

REN LIGHT PAN

b. 1990, Irvine, CA

Ren Light Pan is a Chinese-American transgender artist living and working in New York, New York. Her work engages with biographical issues dealing with hybridized and transgressive cultural and gender identities. Working between Eastern and Western art history, her strategic use of traditional Chinese ink against modes of contemporary painting—namely readymade and anti-gestures, deconstruction as well as techniques influenced by photographic, filmic and printmaking processes—opened a space for contentious harmony.

Born in an immigrant family, she grew up speaking Mandarin with a strong Chinese identity. Her early interests included oil painting, photography and filmmaking. After receiving her B.A. in New Media – Film/video at the University of California San Diego in 2012, the artist fell into a multi-year depression where she turned to ink painting for solace. The work came from a deep desire for divorce: from the hand, the body, the self. To the ^{artist}, her repositioning of artistic agency and authorship was the first step of many toward her eventual reconciliation with her gender identity.

In 2016, Ren Light Pan transitioned, moved to Los Angeles, and discontinued painting for 7 years. In 2022 the artist reengaged with her past work, reexploring the possibilities of ink as a process-based dialogue with her posthumous practice.

2022 marks the first time the artist's works have been shown. She had her first solo and group shows at Queer Thoughts, New York. She has been included in a group show with Asia Society Texas, Houston; Martos Gallery, New York; Dairy Arts Center, Boulder, Colorado; Alisan Fine Arts, Art Basel, Hong Kong; and Shoot the Lobster, NADA Miami, Florida. Forthcoming shows this year include a solo show at Jessamine, Dallas, Texas; and a group show at Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, Texas.

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lives and works in New York, New York

EDUCATION

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| 2015 | Artist-in-Residence, Ox-Bow School of Arts—Printmaking Studio (satellite of School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Saugatuck, Michigan |
| 2012 | B.A., Visual Arts—New Media Film/Video, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California |

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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| 2025 | <i>Body of Water</i> , Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado [forthcoming] |
| 2023 | <i>dancing in the dark, that's how it starts</i> , Jessamine, Dallas, Texas |
| 2022 | <i>gardening with ren :)</i> , Queer Thoughts, New York, New York |
| 2021 | Kunsthaus Galarus Museum, Galarus, Switzerland [declined due to Covid] |

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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| 2024 | <i>Ink and Light</i> , Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado [forthcoming] |
| 2023 | <i>Full and Pure: Body, Materiality, Gender</i> , Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, Texas [forthcoming] |
| 2023 | <i>Ink Alchemy; Beyond Tradition</i> , Alisian Fine Arts, Hong Kong |
| 2023
Texas | <i>Summoning Memories: Art Beyond Chinese Traditions</i> , Asia Society, Houston, |
| 2022 | <i>STL @ NADA,,</i> Shoot The Lobster, New York, New York |
| 2022 | <i>Under Erasure</i> , Martos Gallery, New York, New York |
| 2022 | <i>inVISIBLE hyperVISIBLE</i> , Dairy Art Center, Boulder, Colorado |
| 2022 | <i>Devastation</i> , Queer Thoughts, New York, New York |