



During my postgraduate studies, I have been exploring surrealism or realism in oil painting. In 2021, I participated in an important academic nomination exhibition of young oil painting art in China due to my supervisor's recommendation. At that time, China was recovering from the New Crown Epidemic, and people were interacting mainly through the Internet and social media platforms. In thinking about creating traditional realist or surrealist works, I was faced with the difficulty of finding materials. Because of home isolation, people have little contact with the outside world and rely on social software for daily communication. During an online course, students who were unfamiliar with the operation of the software created an interesting 'misunderstanding'. The shift from face-to-face communication to long-term online communication triggered me to think about whether these words and symbols could represent all of life. So I took screenshots of these conversations and decided to use them to represent the absurdly realistic moments of the Internet age.

Because in my opinion, both realistic and expressive paintings are narrative descriptions of life, and I think these screenshots are likewise a narrative of life. I use silkscreen printmaking techniques to show these moments of dialogue. In the exhibition, my works appear absurdly in a pile of realistic or abstract paintings. In this contrast, it unexpectedly attracts the interest of the audience. It also gives me an idea that if there is no standard for creation, it means that one can let go of the reliance on fixed styles.

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