



YIRUI JIA

EXPO CHICAGO 2023

Navy Pier, Chicago, IL

April 13 - April 16, 2023

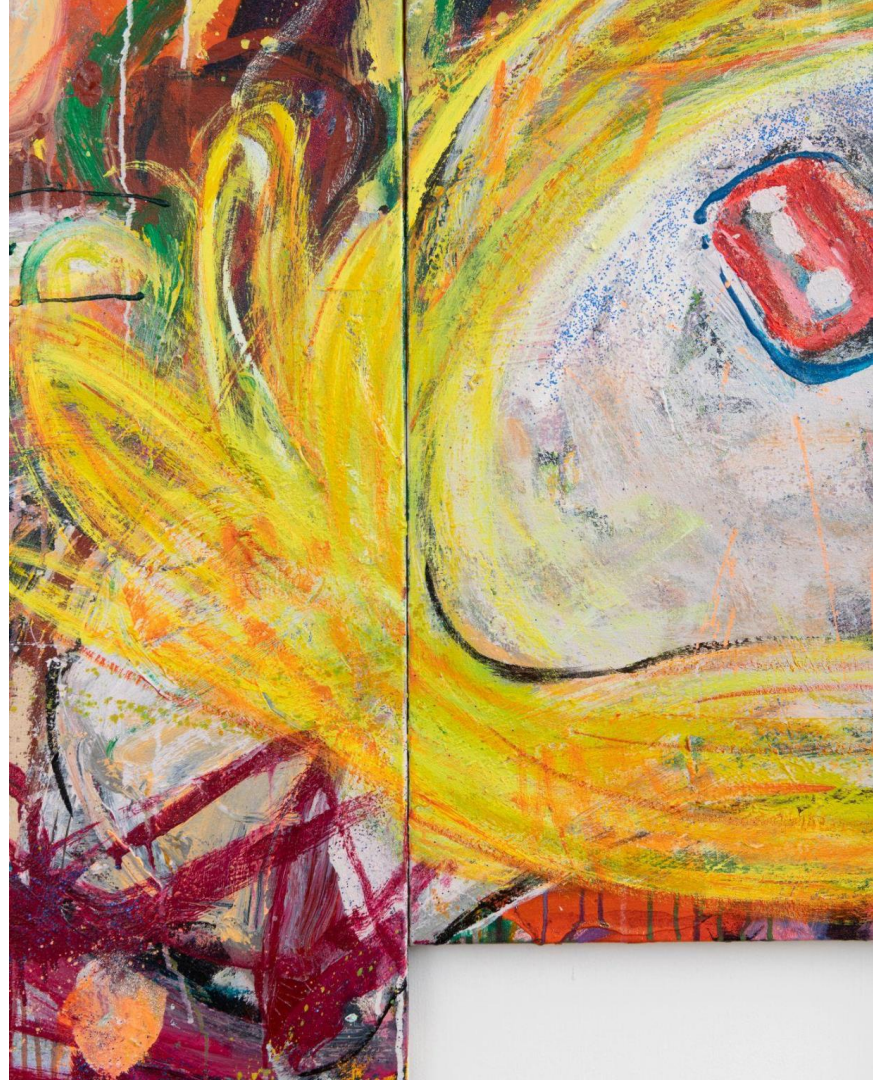
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Jupiter Contemporary is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new work by **Yirui Jia** at the tenth anniversary edition of **EXPO Chicago** from April 13 - 16, 2023. Building upon her characteristic style that fuses a sense of whimsy and play with comedic wit and energized expressionism, Jia's newest paintings take a turn towards greater abstraction.

Detail shot of Yirui Jia *Super Glue*, 2023 Acrylic and glitter on canvas 72 by 137 in. 182.88 by 347.98 cm. (YJ025)





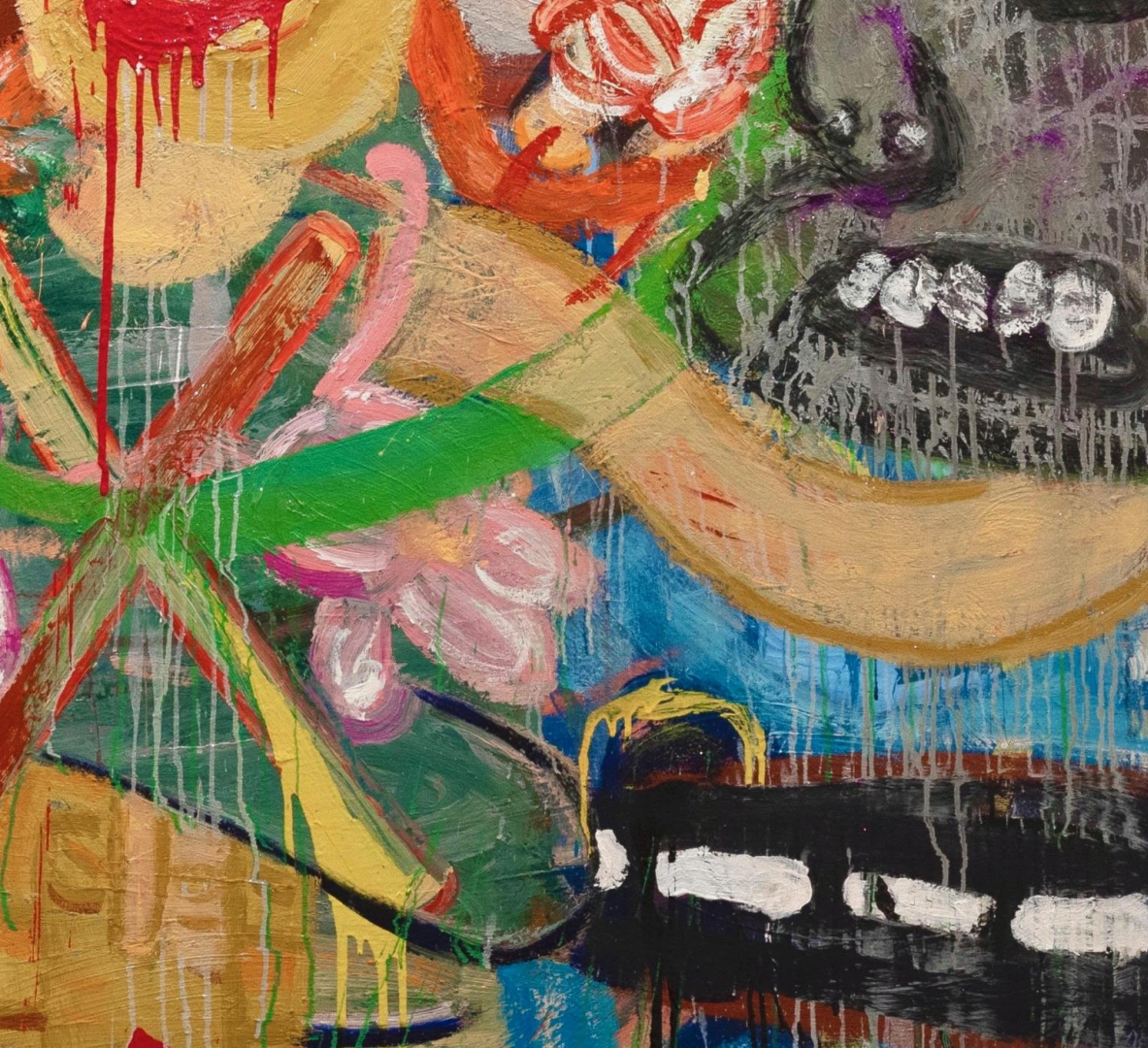
Yirui Jia (b. 1997, China) currently lives and works in New York, NY. She recently graduated from the School of Visual Arts with a Masters of Fine Arts in May of 2022. Past solo and group shows have been exhibited at COMA Gallery, Sydney (2023), Jupiter Contemporary, Miami Beach, FL (2022), LKIF Gallery, Seoul, South Korea (2022), IRL Gallery, Brooklyn, NY (2022), We Space, Shanghai, China (2022), Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2022), Latitude Gallery, New York, NY (2022), TUBE Culture Hall, Milan, Italy (2022), LATITUDE GALLERY, New York, NY (2022), Each Modern, Taipei, Taiwan (2022), Hive Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2021), We Space Gallery, Shanghai, China (2021), New Collectors, New York, NY (2021), WerkStadt, Berlin, Germany (2021), and Tree Art Museum, Beijing, China (2021).

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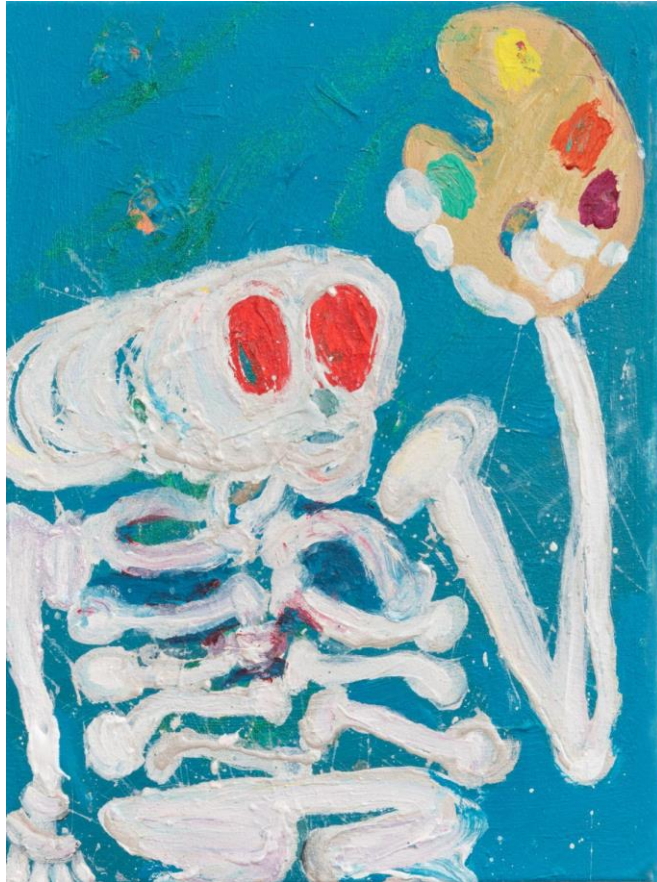
Yirui Jia
Egyptian Time, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
86 5/8 by 66 7/8 in.
220 by 169.86 cm.
(YJ021)

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While much of her previous work featured a Quentin Tarantino-inspired bride with an eye patch and flaming orange hair—who represented a wildly misbehaved version of a classic female stereotype—careening through the artist’s cinematic universe, Jia’s more recent paintings have moved away from such narrative compositions to expand the identities and complexities of the characters depicted therein. The figures that emerge within the works on view may similarly represent a fearless woman in her own universe, but instead of channeling this energy solely through the eye-patch adorned protagonist of her former works, Jia’s figures now take off the eye-patch, open their eyes, and assume a multitude of forms, raging widely from an astronaut, a swimmer, and a pilot to an Egyptian pharaoh.





Yirui Jia
Secret Painter, 2023
Acrylic and glitter on canvas
20 by 16 in.
50.8 by 40.64 cm.
(YJ032)

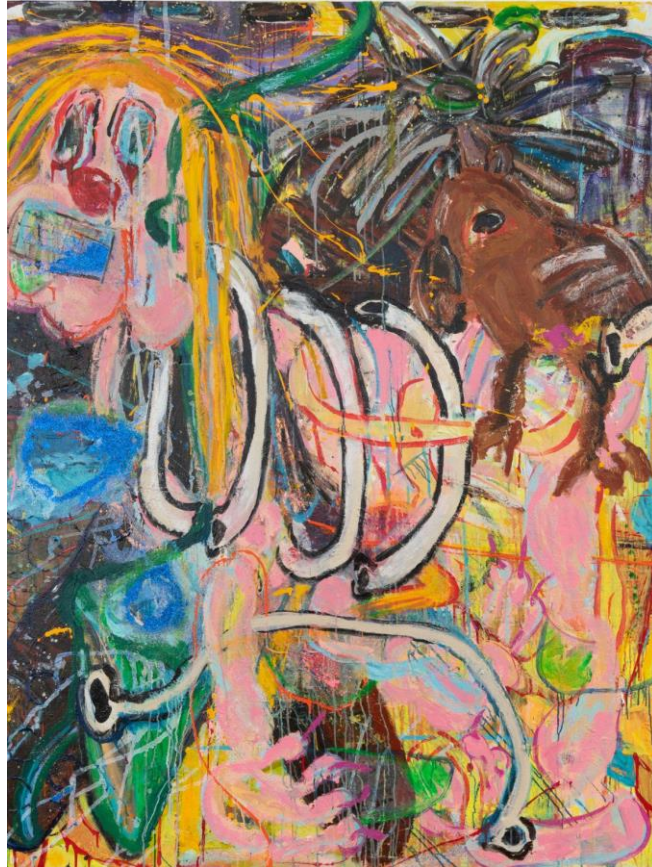
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These characters—such as the ET-like skeleton pictured in *Secret Painter* (2023), deranged caveman in *Caveclown* (2023), or the soldier in *I SPY* (2023)—are not the product of preconceived compositions that are sketched and then executed on canvas, but rather serve as a natural outgrowth of Jia’s application of paint to canvas.

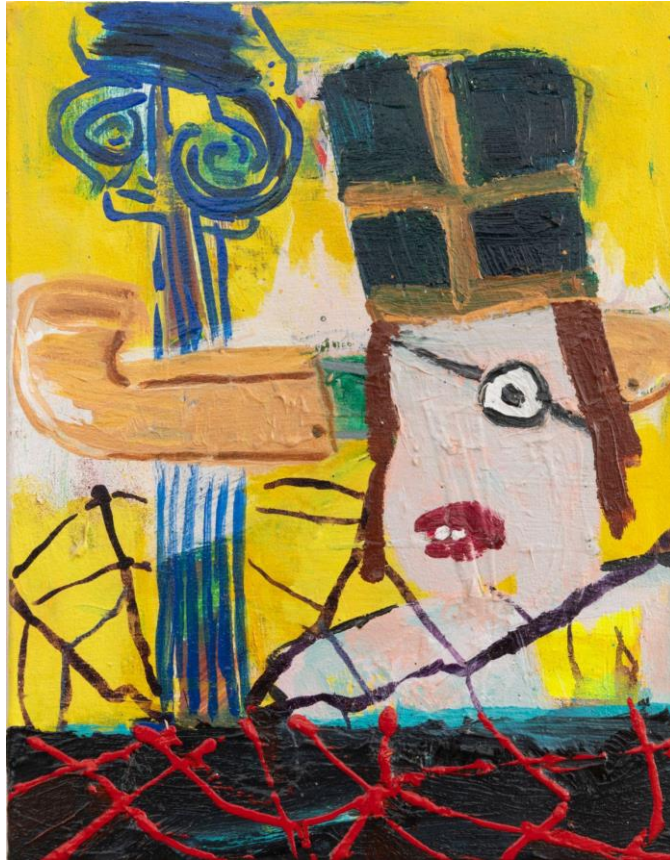




Yirui Jia
Caveclown, 2023
Acrylic and glitter on canvas
86.75 by 67 in.
220.35 by 170.18 cm.
(YJ033)

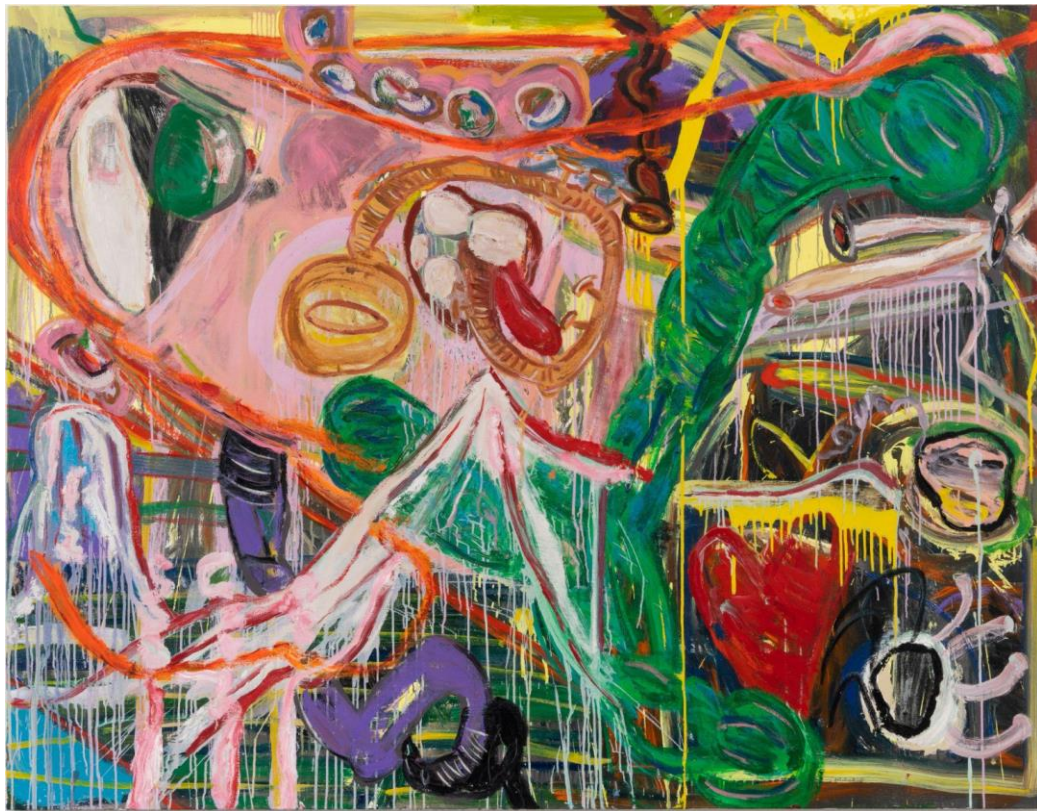






Yirui Jia
I SPY, 2023
Acrylic and glitter on canvas
20 by 16 in. 50.8 by 40.64 cm.
(YJ028)

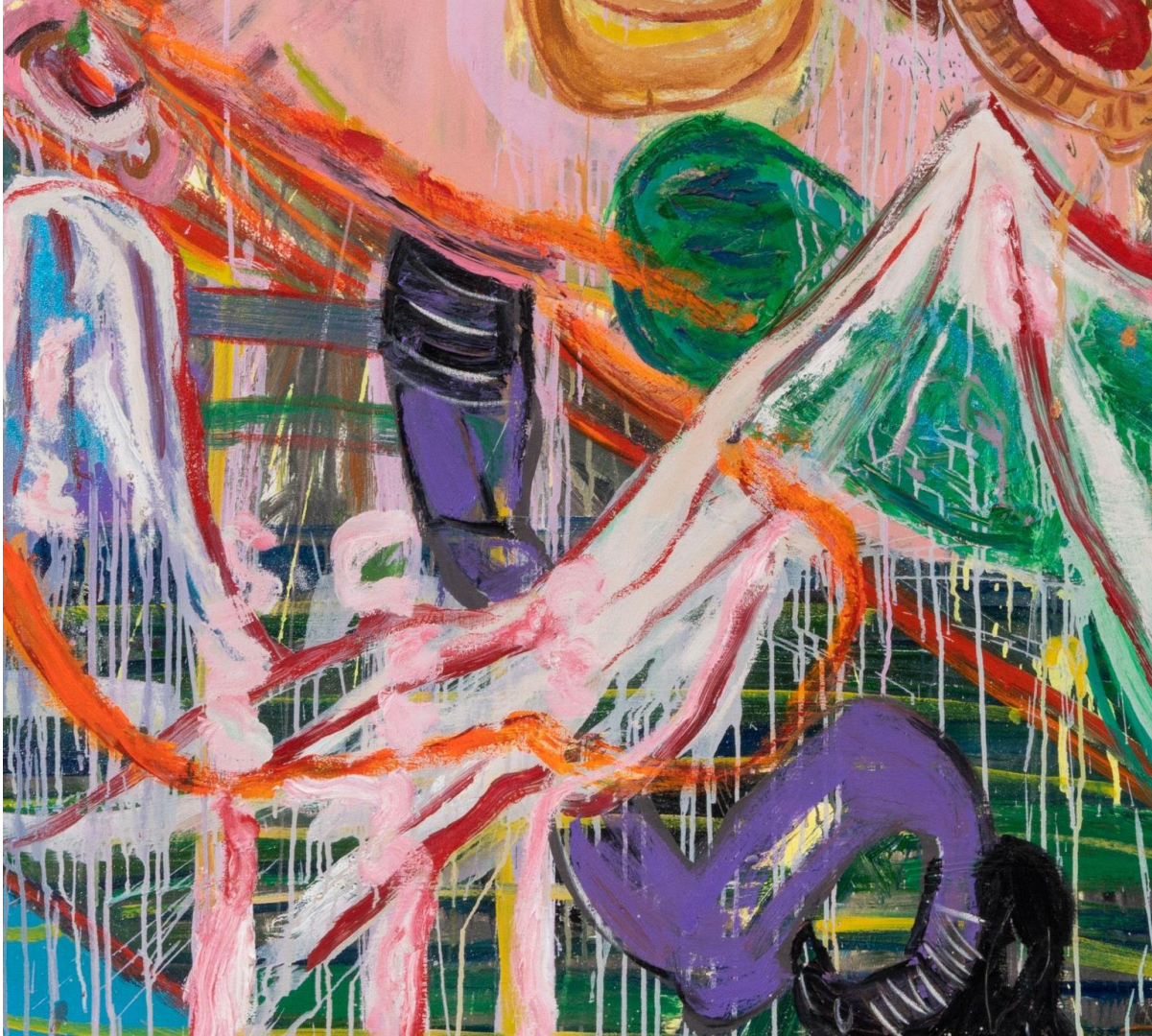




Yirui Jia
JOYLAND, 2022
Acrylic and glitter on canvas
67 by 86.75 in.
170.2 by 220.3 cm.
(YJ035)

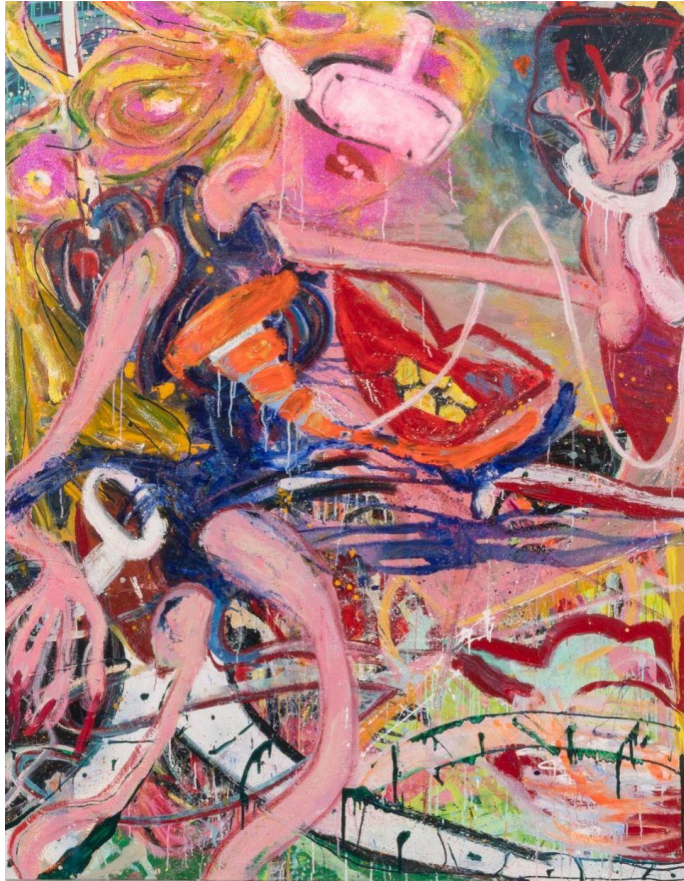
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From an embrace of total abstraction, wherein choices of color, line, texture, and composition are guided solely by whim, certain visual clues begin to present themselves to Jia as she paints. She thus allows them to guide her; effectively absenting the strictures imposed by narrative, she is now free to embrace spontaneity in an unbridled and highly experimental approach to her chosen medium.



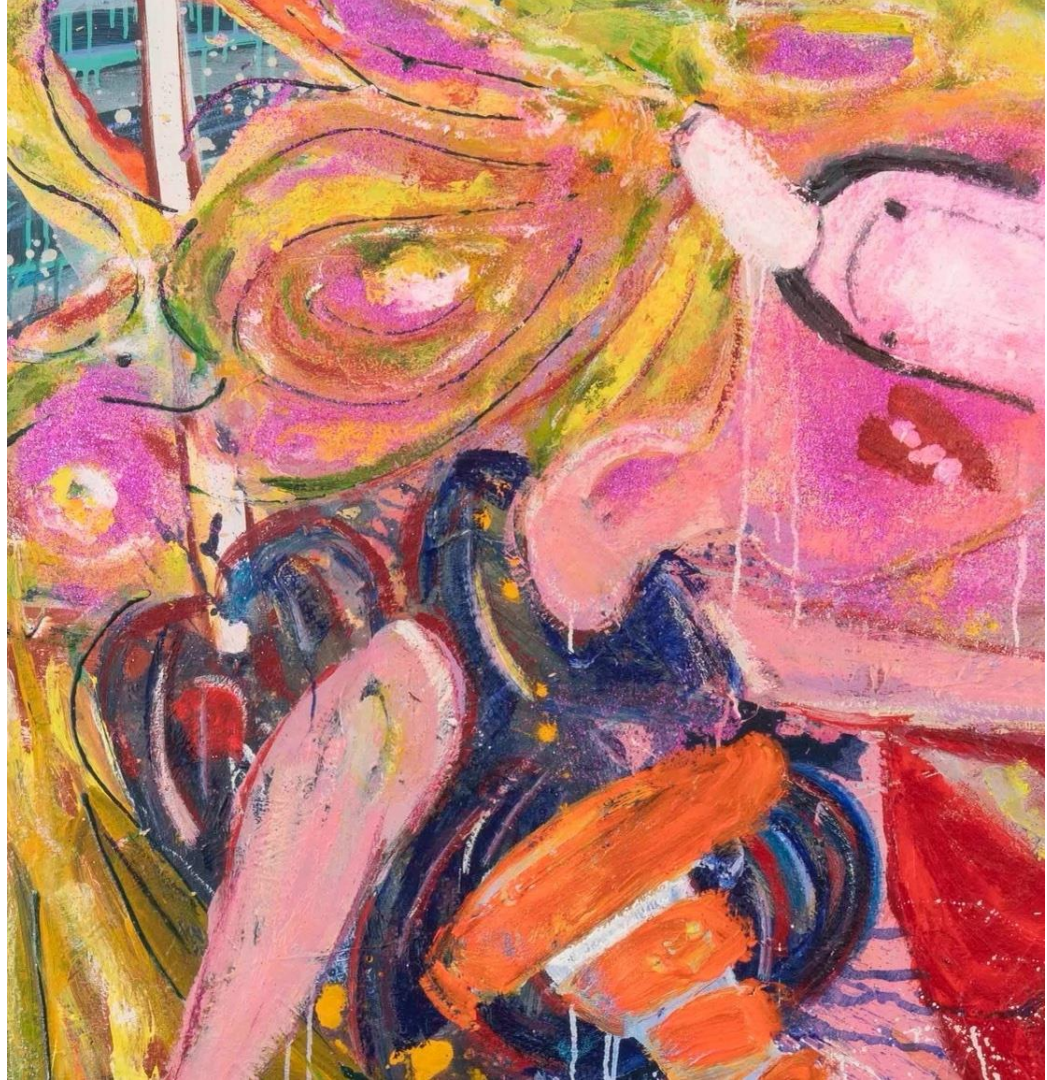


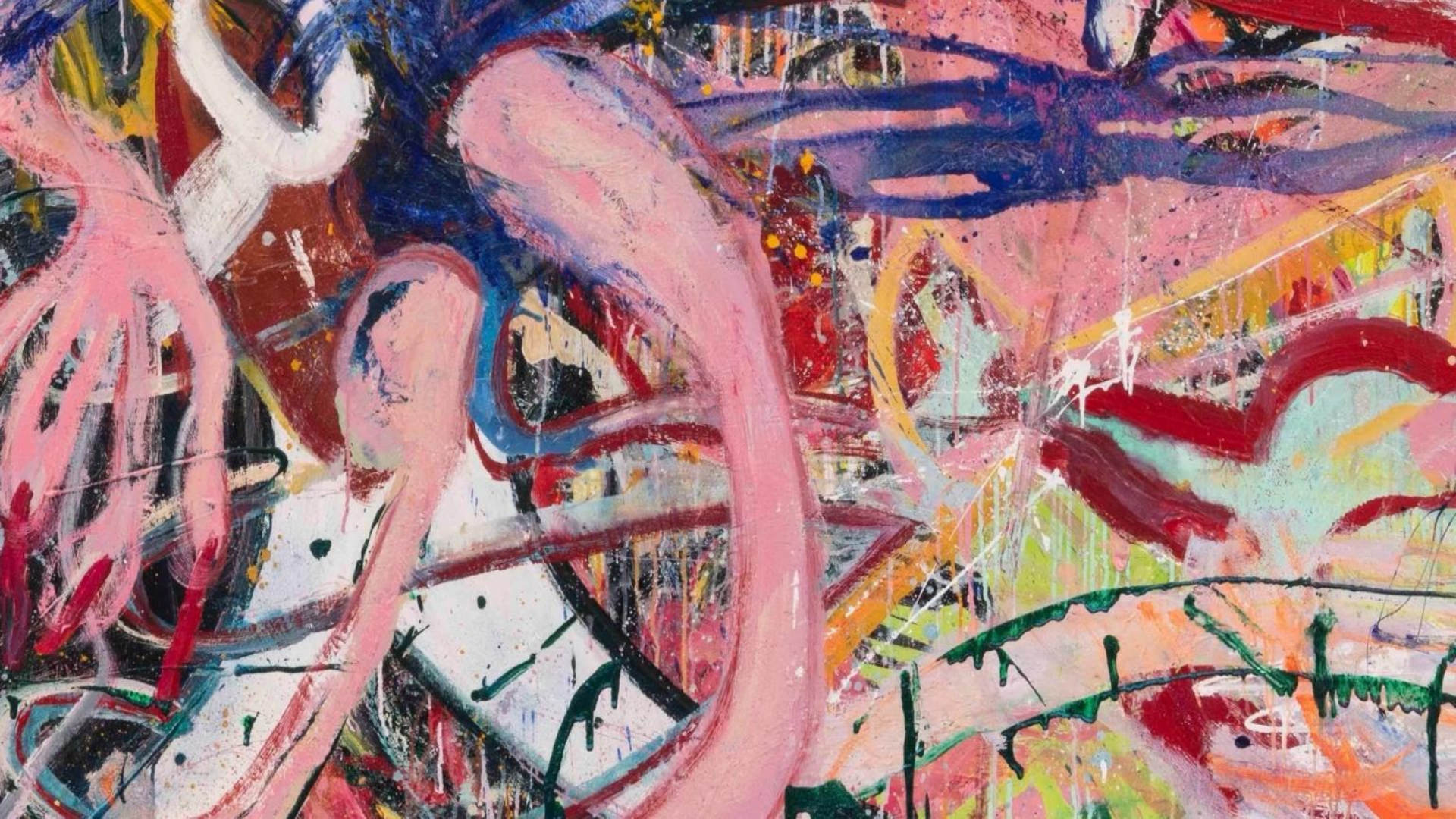
Yirui Jia
World Class Player, 2023
Acrylic and glitter on canvas
86.75 by 67 in.
220.35 by 170.18 cm.
(YJ029)

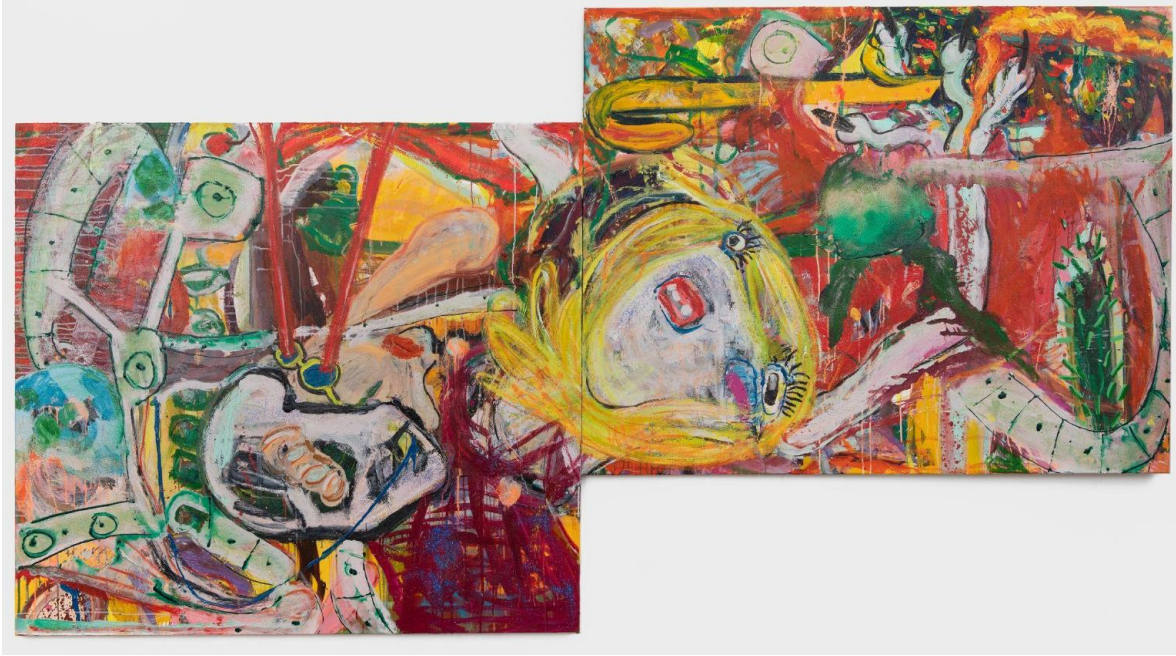


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The results in many ways mirror her unpredictable mode of making: a woman in a VR headset contends with her indescribable surroundings in *World Class Player* (2023), one of the first paintings that Jia executed via this new process. Inspired in part by *Everything, Everywhere, All At Once*, this painting both in its content and form clearly encapsulates the discombobulation of an individual thrown in and out of space and time, inhabiting multiple realities and often defined by her material constructs: her blue dress the product of spilled paint, her hands comically elongated like the hotdog finger's of Michelle Yeoh's and Jamie Lee Curtis' characters in one of the movie's many universes.







Yirui Jia
Super Glue, 2023
Acrylic and glitter on canvas
72 by 137 in.
182.88 by 347.98 cm.
(YJ025)

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Similarly foregrounding the rapid motion of Jia's brush across canvas, *Super Glue* (2023) exemplifies the unconscious reflexiveness of the artist's material choices and transports the viewer into a cacophonous world akin to an highly cinematic, up-close action shot wherein the speed and sound that objects carry can be visually and viscerally felt. A totalizing, perhaps even magnetized force appears to propel these objects and figures in and out of the frame, as a blond woman floats upside down and a pilot with red laser beams coming out of her eyes collide with one another. While a circular track of white paths outlined in green serves to structure the composition, enmeshing these women within their chaotic environment, the stepped arrangement of the two canvases that comprise this work adds to its dynamism and the sense of motion conveyed within.

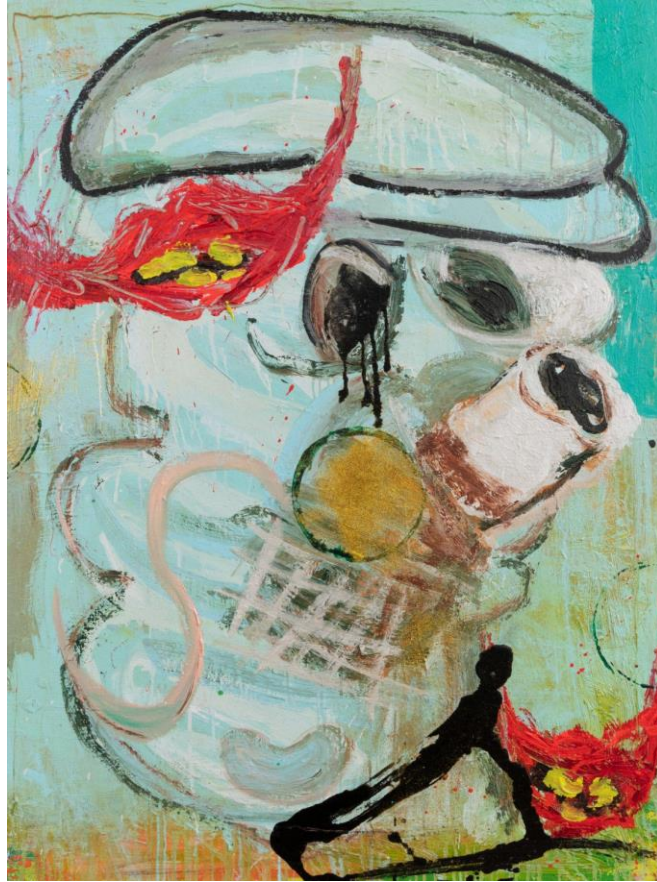






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Yirui Jia
Spinning Head, 2023
Acrylic, india ink, and glitter on canvas
48 by 36 in.
121.92 by 91.44 cm.
(YJ027)



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Jia's expanding and increasingly process-based practice consequently engenders far more surreal results that only divulge the depth of their intrinsic humor and psychological complexity to the artist—and thus the viewer—upon completion.



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Yirui Jia
Tank Girl, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
12 by 12 in.
30.48 by 30.48 cm.
(YJ031)

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Yirui Jia
The Toucan, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
12 by 12 in.
30.48 by 30.48 cm.
(YJ026)



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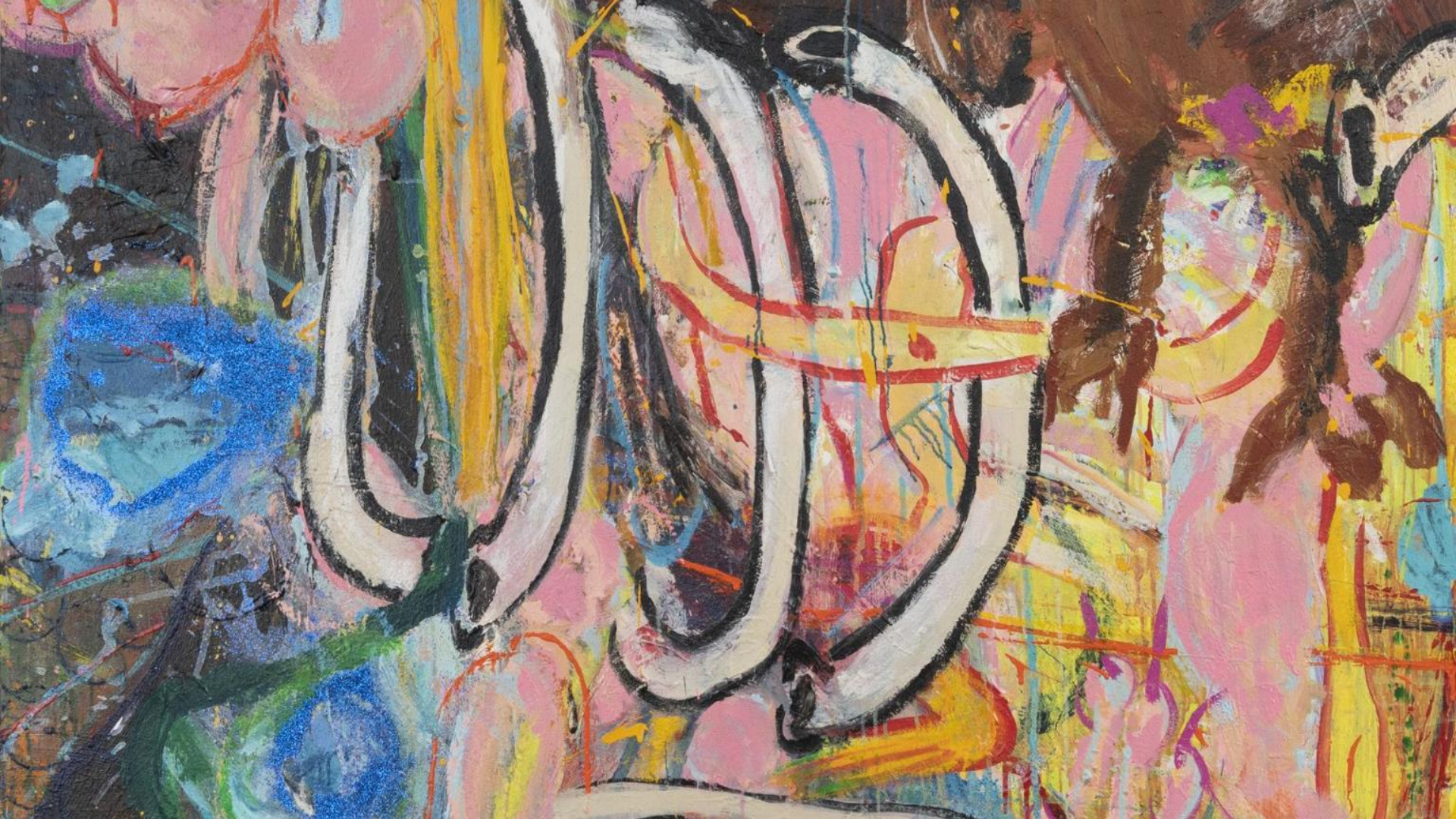
Yirui Jia
Wake up, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
13 by 16 in.
33.02 by 40.64 cm.
(YJ030)

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“As an artist, I act as both a director and participant in my work. Through many characters and actors’ behaviors, the paintings are often fragmentary notes of my reflections of the world. The elements that appear in my paintings are often ordinary daily objects that are easy to identify. For me, there is no difference between the traffic lights in New York and Beijing; palm trees and fire extinguishers are alike all over the world.”





An abstract painting featuring a dense composition of vibrant colors including pinks, purples, blues, greens, and yellows. The brushstrokes are expressive and layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is a rich, textured visual experience.

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