

CHRISTINE PARK GALLERY

Noemi Conan: *The Rite of Spring*

28 April - 1 June 2024

Private View | Saturday, 27 April 2024, 3 – 6 pm

Unit 505, Pingwu Space, 38 Pingwu Road, Changning District, Shanghai, 200052

Tuesday to Saturday, 11 - 6 pm. **ADVANCED BOOKING IS REQUIRED.**

For Immediate Release

SHANGHAI - CHRISTINE PARK GALLERY is pleased to announce the debut solo exhibition of London-based Polish painter Noemi Conan, titled *The Rite of Spring*. This marks Conan's inaugural solo exhibition with the gallery and her premiere showcase in the Asian region. The exhibition significantly expands upon the thematic explorations witnessed in her prior group exhibitions in London and her solo presentation at *Untitled, Miami 2023*.

Conan's artistic journey is deeply rooted in her upbringing within the landscape of 1990s Eastern Europe and her native Poland. Drawing upon her personal experiences, she intricately portrays the powerful women and everyday rituals that shaped her childhood. Through meticulous attention to detail, Conan immerses viewers in a world where nostalgia and introspection intertwine, offering a profound reflection on the complexities of human experiences and conditions.

With a discerning eye for post-Impressionist, Symbolist, and Expressionist influences, Conan's work exhibits a profound depth and complexity. Her use of acrylic and neon lighting creates a mesmerizing visual experience, reflecting the quiet struggles of Polish migrant women within British and Polish societies.

Central to Conan's creative process is her meticulous approach to soundscapes. Collaborating with Leopold Stokowski's arrangement of Igor Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring," she masterfully intertwines music and visual art to evoke a sense of inner turmoil and conflict. The dark and wet months spent in her London studio during winters 2023 and early 2024 have ignited a newfound yearning for Spring within Conan. This longing encompasses both its welcoming warmth and the harshness of its sudden transformation, serving as a driving force behind her latest creations. Accompanied by a soundtrack of Leopold Stokowski conducting Igor Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring," Conan's artwork captures the discordant rhythms of inner turmoil manifesting upon the canvas.

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Through her paintings, Conan seeks to reconnect with a bygone era, one rendered inaccessible through physical journeys alone. Immersed in poses of confidence amidst doppelgängers (as depicted in *Seven Years Itch*, 2024; *Connection*, 2024), animal totems (as seen in *Cow/ Wieszla w Szkodę / Animal Crossing*, 2023 & *Office Hours*, 2024), and twilight landscapes (as depicted in *Casting Shadows*, 2024), Conan's art serves as a portal to childhood memories and surreal reveries.

Each painting encapsulates various nostalgic urges and yearnings, exploring the transient nature of memory and the longing for the familiar. From poignant gazes holding poisonous mushrooms (as depicted in *Destroying Angels*, 2023) to scenes of familial gatherings (*Office Hours*, 2024) and wild swimming escapades (*Swimming Ban*, 2024), Conan's artwork captures the essence of daily life interwoven with moments of profound contemplation. Through the symbolism of cigarettes and communal rituals (as seen in *Frosty*, *Side-Eye*, *Connection*, *Thoughts and Prayers*, all created in 2024), her paintings provide insights into the transient nature of time and the pursuit of harmony amidst uncertainty. Her artwork invites viewers to embark on a journey of introspection and rediscovery.

The color palette of Conan's works oscillates between somber shades of green and pulsating hues of pink, resonating with the vibrancy of childhood woodland strolls in her native Poland. Her paintings serve as a testament to the enduring allure of nostalgia and the complexities of navigating changing landscapes. As viewers traverse Conan's suspended springtime realm, they encounter whimsical depictions of vividly colored animals and timeless fairy tales. Through these whimsical portrayals, Conan invites audiences to ponder questions of identity, resilience, and the interconnectedness of past and present.

For further information or press inquiries, please contact the gallery at info@christinepark.net or WeChat Official Account [cpgallery](#).

Instagram

@ChristineParkGallery #ChristineParkGallery @noemiconan #NoemiConan #RiteOfSpring

About the Artist

Born in 1987 in Warsaw, People's Republic of Poland, Noemi Conan completed her BA (Hons) in Painting and Printmaking at the Glasgow School of Art in 2021, followed by the Drawing Year

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2021-2022, a postgraduate scholarship programme at the Royal Drawing School in London. Using a cast of recurring characters such as ferocious female figures, felines, and ominous conifers, Conan recalls the stories of her childhood in rural Poland during the economic transformation of the 1990s and early 2000s. Combining humor with fantasy and horror elements, the work examines the legacy of socialist realism and neoliberal reform from a surreal, liminal perspective.

Conan was featured in the longlists of the John Moores Painting Prize in Liverpool and the Jackson's Painting Prize in London in 2020 and 2023, and was selected for the Bloomberg New Contemporaries in Colchester and London in 2021. She has exhibited internationally across Europe and has work in public and private collections, including the Royal Collection, Soho House, London; The Fores Project, London; the Urban Nation Museum, Berlin; Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow; and the Borgo Pignano Collection, Volterra Pisa. Conan is currently taking part in the Turps Studio Programme in London. She lives and works in London.

About the Gallery

CHRISTINE PARK GALLERY is a contemporary art gallery dedicated to supporting both emerging and established international artists. Located in Pingwu Lu, in the historical heart of Shanghai's former French Concession, and just off the Columbia Circle in Changing District, the gallery hosts an extensive program of solo exhibitions, challenging presentations at international art fairs, conceptually curated group exhibitions, and special installations, ranging from experimental films to performances. With a constantly evolving roster of innovative artists, the gallery prides itself on exhibiting works in a variety of media, aiming to provoke cross-disciplinary debates and extend the boundaries of the contemporary art scene.

Due to the challenges posed by the Novel Coronavirus in 2021, our New York Gallery temporarily suspended its operations. However, we proudly inaugurated our second gallery space, our first in Asia, in Anfu Lu, Shanghai, during the summer of the same year. Fast forward to 2023, CHRISTINE PARK GALLERY has once again made a move. We now call Unit 505, 38 Pingwu Lu, Shanghai, our home.

Our vision is to provide a robust platform for artists to develop and gain greater recognition. Beyond offering a canvas for artists to bring their creative visions to life and share their works with the public, we actively cultivate relationships with art foundations, public museums, and discerning private clients, enriching the global art landscape.

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