

# FELSTEAD ART

CONTEMPORARY & MODERN

## MINGZHANG SUN

### ONCE, LOTUS

*Reflections in paint and expression by Mingzhang Sun*

16TH AUGUST 2025 - 4TH OCTOBER 2025

PRIVATE VIEW 15TH AUGUST 2025

13 ROOKWOOD WAY, LONDON, E3 2XT

We are pleased to present *Once, Lotus*, a collection of paintings by Mingzhang Sun, that trace a decade of artistic evolution shaped by introspection and cultural memory.

This exhibition moves across time and place, exploring Ming's evolution from a childhood in central China to establishing a new life amongst the facades of London. Tracing a life lived in fragments and reassembled through paint. Each work unfolds a visual autobiography, in which the lotus becomes not only a motif, but a mirror; a symbol of what survives beneath the surface, and what resists forgetting.

Throughout Chinese cultural and spiritual traditions, the lotus has held deep and profound meaning, embodying long standing symbolic significances. Emblematic of purity rising from the mud, the lotus reflects the soul's capacity to bloom in adversity - to renew without bitterness. Either in metaphor or motif, the lotus can be seen throughout Ming's work. Just as the lotus blooms unsullied from the mud, each painting confronts dualities; fragility and strength, loss and radiance, memory and reflection. A resilient cipher of the human condition.

Ming's engagement with the lotus is both inherited and insurgent, recalling memories throughout a rebellious artistic language. His lived experience - of personal trauma, familial rejection, cultural displacement, and systemic pressure - is folded into every composition. Elongated and distorted forms, surreal landscapes, and textured surfaces evoke the fragility of the body and the tenacity of emotion.

Figures appear suspended between worlds: part dream, part confession, marked by an underlying solitude.

Alongside a evolution in composition, Ming's material use has grown more expansive, mirroring the developments in his practice. Early works, often in oil on canvasboard, are compact and intimate. As the years progress, his surfaces begin to breathe: raw fabric and thread appear alongside oil paint, converging to blur emotional boundaries. These choices are not just aesthetic flourishes but deliberate acts of reconstitution - ways of binding past and present.

The lotus thus becomes a way of growth, of remembering, and of gently defying erasure. A witness of the artist's journey and a gesture toward healing. In *Once, Lotus*, Mingzhang Sun offers us paintings that do not shout but give quiet testament to what it means to experience life fully, to endure, and to begin again.

*Once, Lotus* is organised by Felstead Art and curated by Michael Wormack. All general and sales enquiries to be directed to Felstead Art.

Specialising in modern and contemporary art and prints, Felstead Art works with both British and international artists, maintaining a particular focus on representing East London artists. Through its collaboration with corporate partners, the gallery curates multiple exhibition programmes across locations in East London and the City of London.

#### VISITOR INFORMATION



Felstead Art | Trampery  
Mon - Fri: by appointment  
Sat: 12pm-5pm  
Sun: Closed  
Nearest station: Hackney Wick

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QR link for up-to-date information

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### ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

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MINGZHANG SUN (Chinese, b. 1990)

Mingzhang Sun is a Chinese-born artist based in London. After studying at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and the University of the Arts in London, he has recently completed his MA in Contemporary Art Practice at the Royal College of Art. Driven and inspired by his surroundings.

Mingzhang explores and translates his experiences into visual art through paintings, drawings, sculptures, clothes, performances, and videos. Mingzhang has joined exhibitions and competitions nationally and internationally and was awarded the CAFA President's Choice Award 2013, UAL Excellence in Design and Realization for Performance Award 2017, and New Zealand WOW Wearable Art Prize 2018.

As an artist Mingzhang's central concerns are time, space, and being, which he explores using inspiration from his memories and the experiences of his surroundings. Aiming to fill the gap between languages through his artworks Mingzhang blurs the barriers of established styles and techniques as he strives to achieve a higher artistic freedom by combining different artistic mediums and materials to create his visual language of feeling to share with the world.

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