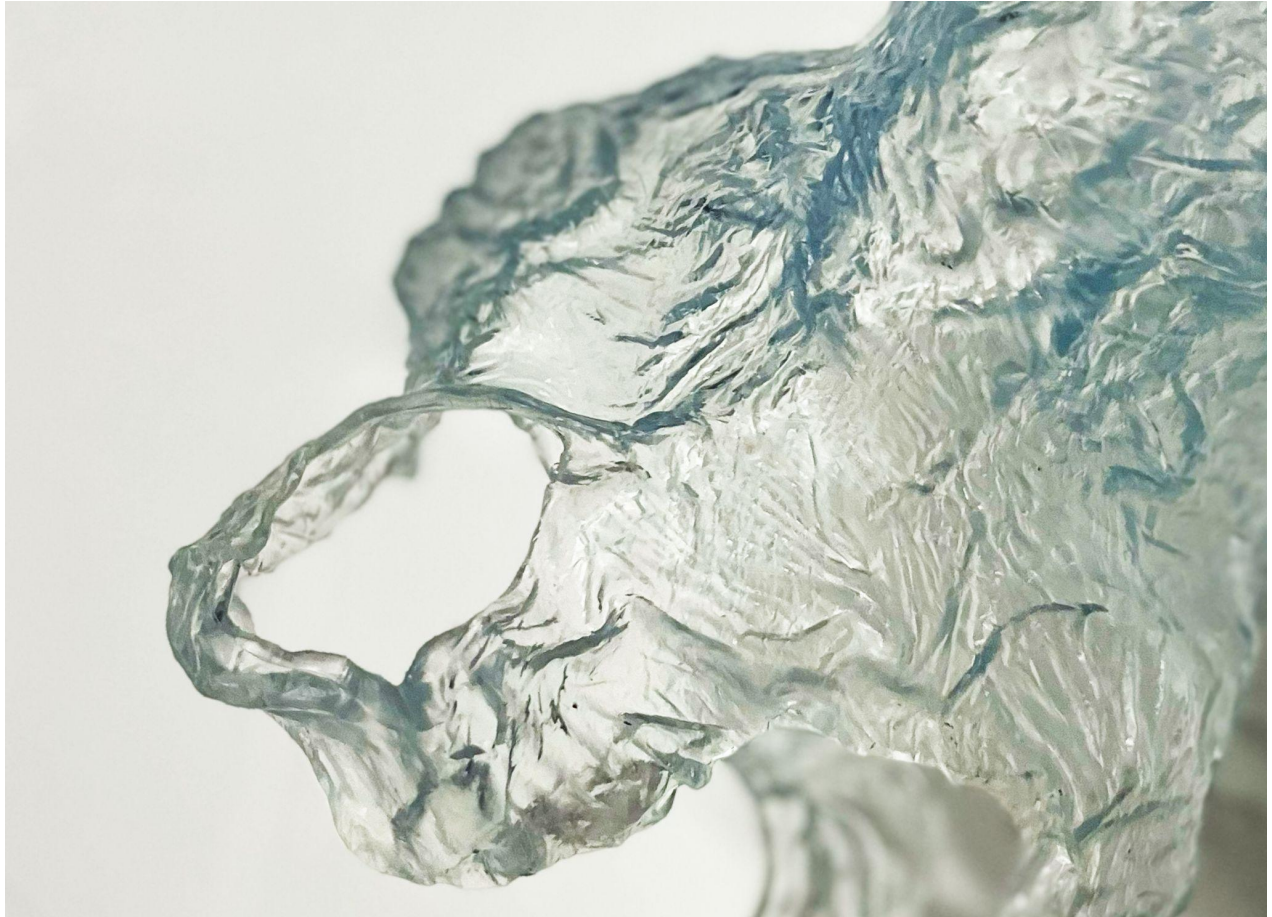


PURE LAND

Presented by

Sonia & Shi ELENA
SHKVARKINA



Sonia Shi, *Le Pli (Pleat)*, 2023, 3D print in resin, 17.2 x 19.5 x 28.0 cm (detail)

PRESS RELEASE

Elena Shkvarkina and Sonia Shi present ***Pure Land***, a curated duo solo exhibition with an exclusive salon-style art viewing, unveiling a conceptual theme that delves into Earth's terrestrial experiences as a living entity.

The exhibition, spanning various mediums including oil, ink, Japanese-style paintings, 3D printing and sculpture, offers a critical perspective on the communal and individual loss of connection with the land - both tangible and metaphysical. ***Pure Land*** initiates a profound dialogue about the industrialized aspects of land, juxtaposing the demoralization of plastic production with its intrinsic nature and vitality.

The exhibition emphasizes the need for a renewed connection with the Earth, exploring themes of fertility and resilience of land. Visitors are invited to engage with artworks that challenge

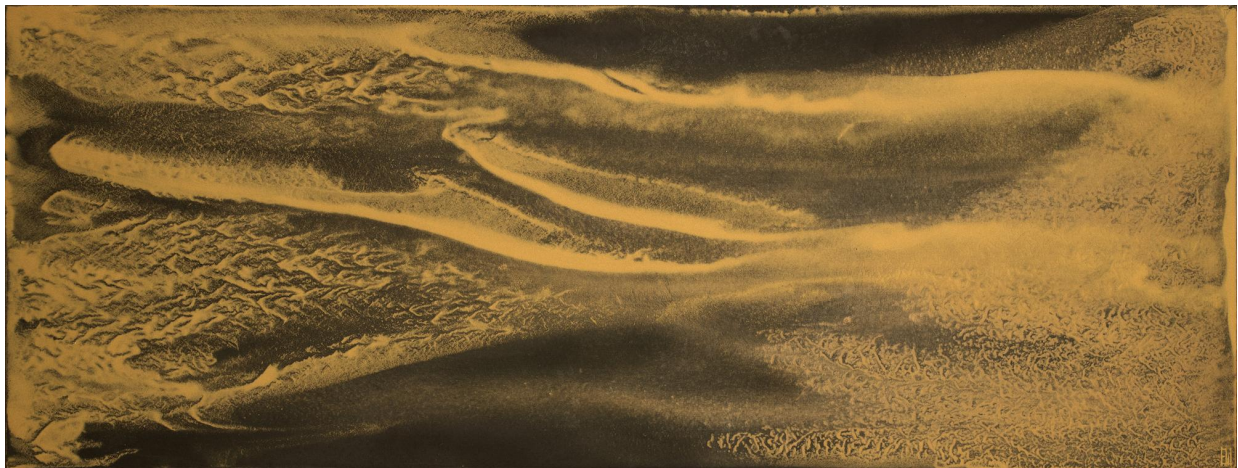
preconceived notions of beauty and utility, blurring the lines between what is plastic and what is organic, and prompting a critical reflection on our relationship with nature in both visual and materialistic dimensions.

The artists' practices manifest a confluence of textures. From Sonia's detailed brushwork influenced by Chinese ink painting and Gong Bi to Elena's relief-like intuitive action painting emerged from Nihonga (Japanese-style painting), the exhibition promises a sensory and intellectual journey.

SONIA SHI

Sonia Shi is a multidisciplinary artist based in London and studying MA in Photography at Royal College of Art. Sonia's subject focused on the emanation of organic and inorganic matter. Through various media, she replicates the materiality of plastic bags accentuating its fragility, durability and agelessness.

Sonia's delicate brushstrokes accentuate creases, where she skillfully portrays both plastic bags and female skin playing with the idea of perception of beauty and reality. She delves into the contemporary landscape of our relationship with the land and plastic, pushing the boundaries of their aesthetic appeal to the extreme.



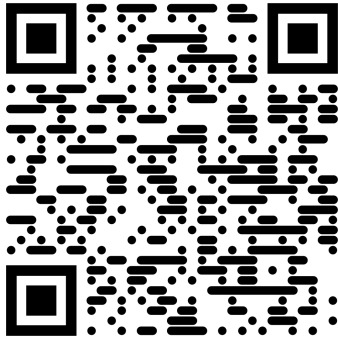
Elena Shkvarkina, Fading I, 2023, jasper & burnt umber on paper mounted on wooden panel, 30 x 80 x 3 cm

ELENA SHKVARKINA

Elena Shkvarkina (b. 1988) is a Nihonga (Japanese style) and ink painter who lives and works in London, UK. Practicing the ancient traditions of Nihonga, she prepares paints from pulverised mineral pigments, earths and oyster shells bound with animal glue. Beyond private collections, Elena's works grace London exhibitions, showcasing her diverse talents as an artist, art coach, gallerist, and curator.

Influenced by nature, her art captures the essence of destructive and regenerative forces seen in natural cycles. Departing from conventional brushwork, Elena employs a unique technique guided by gravity, echoing elemental events such as weathering, erosion, volcanic eruption, and glacial carving.

Click or scan to see works



Join us for the exclusive viewing of ***Pure Land*** at **The Sky Lounge, Thames City, 8 Carnation Way, SW8 5GZ** on **25th January 2024, 6:30 - 9:30 pm** for thought-provoking exploration of the Earth's journey through destruction and rebirth, and witness how art can inspire a renewed appreciation for the beauty and resilience of our planet.

Exclusive Viewing

25th January 2024, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

The Sky Lounge, Thames City, 8 Carnation Way, SW8 5GZ

Sales & Press Inquiries

Elena Shkvarkina

Curator & Artist

+44 7943 850677

elena@elenashkvarkina.com

Sonia Shi

Curator & Artist

+44 7518 904996

ssodonoghue@icloud.com