



ON VIEW AT THE BIRDCAGE

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 6–9 PM

EXHIBITION DATES: AUGUST 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

@JIAYUERRR

SOLO SHOW BY JIAYUE LI

LENG XIA | 冷夏 COLD SUMMER

LENG XIA (冷夏), MEANING COLD SUMMER IN CHINESE, EXPLORES THE QUIET CONTRADICTIONS THAT EXIST WITHIN MEMORY, IDENTITY, AND EMOTION. THROUGH DREAMLIKE FIGURATIVE PAINTINGS, JIAYUE LI CAPTURES MOMENTS THAT RESIST EXPLANATION, FLEETING FEELINGS, INTIMATE PAUSES, AND THE SUBTLE TENSION BETWEEN WARMTH AND DISTANCE. RATHER THAN TELLING COMPLETE STORIES, HER PAINTINGS INVITE VIEWERS TO BRING THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES AND INTERPRETATIONS, ALLOWING EACH WORK TO BECOME A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER.

LI'S PROCESS BEGINS WITH QUICK SKETCHES INSPIRED BY MEMORIES, OBSERVATIONS, AND SMALL MOMENTS FROM EVERYDAY LIFE. THESE INITIAL DRAWINGS GRADUALLY EVOLVE THROUGH MULTIPLE STUDIES BEFORE BECOMING FINISHED PAINTINGS. WORKING PRIMARILY IN OIL PAINT AND COLORED PENCIL, SHE BUILDS SOFT LAYERS OF COLOR AND ATMOSPHERE THAT PRIORITIZE EMOTION OVER NARRATIVE, CREATING IMAGES THAT FEEL BOTH FAMILIAR AND ELUSIVE.

ORIGINALLY FROM CHENGDU, CHINA, JIAYUE LI IS AN ILLUSTRATOR AND PAINTER BASED IN SAN FRANCISCO. DRAWN TO VISUAL STORYTELLING FROM AN EARLY AGE, SHE HAS DEVELOPED A PRACTICE CENTERED ON DREAMLIKE FIGURATIVE WORK THAT EXPLORES MEMORY, INTIMACY, AND THE EMOTIONAL LANDSCAPES WE CARRY WITH US. SHE CURRENTLY CREATES FROM HER HOME STUDIO, WHERE PAINTING SERVES AS A WAY OF PRESERVING MOMENTS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE DISAPPEAR.



ART SHOW DETAILS



816 SUTTER STREET