

Meng Du Takes Over Fou Gallery with Her New Body of Glass Works

Exhibition Reviews



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In our daily lives, we use various glass objects often without even registering them. However, for glass artist Meng Du they are vessels capable of storing memories better than our minds so that nothing is ever forgotten or lost. She has poured all her personal experiences into her glass works as a way of keeping a record and creating stories of the time past.

The artist's third solo exhibition at Fou Gallery, entitled *Shadow of Day, Shadow of Night*, features works created between 2020 and 2022. The show, curated by Art Director, Lynn Hai, focuses on the narrative in Du's cast, blown, and Tiffany glass artworks, emphasizing the slow decay of memories as they gradually fade from our minds.



Left: Meng Du - Apartment - A Pair of Cups No.2 - Apt 410 (part), 2022. Glass, tea, handkerchief, button; Each 5.3 x 4 x 2.8 inches, total installation variable ©Meng Du, photo by Jingxin Hu, courtesy of Fou Gallery / **Right:** Meng Du - Hello, Again No.1, 2022. Glass, tea, button; 12 x 9.8 x 12.2 inches ©Meng Du, photo by Jingxin Hu, courtesy of Fou Gallery

The Many Lessons Taught By Glass

For Meng Du, glass is not only her primary medium but also a great teacher. By embracing all accidents, occasional injuries, and mistakes that are impossible to fix, she has learned patience and to always be fully present and in the moment. Like the glass that is at the same time fragile and strong, the artist has learned how to balance herself. As the only Chinese student at the Glass Department of Rochester Institute of Technology, she had difficulty communicating as English is not her first language. Instead, Du has **learned to express herself visually** by telling stories about herself through her works. About glass Du said:

” *I see the glass as a good friend and a life mentor who enlightens me in every way about life. Most importantly, glass introduces me to embrace things in a more equilibrrious way.*



Meng Du - People Sitting by the Window No.4, 2022. Glass, mirror, copper foil; 11.4 x 6.5 x 0.3 inches ©Meng Du, photo by Jingxin Hu, courtesy of Fou Gallery

Exhibition Highlights

The exhibition *Shadow of Day, Shadow of Night* features works from six series *People Sitting by the Window & Grow Secretly in A Boundless World; Drift Through the Forest, Silence In the Valley; Hello, Again; Apartment; A Cat See the World Leaping Away; Cat in the Corner*. Meng Du attempts to stop the inevitable decay of memories by enshrining them in her glass sculptures. The artist has created a spontaneous narrative of her memories and those close to her. Ultimately she hopes to discover how memories are complexly linked to context through time and space.

Du used the Tiffany glass technique to create the sculpture entitled *People Sitting by the Window*. The flat artwork resembles a window from our everyday lives, while the drawings of objects immediately evoke memories.

Series *Drift Through the Forest, Silence in the Valley*, features ten works that are a product of the artist's empathy with the glass and its qualities. After years of working with this exceptional material, Du feels she can see herself in all the glass bottles. Thus, instead of letting used bottles be discarded, she saved them and created the series *Drift Through the Forest, Silence in the Valley*, allowing their journeys to continue.



Meng Du - Grow Secretly in A Boundless World No.01, 2022. Glass, mirror, copper foil; 16.2 x 25 x 0.8 inches ©Meng Du, photo by Jingxin Hu, courtesy of Fou Gallery

Shadow of Day, Shadow of Night at Fou Gallery

The exhibition *Shadow of Day, Shadow of Night* will be on view at [Fou Gallery](#) in New York until April 16th, 2023.

Featured image: Installation view of Meng Du: Shadow of Day, Shadow of Night. Photo by Lynn Hai ©Meng Du, courtesy of Fou Gallery

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