

HANNAH LIM

BESTIARIES

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**WILDER**



Wilder Gallery presents *Bestiaries* a solo exhibition by the London-based artist, Hannah Lim. The exhibition will showcase Lim's body of work from ornamental sculptures to wall-based works, which elegantly and playfully bridges her Singaporean and British heritage through a modern reinterpretation of Chinoiserie.

Lim will showcase 10 snuff bottles and 6 paintings, drawing inspiration from Chinese mythology. Her work delves into Chinese bestiaries found in texts such as 'The Classics of Mountains and Seas' and Pu Songling's 'Tales of a Chinese Studio.' In addition, Lim has integrated elements from Medieval bestiaries, weaving parallels between the two traditions, and merging the creatures and their narratives to form her process of sculptural storytelling.

Lim's sculptures are vibrant and whimsical, reminiscent of the colourful architecture in Singapore. Reinterpreting the claw-like feet of chinoiserie furnishings, she equips her sculptures with hands and feet, giving them a playful anthropomorphic quality.

At the heart of Lim's work is a deep-rooted exploration of identity. Drawing from her mixed Singaporean and British heritage, she delves into the historical intersections of these cultures, particularly as reflected in furniture, objects, and architectural designs. Lim's intrigue with Chinoiserie, an 18th-century design trend that melded Chinese aesthetics with European tastes, results in sculptures that reclaim this cultural mosaic with both consciousness and creativity.

Furthermore, Lim's engagement with Anne Anlin Cheng's 'Ornamentalism' punctuates her artworks. This feminist theory, which delves into the portrayal of East/South East Asian femininity as inherently ornamental, resonates powerfully with Lim's own examinations of identity. For Lim, the over - 'ornamentation' or flamboyance of her work has become a way of pushing against fixed notions of identity and race that are often a point of confusion and struggle for those who come from mixed cultural backgrounds.

Lim has previously had solo exhibitions at renowned spaces including Edinburgh Printmakers and Huxley-Parlour gallery, and has featured in group exhibitions with The Royal Scottish Academy and Bloomberg New Contemporaries. Following her recent commission for the Tate Collective, Lim is currently Pangolin London's artist in residence for 2022-2023.

'The works in the show are ornamental, creaturely, animistic and intricate - inspired by my research into Chinese and Medieval Bestiaries as well as imagery and objects that have become symbols of my heritage.' Hannah Lim

'The striking colour, form and symbolism in Hannah's work speaks eloquently and uniquely of her mixed cultural identity and heritage. The works reflect a hybridised East-West aesthetic and touch upon ideas of colonialism and appropriation. For example, the colour palette and decorative elements in the works reference the Peranakan aesthetic, which takes influences from Chinese, Malay and Western influences. They also reference Singapore shophouses, which are characteristically pastel and candy coloured and were built during the colonial era. On a personal level, having grown up in Singapore and being part Singaporean myself, I find a deep resonance with Hannah's explorations into the complexities of multicultural and Eurasian identity and belonging. It not only aligns with my own experiences but also evokes a poignant touch of childhood nostalgia.' Michelle Lee Medjeral-Thomas, Gallery Director

**Hannah Lim** b.1998 is a London based artist working between sculpture, installation and drawing. She received her BA in sculpture from the University of Edinburgh and her MFA from The University of Oxford's Ruskin School of Art. She has recently had solo shows with Edinburgh Printmakers and Huxley-Parlour gallery whilst also exhibiting in group shows with The Royal Scottish Academy and Bloomberg New Contemporaries. She was recently commissioned by Tate Collective to create a sculpture in the style of her 'Snuff Bottle Series' for Women's History Month. She is currently Pangolin London's artist in residence for 2022-2023.





*Ruby Dragon Snuff Bottle*

2023

16 x 18 x 12 cm

Jesmonite, polymer clay, chalk, acrylic paint and resin gloss.





*Peacock Snuff Bottle*

2023

6 x 18 x 12 cm

Jesmonite, polymer clay, chalk, acrylic paint and resin gloss





*Jewelled Dewdrop Snuff Bottle*

2022

Jesmonite, polymer clay, chalk, resin gloss

18 x 15 x 10 cm





*Blue Heluo-Fish Snuff Bottle*

2022

Polymer clay, jesmonite, resin gloss

16 x 18 x 10 cm





*Enchanted Pond Snuff Bottle*

2023

10 x 12 x 5 cm

Jesmonite, polymer clay, chalk, acrylic paint and resin gloss.





*Little Flame Snuff Bottle*

2023

10 x 12 x 5 cm

Jesmonite, polymer clay, chalk, acrylic paint and resin gloss.





*Purple Lotus Snuff Bottle*

10 x 12 x 5 cm

Jesmonite, polymer clay, chalk, acrylic paint and resin gloss





*Glowing Spirit House Snuff Bottle*

2022

Jesmonite, polymer clay, chalk, resin gloss

12 x 14 x 7 cm





*Lotus Fish Snuff Bottle*

2022

Polymer clay, jesmonite, resin gloss

15 x 18 x 10 cm





*Jewelled Heluo-Fish Snuff Bottle*

2023

10 x 12 x 5 cm

Jesmonite, polymer clay, chalk, acrylic paint and resin gloss.





*Flaming Phoenix*

2023

Watercolour and acrylic on Fabriano paper

Image dimensions: 22 x 32 cm

Framed



*Tyger at Midnight*

2023

Watercolour and acrylic on Fabriano paper in a handmade MDF frame, finished acrylic emulsion and clay detailing.

Framed dimensions: 32 x 46 x 2 cm







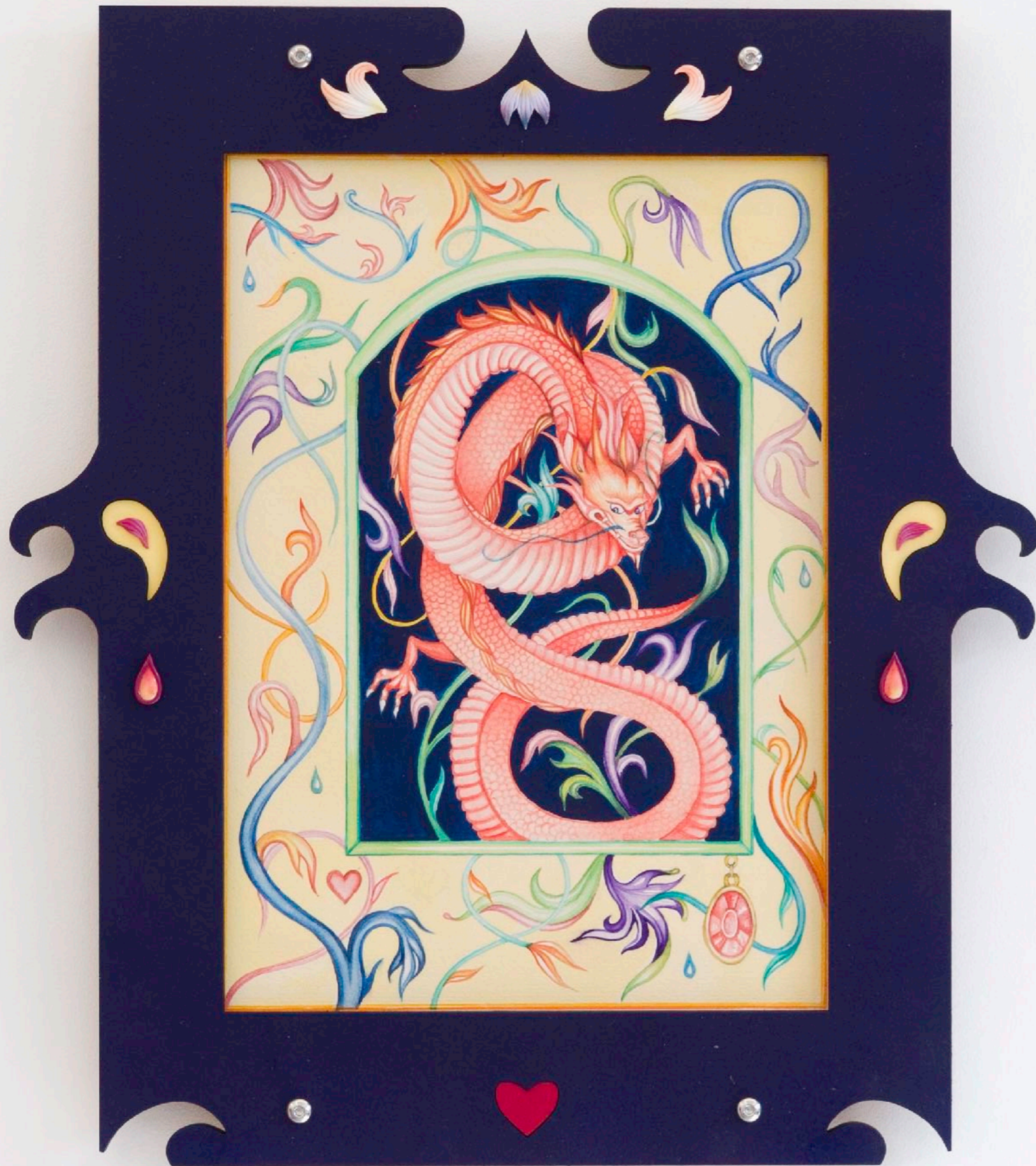
*Phoenix With The Golden Egg*

2023

Watercolour, acrylic and colour pencil on paper in a handmade MDF frame, painted with acrylic emulsion

Framed dimensions: 69 x 52 x 1.2 cm





*Illuminated Dragon*

2023

Watercolour and acrylic on Fabriano paper in a handmade MDF frame, finished acrylic emulsion and clay detailing.

Framed dimensions: 38 x 42 x 2 cm





*Fiery Fu Dog, 2023*

Watercolour and acrylic on Fabriano paper in a handmade MDF frame, finished acrylic emulsion and clay detailing.

Framed dimensions: 34 x 27 x 2 cm



*Nine Tailed Fox*

2023

Watercolour and acrylic on Fabriano paper in a handmade  
MDF frame, finished acrylic emulsion and clay detailing.

Framed dimensions: 32 x 41 x 2 cm







*Shen, 2023*

Watercolour and acrylic on Fabriano paper in a handmade MDF frame, finished acrylic emulsion and clay detailing.

Framed dimensions: 34 x 28 x 2 cm



**Hannah Lim (British / Singapore) b.1998**

**Education**

Foundation Diploma Art and Design, Central Saint Martins

BA Hons Sculpture, Edinburgh College of Art, The University of Edinburgh

MFA, Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford

**Exhibitions**

**Solo and Duo Shows:**

Solo show with Denny Gallery, Hong Kong (upcoming solo)

*The Tiger's Gaze*, Huxley-Parlour, London, 2022 (solo)

*Ornamental Mythologies*, Edinburgh Printmakers, Edinburgh, 2022 (solo)

*In the Margins*, Commonage Projects, London, 2022 (solo)

*Inanimate Creatures*, Changing Room Gallery, London, 2022 (solo)

*Tigers and Dragons and Ghosts Oh My!*, Dinner Gallery, New York, 2022 (duo)

*Parts of Self with Courtenay Welcome, Home by Ronan McKenzie x Cob Gallery Residency Show*, London, 2021 (duo)

*Porta Sancta with Hugo Harris*, Underground Flower x Harlesden High Street, 2021 (duo)

**Group Shows:**

*British Art Fair* with Royal Scottish Academy, Saatchi Gallery, 2022

*Eat Drink, Man Woman*, 180 The Strand, London, 2022

*Red Room*, Berntson Bhattacharjee, London, 2022

*Bloomberg New Contemporaries*, London, 2021/2022

*RSA New Contemporaries*, Royal Scottish Academy, 2022

*Next*, Christies, 2022

*Into the Fire*, Grove Collective, London, 2022

*Konomad*, Tokyo, 2022

*Dirt and Desire*, K.Halstead, London, 2021

*Mouth Parts*, St Margrets House, 2021

*Under Your Spell*, Collective Ending, London, 2021

*Zao Tang*, Local Collective x Stigma, London, 2021

*The Factory Project*, Delphian Gallery, 2021

*Origin*, Delphian Gallery, London, 2021

*The Holy Grail*, OHS Projects, 2021

*Final, Not Over - Again*, Unit One Gallery, 2021

*From a Safe Distance*, Raen Barnsley x Auction Collective, 2021

*The Graduates: Four Pillars*, Tatha Gallery, 2021

*Year of the OX*, Steamroom East / Don't Call me Oriental, London, 2021

*Wretched Light Industry*, Serving the People, supported by Creative Scotland, New York, 2020 *Pending*, San Mei Gallery, Brixton, 2020

*After Hours*, Harlesden High Street x Bowes Parris Gallery, 2020  
*Unmuted*, Sky Arts, 2020.

*Museum of Half Truths*, 1a Space, Hong Kong, 2020

*EXH 04*, Floorr Magazine, 2020



Maggies x ArtThou No Borders Initiative, ArtThou, Scotland, 2020 PATIO-PROJECT, Georgia Stephenson, London, 2020

*A THESISSS SHOW*, Something Special Studios, New York, 2020

*RSA Annual Exhibition*, Edinburgh, 2020

*Dreams*, Grapevine Residency, 2020

*Space Invaders: RCA X ECA Exchange*, Sculpture Court, 2020

*The Potion Room*, Subsidiary Projects, 2020

*Buffering*, Sculpture Court, Edinburgh College of Art, 2020

*RCA x ECA sculpture exchange*, Royal College of Art, 2019

Yerzel, Edinburgh College of Art, 2019

*Kubla Khan*, Safehouse 1, Peckham, 2019

*Astaire Art Prize*, Edinburgh College of Art, 2019

*Butter on Bacon*, Hospitalfield House, 2019

*Material Dialogues*, Fire Station, Lauriston Place, 2019

Criss Cross (performance), HengTang, Chengdu, 2018

#### **Selected Press**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ornamental-mythologies-a-lively-witty-study-of-two-cultures-939smqv5l>

Architectural Digest: <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/new-generation-of-asian-artists-on-chinese-ceramics>

Floorr Magazine: <https://www.floormagazine.com/issue-28/hannah-lim>

Hype Beast: <https://hypebeast.com/2021/7/hannah-lim-sculptural-art>

New Contemporaries: <https://www.newcontemporaries.org.uk/2021/artists/hannah-lim->

It's Nice That: <https://www.itsnicethat.com/articles/hannah-lim-art-sculpture-160721>

<https://www.wallpaper.com/beauty-grooming/malin-goetz-pop-up-art-gallery-bathhouse-London>

<https://www.archdaily.com/971679/zao-tang-pop-up-gallery-on-asian-arts-and-feminism-local-collective-plus-stigma-room>

<https://www.newcontemporaries.org.uk/2021/artists/hannah-lim->

Unmuted, SKY ARTS, December 2020

<https://art-verge.com/pending-art-exhibition-fundraiser-at-san-mei/>

<https://artmag.co.uk/art-thou-without-borders/>

[https://artmag.co.uk/23883-2/?fbclid=IwAR1KDjbpDYgdYOJcQjwuEUmWQEEg-aBqRjhNSmTM\\_NbMQfpWvkvbI-PUgg](https://artmag.co.uk/23883-2/?fbclid=IwAR1KDjbpDYgdYOJcQjwuEUmWQEEg-aBqRjhNSmTM_NbMQfpWvkvbI-PUgg)

<https://od-magazine.com/home/2020/5/18/a-thesisss-show>

<https://elephant.art/how-art-students-are-sharing-and-organising-through-the-crisis-23042020/>

<https://fadmagazine.com/2020/02/18/the-potion-room-at-subsiary-projects/>

<https://www.grapevine.earth/hannahlim/>

<https://sukeban.co.uk/art/hannah-lim/9510/>

#### **Selected Talks, Educational and Design work:**

Group talk on *The Teapot Prince* - with Edmund de Waal and Matt Smith, The University of Oxford, 2022

20:20, talk at The Royal Scottish Academy, 2022

*Flat Pack Design - Writing for The Museum of Half Truths*, 2021

*Respect Our Elders*, digital artworks designed for Boiler Room and Eastern Margins livestream, 2021

*In Conversation On Technology*, talk supported and organised by Fuse, Red Eye and Short Supply, 2021



Partnership Programmes:



Wilder Gallery partners with Own Art, enabling art buyers from the UK to acquire work between £100 - £2,500 over a 10 month interest free period. The artwork is delivered immediately and available to enjoy before the first instalment is paid. If you would like to purchase with Own Art or find out more please email Michelle [info@wilder.gallery](mailto:info@wilder.gallery).



Wilder Gallery partners with Art Money, enabling art buyers from the UK, US, Australia and New Zealand to acquire work between £1,000 & £100,000 over a 10 months interest free period. The works is available to deliver immediately. To follow the simple sign up process please [click here](#).

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