble the repetitive, abstracted motif of a patterned textile meant to tease the eye around the form it drapes.

For Claudia Keep's first exhibition in China, we find her paintings nestled amongst the finery that constitutes Le MONDE de SHC, a one of its kind concept store located in Shanghai's French Concession, that seamlessly brings together exquisitely crafted fashion and objects in a carefully designed three-storey building that feels

more like a salon - or, fittingly, a jewel-box - than a shop. A shared rhythm of seasons, cycles, trends, and patterns emerges. Considering Keep's oeuvre in this context, one is reminded of the sensorial feast presented by Émile Zola in *Au Bonheur des Dames*.

Published in 1883, the French novelist captured the societal impacts of modernization and the transformation of consumer culture through the prism of a new commercial phenomenon: the department store. In it, the advent of merchandising - i.e. the commodification of desire through a calculated display of goods intended to rouse the senses - is described in dazzling terms that harken beyond the objects themselves and toward the vastness of the natural world:

"Here were the items of fine lingerie, white sleeves and cravats, fichus and white collars, an infinite variety of light, frilly things, white foam emerging from its boxes and piling up like snow drifts...long white clothes, free and thin, in which one could feel the stretching and yawning of idle mornings after amorous evenings." Piled upon tables are an "endless supply of silks, satins, velvets, all spread out like a flowing sea of vibrant colors"; the infinite variety present in the lace department resembling "a delicate forest, threads of white and black fluttering like gossamer wings...hanging from the counters like cascading waterfalls."

This tension, or transcendence, between the quotidian concrete and the poetic sublime, between material figuration and formal abstraction, also characterizes the works on view. Keep typically paints from a catalogue of her own photographs captured as the artist moves through her daily life. Honing in on quiet interiors or snapshots of the world glimpsed on foot or from the window of moving cars, her paintings are engaged in trying to convey what the act of looking feels like. Working with a - decidedly painterly - distilled vocabulary of color and form, Keep draws on the visual language of cinema and street photography to frame images that are deceptively static, nonchalant and candid, yet pulse with the heightened sensation of something real. In works such as *Rose With Crab Spider*, a striking magenta plane of rectangular forms interrupted in its upper right corner by a white tentacular formation, or *Brooklyn Hibiscus*, the valleys of whose shirred salmon-colored petals teem with black bulbous ants, Keep resolves these compositions with what in fashion is referred to as *sprezzatura*: a studied carelessness, intentional flaw, or dissonant detail, that brings the sum of an ensemble's inanimate parts to life.

About the Artist

Claudia Keep's paintings reveal the intimate complexity of everyday moments. Composed of soft lines and shapes, they convey impressions of the ordinary that are curiously lucid. Ranging from scenes passing by like the somber warmth of a bedroom light, crumpled sheets rippled in the form of an avalanche, or the mesmerizing glare of a butterfly's wings, Keep renders these moments sacred. This record of detail rescues the humblest of beauty from invisibility, by its nature an invitation to look more closely.

Claudia Keep was born in 1993 in Low Moor, Virginia and is currently based in Brooklyn, New York. She received her BFA from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania.

Her upcoming and recent exhibitions include *Shimmering Waves*, LMDS, Shanghai (2024, solo); *Une Chambre à Soi*, Château La Coste, FR (2024, group); *Somehow, Somewhere, Someway*, Galerie Marguo, Paris, FR (2024, solo); *In Bed*, 1226 Gallery, Dallas, TX (2024, solo); *Almanac*, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (2023, solo) and *Aubade*, MARCH, New York, NY (2023, solo). Keep has also exhibited at Blum & Poe (Los Angeles, CA), Venus

Over Manhattan (New York, NY), Fortnight Institute (New York, NY), and The Painting Center (New York, NY). Keep's work has been featured in The Paris Review, Plant Magazine, and Harper's Magazine, among others.

About LE MONDE de SHC (LMDS)

Located in the city-center of Shanghai at No.1 Taojiang Road in the former French Concession area, LE MONDE de SHC (LMDS) is a new generation of a fashion concept space in China that launched in 2019.

For almost six years, LMDS has received a lot of attention from WWD, VOGUE, GQ, BOF and other media. LMDS has collaborated with many global and Chinese artists to introduce many new generation designs to the Chinese market. With ongoing art projects, including a long-term collaboration with ART 021, LMDS has become a renowned destination linking the best of global fashion design with contemporary art trends.

Eric Young, founder of LMDS, was educated in fashion design in Shanghai in the 1990s. He went on to become one of China's first generation of fashion editors, stylists and creative directors, founding soon afterwards SHC CREATIVE, an independent creative advertising agency. Working with many international luxury brands, fashion and sports brands in China, SHC CREATIVE provides services including fashion creativity, advertising production, and PR communication.

Preparation for LMDS began in 2017 and operations began in 2019. Now, LMDS enters its sixth year. During this period, LMDS has launched the 'HUHU FASHION FORWARD' design award in 2021, which aims to honor independent designers in China and around the world.

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Claudia Keep
Waves, 2024
Oil on Masonite panel
30.5 x 35.6 cm (12 x 14 in)