

PRESS RELEASE

A BEE'S WING DROPPING ONTO YOUR CHEEK

RINELLA ALFONSO, LEO ARNOLD, MINNE KERSTEN,
JOSSE PYL, JIN HAOFAN AND CHEN XINGYE

21 April – 20 May

Annet Gelink Gallery is proud to present *A bee's wing dropping onto your cheek*, a group exhibition that celebrates the first collaboration with Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai (CN). On view are new works by Rinella Alfonso, Leo Arnold, Minne Kersten, Josse Pyl and Vanguard's guest artists Jin Haofan and Chen Xingye.



The gallery's main space is filled with paintings and drawings from these young artists, with a delicate printed work welcoming the visitor at the entrance.

At the time of altering seasons, the works in this exhibition mark the in-between moments of a transition, depicting objects that oscillate between life and lifeless. Ghosts get down in wooden chairs, carcasses pop up in eerie drawings, moths fly towards their death and bees lose their wings. Similarly, inert objects come to life, with lines transcending into dancing eyelashes and windows and crevices drawing the viewer into a dark and unknown inside.

Uncanny at first sight, the works in fact do not propose a bleak view on life. Rather, they seem to suggest a poetic moment of letting go to allow something new to grow, much like the vibrant spring following wintertime. These elements of nature are also reflected in the works, in the form of an ironing comb in flames or a gentle stream of water pouring out of a fountain.

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Bodies in this exhibition are fragmented, the closest to a body intact being a headless figure. These dispersed body parts correspond to the senses: teeth jump across drawings and make language tangible, a foot is fetishized, and moths are fatally attracted to light.

The wing of a bee dropping onto a person's cheek from one centimeter distance is the absolute threshold for an organism to experience touch. Painting, a medium typically associated with looking, here becomes of the senses, raising questions about the act and experience of looking itself.

Rinella Alfonso studied at Instituto Buena Vista in Curaçao and Fine Arts at Royal Academy of Art, The Hague (NL), before becoming a resident at De Ateliers in Amsterdam in 2019. In 2020 she won the Royal Prize for Painting and was nominated again a year later. Solo exhibitions include Annet Gelink Gallery, Amsterdam, NL (2022), Paul Soto, Los Angeles, USA (2022), and Project Native Informant, London, UK (2022). **Leo Arnold** studied at Glasgow School of Art (UK), and was resident at De Ateliers in Amsterdam (NL). In 2020 Arnold received the 'Buning Brongers Prijs' and the 'Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst' in 2019. In 2021 he participated in his first group exhibition at Annet Gelink Gallery; **Minne Kersten** was a participant at De Ateliers from 2018-2020. She graduated from de Gerrit Rietveld Academie in 2016, where she holds a BFA at the Image & Language department. In 2017 she was selected for the Slow Writing Lab by the Dutch Foundation for Literature. In 2022, she was nominated for the Royal Award for Modern Painting and the Volkskrant Fine Art Award and was selected for a residency with Triangle-Astérides in Marseille (FR); **Josse Pyl** studied at Werkplaats Typografie (NL), before completing his residency at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten (NL). Recent solo exhibitions include shows at Annet Gelink Gallery, Amsterdam, NL (2022), Plato Ostrava, Prague, CZ (2021), the Brakke Grond, Amsterdam, NL (2019), and 019, Ghent, BE (2018); **Jin Haofan** was born in Guangdong, China in 1987. Graduated from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. Recent solo exhibition: Vanguard gallery, Shanghai, CN (2022), Tenjinyama Art Studio, Sapporo, JP (2016); **Chen Xingye** was born in Qinhuangdao, Hebei, China in 1987. Works and lives in Beijing. Recent solo exhibition: Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai, CN (2020).