

# HdM GALLERY

## YEONSU JU | LAND ON ME SOFTLY

OPENING: 25 JUNE 2026@GAAT, Lisbon

TEXT BY ANA BUJOŠEVIĆ



Vector IV, 110 × 100 cm, 2026



Landing IV, 45 × 35 cm, 2026



Vector I, 108 × 180 cm, 2026

*"We yearn for our lost continuity."* — Georges Bataille

As it continues to expand its programming beyond its existing locations, HdM Gallery is pleased to present *land on me softly*, a solo exhibition by Yeonsu Ju.

Presenting ten new works from her Lisbon studio, the exhibition explores memory, longing, and the unstable relationship between presence and absence. The series culminates a year of development for Yeonsu Ju, following a successful residency at 'The Cabin' in Los Angeles.

Born in the southern countryside of Korea, Ju creates paintings that function as sites of invocation—spaces where sensation, memory, and emotion emerge and dissolve in continuous cycles. Her figures resist fixed identities and conventional portraiture, appearing instead as fleeting presences suspended between recognition and disappearance.

Working primarily in oil on raw linen, Ju primes only the reverse side of the canvas, allowing the exposed weave and absorbent surface to remain visible. Pigment settles unevenly into the fabric, creating images that feel both immediate and elusive. Without preliminary drawings or predetermined compositions, her paintings develop intuitively through the act of painting itself. Faces, gestures, and chromatic relationships emerge gradually, as though summoned rather than constructed.

Quiet references to Korean ancestral rituals run throughout the work. Circles traced in air, repeated gestures, and offerings made before absence evoke ceremonial practices that seek connection between the living and the dead. In certain memorial traditions, the dead are not remembered as distant figures but as undead presences—temporarily invited back among the living, occupying a space that is neither fully absent nor fully present. Ju's paintings inhabit this threshold, where visibility and invisibility, memory and forgetting, continuously overlap.

Central to the exhibition is an exploration of memory not as a fixed archive but as a living process. Drawing upon ideas of duration and becoming, the works suggest that memory is constantly reshaped through perception, emotion, and time. Recent paintings introduce diagrammatic elements—circles, directional markings, and fragmented spatial structures—that function as emotional cartographies rather than explanatory systems. These recurring forms trace the movement of thought, grief, intimacy, and desire as they loop, dissolve, and return.



Soft touch I, 30 x 25 cm, 2026

The body remains an important yet unstable presence throughout the exhibition. Faces fragment, expressions shift, and multiple emotional states coexist within a single image. Rather than depicting singular subjects, Ju's paintings reveal how images persist within us, accumulating emotional residue long after their original moment has passed.

Colour moves instinctively across the surface in saturated reds, bruised blues, luminous yellows, and dense shadows. The paintings possess a simultaneous intimacy and intensity, drawing viewers into atmospheres charged with vulnerability, remembrance, and unresolved longing.

In *land on me softly*, painting becomes a vessel for what resists permanence. Through gestures of appearance and disappearance, Ju creates spaces where memory returns in fragments, where the invisible briefly takes form, and where images continue to circulate long after they have vanished.



Beijing space



Beijing space



Founders

## HdM GALLERY

Created in 2009 by Hadrien de Montferrand with the support of Laurent Dassault and Olivier Hervet, HdM Gallery specializes in all disciplines of contemporary art – painting, sculpture, video and installation - with a particular focus on Chinese artists. Based in Beijing, it opened a project space in Paris in 2021.

The gallery is dedicated to supporting recognized artists from different horizons; most of its Chinese artists are in the early stage of their career and the gallery promotes their work abroad. International artists on the other hand are more established and the gallery mainly attempts to raise awareness of their work in China.

Besides its normal exhibition program, HdM Gallery participates in art fairs in China and abroad including Art Basel Hong Kong, Art021 Shanghai, Art Brussels and Art Geneva, produces academic catalogues, and organizes institutional shows for its artists.

## FOUNDERS

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than seven years at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, the largest French auction house, and for the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing.

Laurent Dassault , an entrepreneur to the core, helped to found Arquana, continental Europe’ s leading horse auction house, in 2006. His entrepreneurial spirit extends to his charitable activities as well: Laurent serves as the administrator of the “Friends of Pompidou Museum’ s Association” in Paris, and heads the development committee for the auction house ARTCURIAL.

Olivier Hervet graduated with an MA in Classics from Oxford University in 2008. After working for Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery since its inception in 2009 where he developed the gallery’ s network of young collectors, he became a partner in 2012 with the goal of opening a second space in China.

### Contact

+44 73 97 08 01 76

s@hdmgallery.com

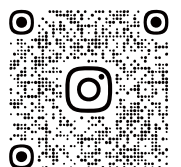
[www.hdmgallery.com](http://www.hdmgallery.com)



WeChat



rednote



instagram