
DAN JIAN
Distance of Seeing
Nov 07 - Dec 19, 2026



Dan Jian, *Landscape 3,* 2025 liquid graphite on paper 12h x 12w in, detail

**DAN JIAN**
***Distance of Seeing***
***November* 07 - December 19, 2026**

Cris Worley Fine Arts is pleased to present *Distance of Seeing*, an exhibition of recent drawings by Dan Jian, exploring the shifting relationship between observation, memory, and the materiality of an image. The exhibition opens with a reception on November 7th and runs through December 19th. The artist will be in attendance.

Working from fragments of landscapes, figures, and everyday encounters, Jian brings disparate forms into unexpected relationships. Her drawings emerge through collecting, assembling, and revising, allowing images to develop without necessarily resolving into a coherent whole.

Jian describes her drawings as collections of fragments, each carrying traces of a previous life into a new surreal composition. A leg, a staircase, or a distant hill may become the starting point for an image whose eventual form remains uncertain. She likens the process to a Frankenstein-like creature coming to life, with the challenge of giving its assembled parts a measure of grace. The resulting drawings balance construction and accident, allowing disparate elements to coexist in tension, uncertainty, and harmony.

In these recent works, made while observing the Tuscan landscape, Jian's attention moves between mountains, trees, hills, and passing encounters. Yet looking does not necessarily produce a faithful record of what is seen. Working on aged Xuan paper, whose absorbent surface allows watercolor and liquid graphite to disperse unpredictably, she grants material processes a degree of autonomy. Pigment and graphite move beyond deliberate control, producing granular forms and unexpected associations that shape each drawing's evolving structure.

The exhibition's title invokes a central concern in Jian's practice: the distance that persists between observer and observed. Drawing on Walter Benjamin's writing on aura, Jian considers the possibility of a reciprocal gaze, in which the landscape seems to look back at the person observing it. What appears near remains, in some essential sense, beyond possession. Her drawings register this exchange without resolving it, bringing fragments together while preserving the distance between them. In Distance of Seeing, looking becomes less an act of capture than an encounter with what remains elusive.



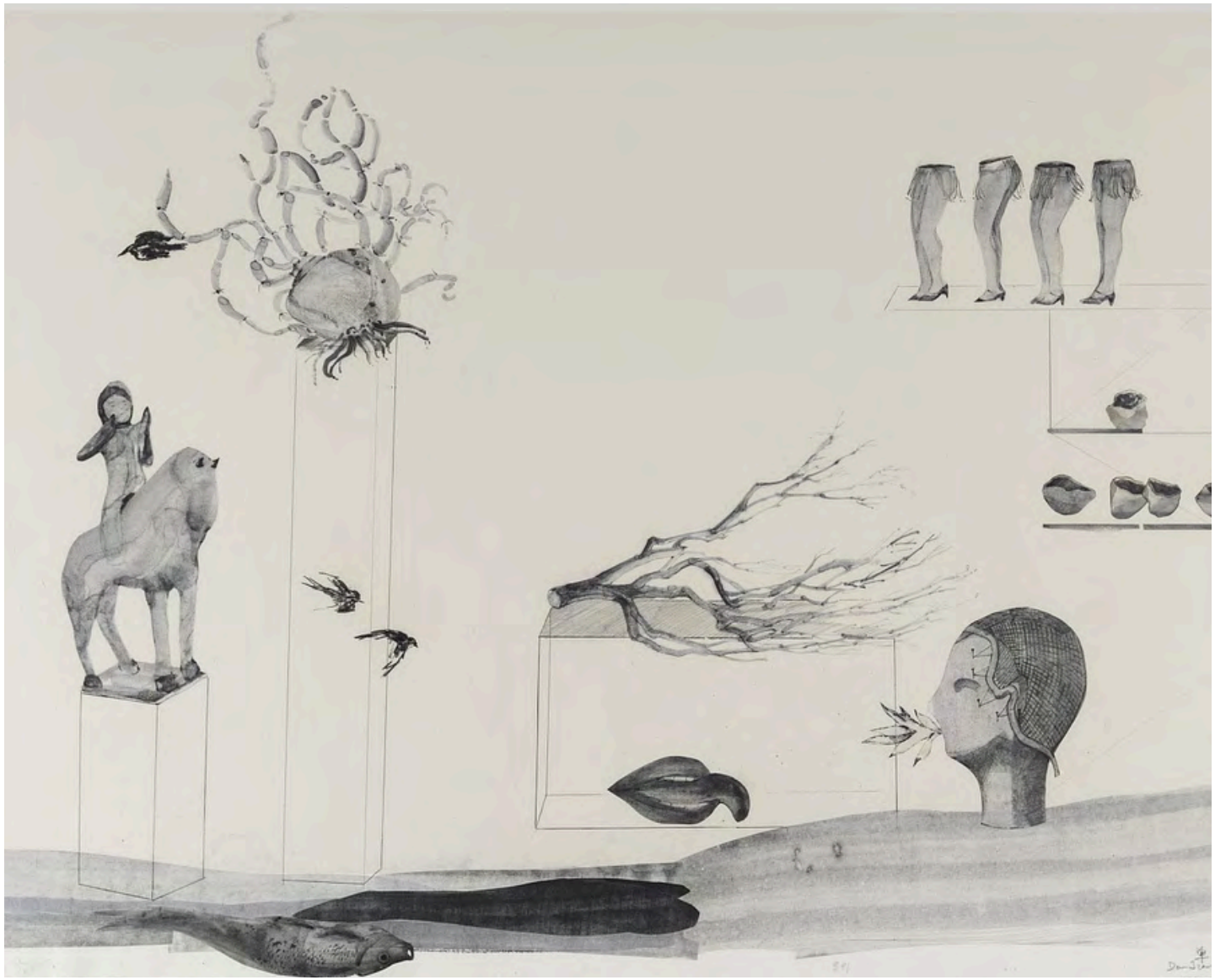
**Dan Jian, *Distance of Seeing*, installation view**



Dan Jian, ***Distance of Seeing***, installation view



Dan Jian, *Library of Partial Things,* 2025 liquid graphite on Xuan paper 23h x 30w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Library of Partial Things*, 2025
liquid graphite on Xuan paper
23h x 30w in
DJ044
$4,000 framed

**Dan Jian**
*Distance of Seeing*
installation view





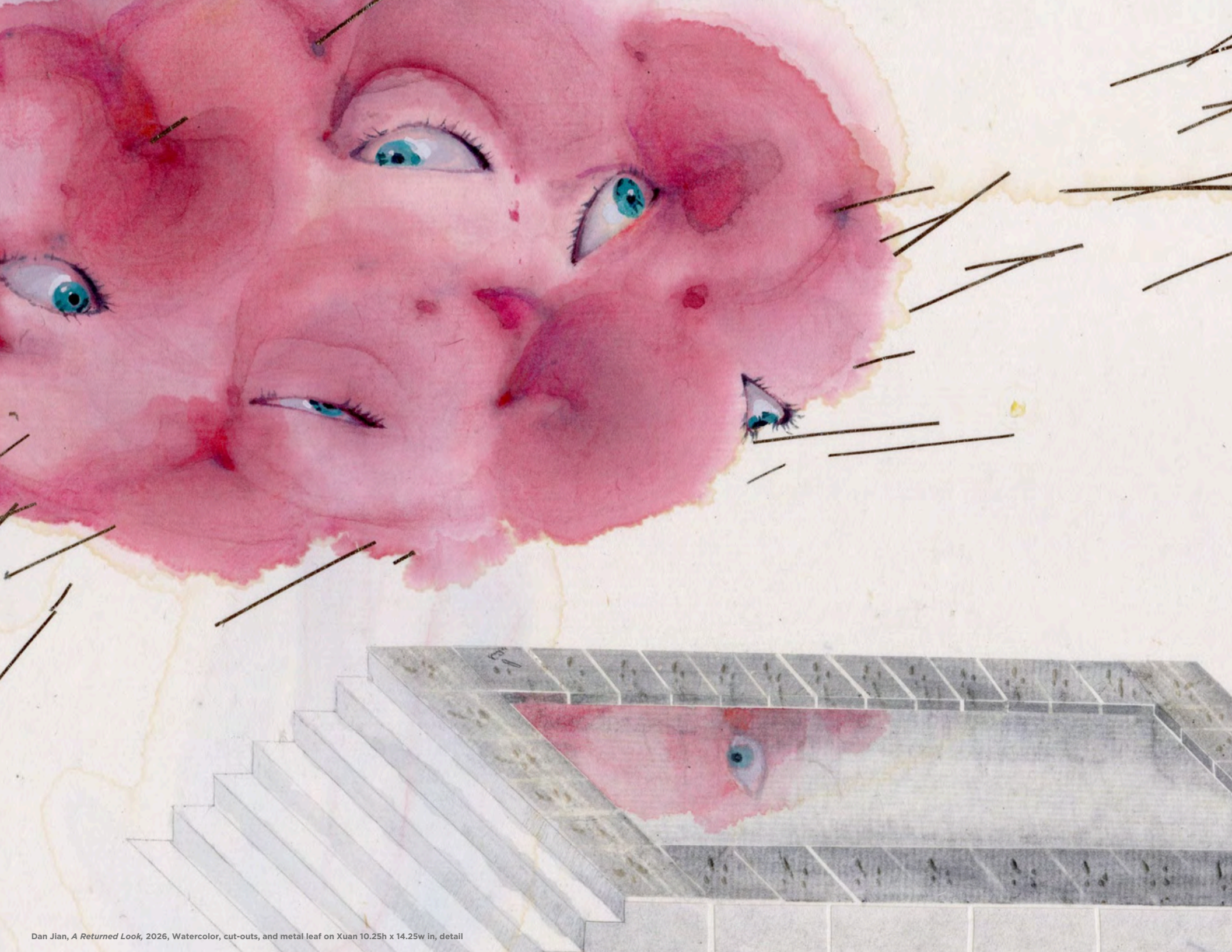
Dan Jian, ***Distance of Seeing***, installation view



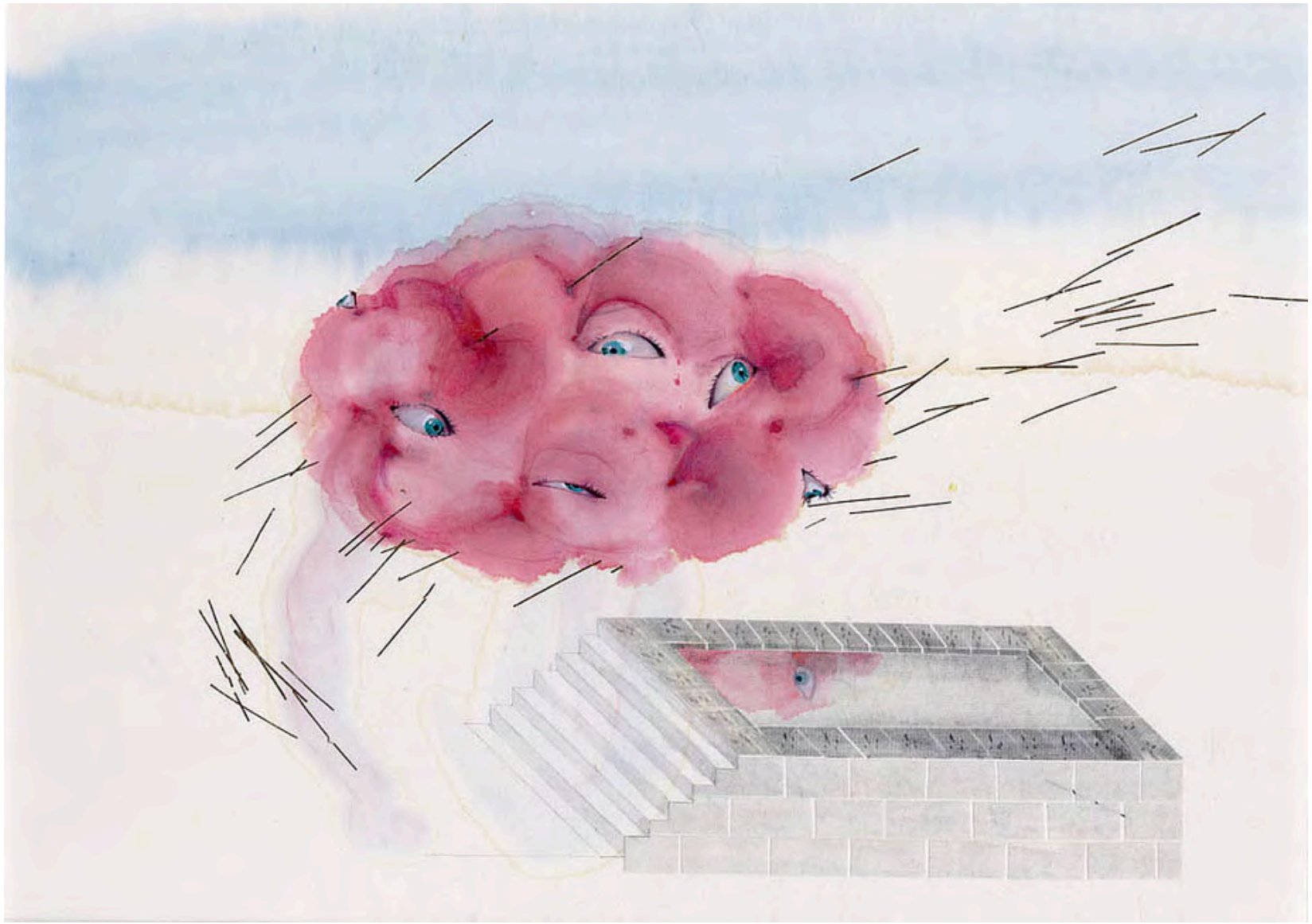
Dan Jian, *Twin She-Wolves,* 2026, Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan 10h x 14.25w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Twin She-Wolves*, 2026
Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan
10h x 14.25w in
DJ056
$2,600



Dan Jian, *A Returned Look,* 2026, Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan 10.25h x 14.25w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*A Returned Look*, 2026
Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan
10.25h x 14.25w in
DJ054
$2,600
SOLD



Dan Jian, *Arrangements*, 2026, Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan 10.50h x 14w in, detail



Dan Jian
*Arrangements*, 2026
Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan
10.50h x 14w in
DJ055
$2,600



Dan Jian, ***Distance of Seeing***, installation view



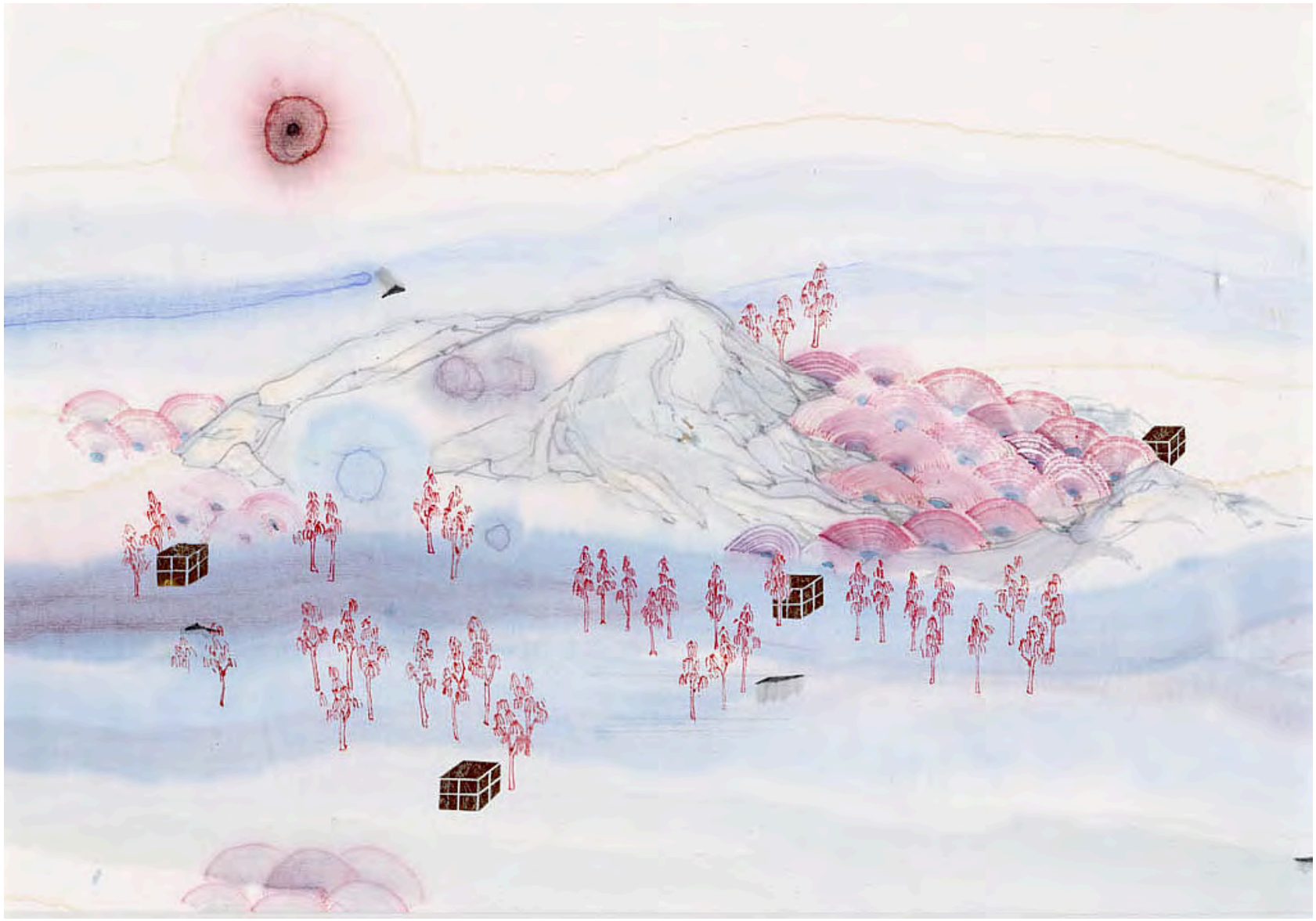
Dan Jian, *Encounter,* 2026, Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan 10.25h x 14.25w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Encounter*, 2026
Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan
10.25h x 14.25w in
DJ052
$2,600



Dan Jian, *Landscape 1*, 2026, Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan 10.25h x 14.25w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Landscape 1*, 2026
Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan
10.25h x 14.25w in
DJ057
$2,600
SOLD



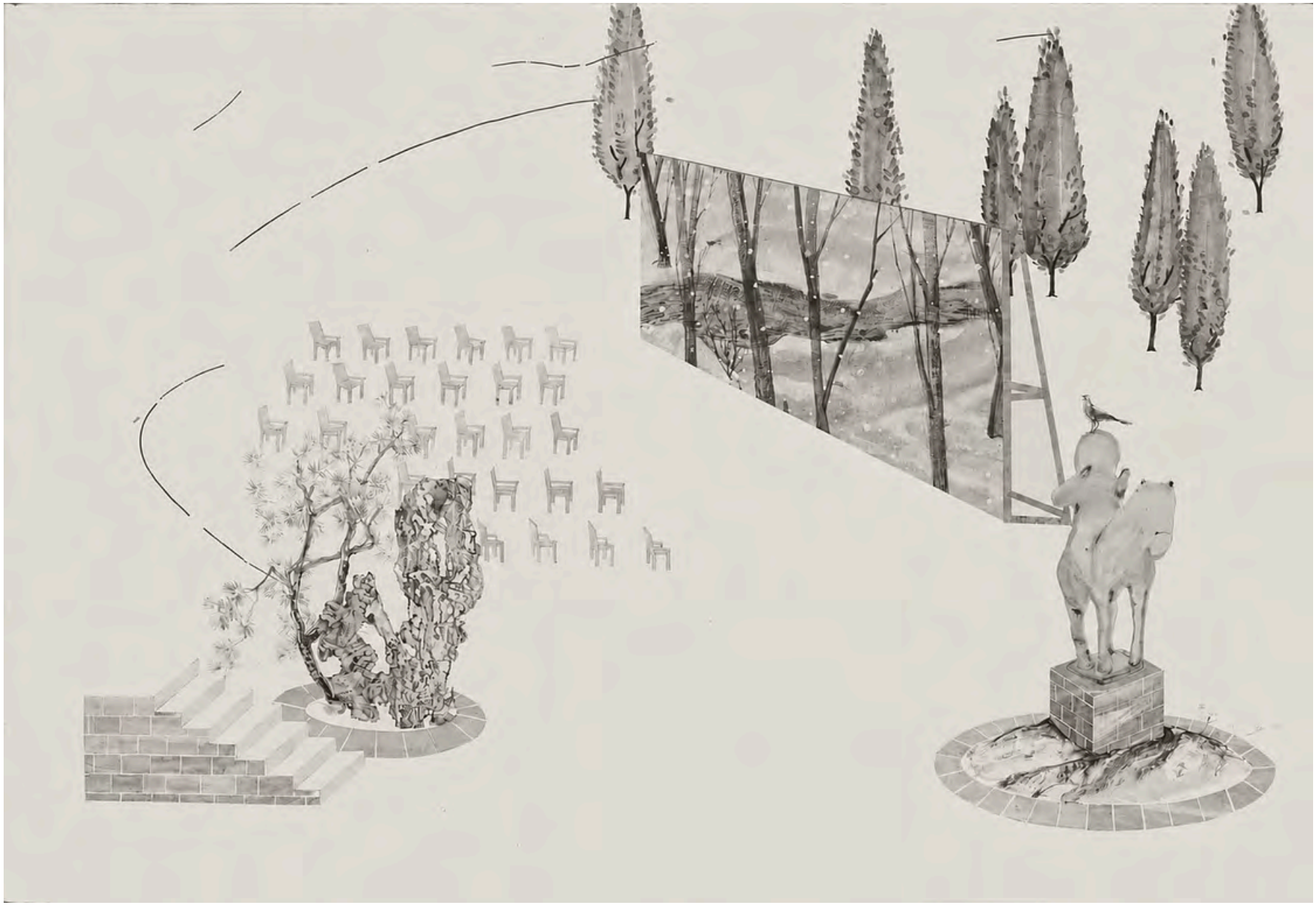
Dan Jian, ***Distance of Seeing***, installation view



Dan Jian, ***Distance of Seeing***, installation view



Dan Jian, *Whoever Brought Me Here Will Have to Take Me Home*, 2026 liquid graphite, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan paper, 26.38h x 37.63w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Whoever Brought Me Here Will Have to Take Me Home*, 2026
liquid graphite, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan paper
26.38h x 37.63w in
DJ065
$5,000



**Dan Jian**
*Distance of Seeing*
installation view



Dan Jian, ***Distance of Seeing***, installation view



Dan Jian, *Distance of Seeing*, installation view



Kelli Vance, *She Kept Her Hands Perfectly Still,* 2026, oil on canvas, 40h x 30w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Landscape 3*, 2025
liquid graphite on paper
12h x 12w in
DJ059
$2,600



Dan Jian, *Landscape 4,* 2025 liquid graphite on paper 12h x 12w in, detail

**Dan Jian**
*Landscape 4*, 2025
liquid graphite on paper
12h x 12w in
DJ061
$2,600





**Dan Jian, *Distance of Seeing*, installation view**



Dan Jian, *Landscape 6*, 2025 liquid graphite on paper 12h x 12w in, detail

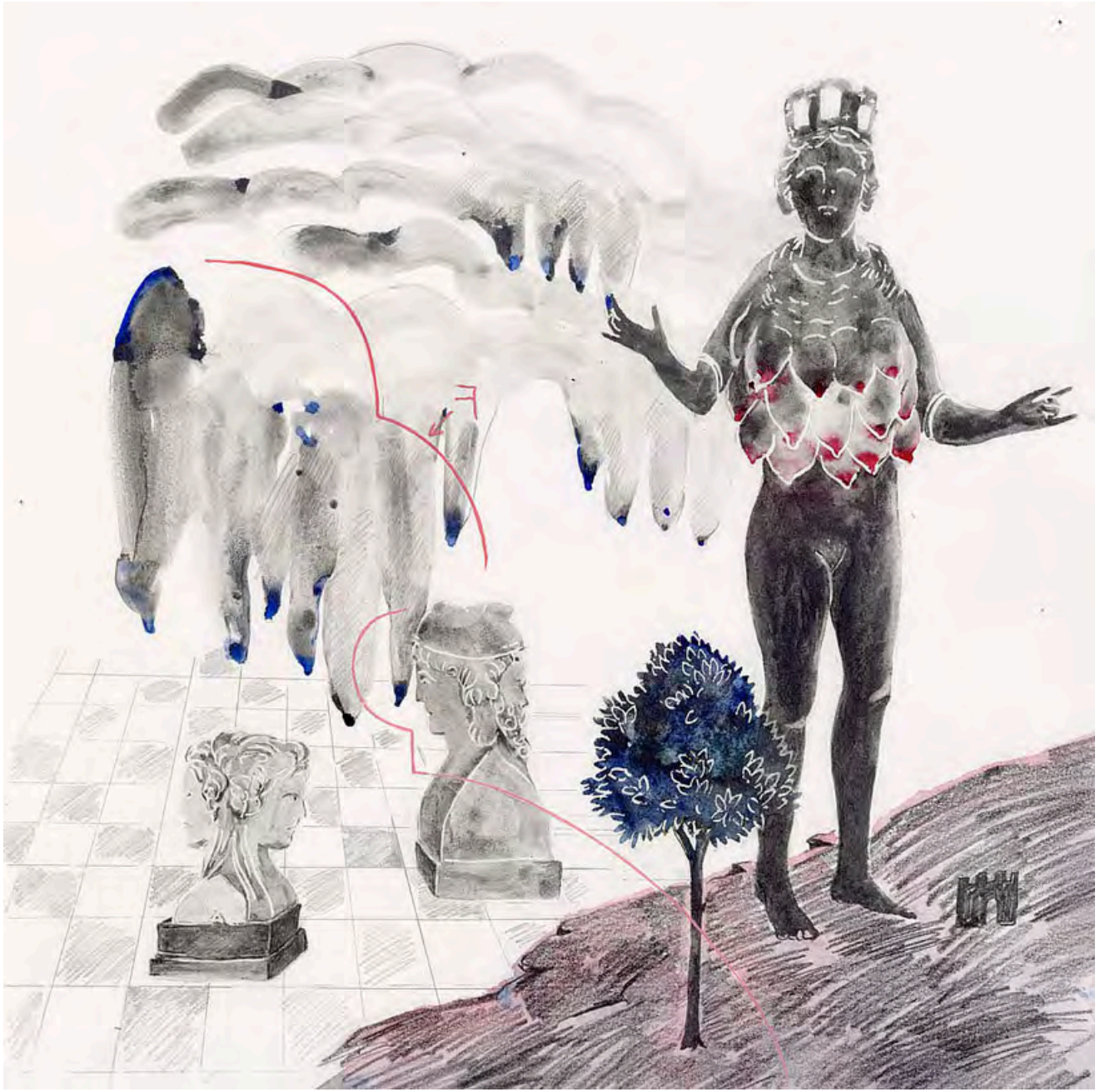


**Dan Jian**
*Landscape 6*, 2025
liquid graphite on paper
12h x 12w in
DJ062
$2,600



Dan Jian, *Landscape 5,* 2025 liquid graphite on paper 12h x 12w in, detail

**Dan Jian**
*Landscape 5*, 2025
liquid graphite on paper
12h x 12w in
DJ060
$2,600





Dan Jian, *Landscape 2,* 2025 liquid graphite on paper 12h x 12w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Landscape 2*, 2025
liquid graphite on paper
12h x 12w in
DJ058
$2,600



Dan Jian, ***Distance of Seeing***, installation view



**Dan Jian, *Distance of Seeing*, installation view**



Dan Jian, *The Mouth Wanted, the Breast Gave, the Forest Watches*, 2025 liquid graphite on Xuan paper, 21.25h x 25.75w in, de



**Dan Jian**
*The Mouth Wanted, the Breast Gave, the Forest Watches*, 2025
liquid graphite on Xuan paper
21.25h x 25.75w in
DJ042
$3,800 framed

**Dan Jian**
*Distance of Seeing*
installation view





Dan Jian, *An Unlikely Encounter,* 2025 liquid graphite on Xuan paper 20.25in x 29.00in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*An Unlikely Encounter*, 2025
liquid graphite on Xuan paper
20.25h x 28w in
DJ043
$3,800 framed



Dan Jian, *Distance of Seeing*, installation view



Dan Jian, *Strangers*, 2026, liquid graphite and watercolor cut-outs on Xuan paper 27.13h x 20.88w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Strangers*, 2026
liquid graphite and watercolor cut-outs on Xuan paper
27.13h x 20.88w in
DJ064
$4,000



**Dan Jian**
*Distance of Seeing*
installation view



Dan Jian, *Would a Rabbit Eat Mango?*, 2026, liquid graphite, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan paper 20.50h x 25.50w in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Would a Rabbit Eat Mango?*, 2026
liquid graphite, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan paper
20.50h x 25.50w in
DJ063
$3,500



**Dan Jian**
*Distance of Seeing*
installation view



Dan Jian, *Drawing Circus*, 2026, wood, liquid graphite and watercolor cut-outs on Xuan paper 20.75h x 86.50w x 37.25d in, detail



**Dan Jian**
*Drawing Circus*, 2026
wood, liquid graphite and watercolor cut-outs on Xuan paper
20.75h x 86.50w x 37.25d in
DJ066
Price upon request



Dan Jian, *Distance of Seeing*, installation view



Dan Jian, *Drawing Circus*, 2026, wood, liquid graphite and watercolor cut-outs on Xuan paper 20.75h x 86.50w x 37.25d in, detail



Dan Jian, Cactus Hands, 2026, Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on X" on 9.50h x 12.50w in, detail

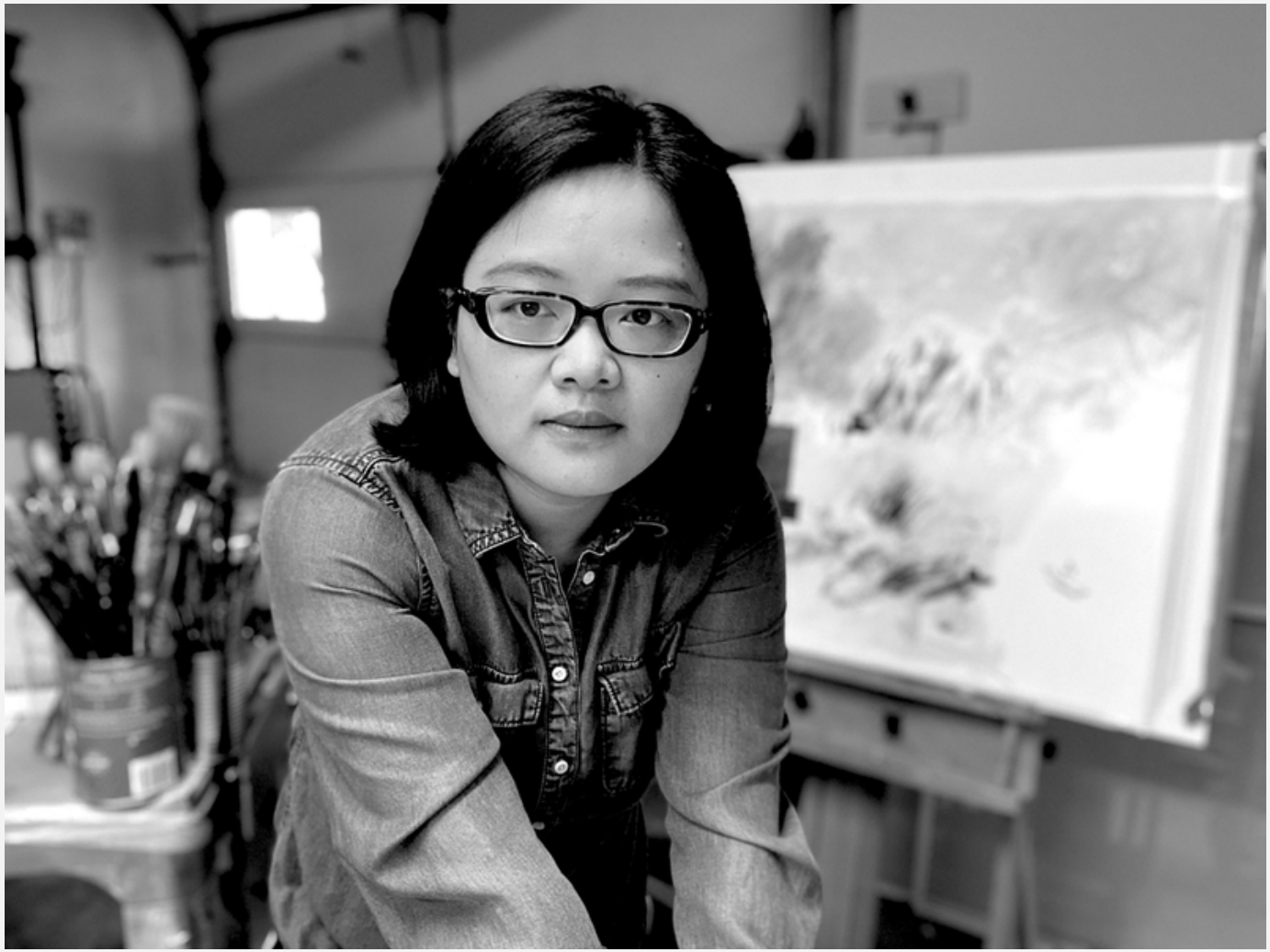


**Dan Jian**
*Cactus Hands*, 2026
Watercolor, cut-outs, and metal leaf on Xuan
9.50h x 12.50w in
DJ053
$2,500

**Dan Jian b. 1986**

Originally from the mountainous Hubei region of China, Dan Jian came to the United States at nineteen. She received her BFA from Tyler School of Art and Architecture at Temple University and her MFA from The Ohio State University. She is an associate professor of Art at Texas Christian University and maintains an ongoing studio practice in Fort Worth. Jian has exhibited nationally and internationally in China, Italy, and Korea. Recent exhibitions include Passing Through, Cell Series at Old Jail Art Center, Albany, TX; Library of Partial Things at East Texas A&M University-Commerce University Gallery, Commerce, TX; 21 Days at 器 Organhaus Contemporary Art Space, Chongqing, China; The Echoes of Nature at Capital One, Plano, TX; and The Bow Whispers to the Arrow at Women & Their Work, Austin, TX.

Jian has participated in residencies at Ragdale Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Organhaus Contemporary Art Space in China, and the Cerrito Artist in Residency program in Tuscany, Italy. Upcoming 2027 residencies include Organhaus and Awagami Factory in Japan. Her honors include a 2023 Artist Grant from the Nasher Sculpture Center, finalist recognition for the Don Bachardy Fellowship and the 2025 Moss/Chumley Award, and numerous research and creative grants from Texas Christian University.



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