

Sotheby's Institute of Art

## Where Do We Come From? Where Are We Going?

Curated by Finn Leong and Carley Nolan

May 7th – May 13th, 2019

Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York, 570 Lexington Ave, 6th Fl

Opening Reception: Wednesday, May 8th 6-8pm

**Sotheby's Institute of Art** is pleased to present *Where Do We Come From? Where Are We Going?*, a group exhibition curated by Sotheby's MA Contemporary Art and MA Art Business candidates Finn Leong and Carley Nolan. The exhibition, on view from May 7th to May 13th, 2019, marks the fourth installment in a series of exhibitions curated by MA students enrolled in Curating Contemporary Art. The exhibitions are free and open to the public, Monday – Friday 9 am to 6 pm, and require preliminary registration.

The title is a nod to Paul Gauguin's painting *Where Do We Come From? Where Are We Going?* from the late 19th century, which reflected his spiritual contemplation of natural life and human interaction. The exhibition is a reflective process of space and time within our human existence. The intangible words space and time are part of a universal narrative of how we connect our human experiences to the world around us. Through painting, digital work, photography, cyanotype print, sculpture, and installation work, the artists have expressed an inevitable desire to understand their identities with things outside of themselves. The artists experience cultural, spiritual, and physical displacement, not unlike a juxtaposition between life's higher purpose and existential challenges.

All the works in the show connect through their historical, philosophical, mathematical, or poetic thoughts. Iranian American artist **Sholeh Asgary** has work which introduces an Iranian goddess known as the divinity of "the waters" to express identity shifts over time. New York-based Argentinian artist, **Graciela Cassel** explores the relationship between the natural world and our interiors. New York-based American painter **Jake Nolan** depicts figures in solitude, a private moment yet undoubtedly connected to the natural physical world. Digital artist **Frank Wang** constructs a surreal journey and its contemplative identity with adventure and hardship, which is a direct response to his journey - moving from China to the U.S. Originally from China, **Han Qin** explores our interactions with others and spiritual shifts caused by travel, migration, and other turbulent changes, either as individuals or within a group. Brooklyn-based American artist, **Randy Gibson** aims to deconstruct time through self-logically composed digital works and paintings. **Yaw Owusu** from Ghana uses metal and coins to expose the aging of physical objects and their relation to people's experiences. Photographer **Cindy Qiao** captures the lands she has traveled to, all except for China, the home she left.

The group exhibition of eight artists creates a meditative experience reflective of existential contemplation. Before the exhibition, you can find a curated playlist with the same name on Spotify. The participating artists each selected songs that pertain to their processes for this project. <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2bWvBz3htyPyeS90KlwcQj>

RSVP is mandatory to [carley.nolan@sia.edu](mailto:carley.nolan@sia.edu), please bring photo ID to gain entry to the building. For images and more information please contact [yuqing.liang@sia.edu](mailto:yuqing.liang@sia.edu)

**#WhereDoWeComeFrom #WhereAreWeGoing**