

Thomas Erben Gallery

Sharon Yaoxi He



Reframing Space and Perception: The Psychological
Landscapes of Sharon Yaoxi He



Installation view, *Pacing*, 2025, Thomas Erben Gallery. west / north wall (photo credit: Sabrina Slavin).

Sharon Yaoxi He is a Chinese-Canadian painter based in New York City and New Jersey. She earned her Master of Fine Arts from Columbia University (2024) and her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver.

Informed by philosophical inquiry and classical artistic traditions, Sharon Yaoxi He's paintings offer a compelling reimagination of space. Rather than treating space as a fixed, measurable entity, she approaches it as a dynamic, psychological experience shaped by perception. Influenced by Immanuel Kant's assertion that space and time are subjective frameworks of human understanding, she constructs compositions that challenge conventional visual logic, inviting viewers to navigate emotionally resonant, perceptually fluid environments.



Sharon Yaoxi He

09140220, 2025

acrylic and color pencil on canvas

35 x 70 inches

\$ 8,000



Sharon Yaoxi He

04170612, 2025

Acrylic, flashe and color pencil on canvas

78 x 56 inches

\$ 9,000



Installation view, *Pacing*, 2025, Thomas Erben Gallery. West / north wall (photo credit: Sabrina Slavin).

Sharon employs layered viewpoints and multiple vanishing points to develop a more expansive and intuitive mode of seeing. This visual language allows the eye to travel through shifting depths and fragmented planes, evoking not a destination but a rhythmic journey. "Perspective isn't locked into one viewpoint," Sharon notes, drawing inspiration from ancient Chinese landscape painting, "it's atmospheric, temporal, and layered." This unfolding spatial logic reflects an understanding of perception as fundamentally subjective and evolving. It is not something captured in a single glance, but rather something experienced over time.



Sharon Yaoxi He

03150411, 2024

Acrylic and flashe on canvas

68 x 72 inches

\$ 10,500



Installation view, *Pacing*, 2025, Thomas Erben Gallery. East / south wall (photo credit: Sabrina Slavin).



Sharon Yaoxi He
Inside a Line, 2023
Acrylic and pencil on canvas
48 x 72 in.

Central to this approach is the use of color, not merely as a visual component but also as a structuring and narrative force. "Color becomes the language I use to communicate psychological and atmospheric experiences," she explains. By focusing on the relationships between colors, rather than predetermined forms or representational goals, their compositions emerge organically. The process is one of responsiveness rather than control, allowing form and space to be shaped by chromatic tension and emotional resonance.

This intuitive method marks a rejection of over-determined structure in favor of openness and vulnerability. The paintings are constructed from within, shaped psychologically, perceptually, and emotionally. They are free from external reference points or imposed logic. The result is a body of work that resists categorization, functioning less as representations of space than as perceptual fields in which viewers may lose and find themselves.



Installation view, *Unfurled*, 2023, Thomas Erben Gallery. West / south walls. (Photo credit: Fernando Sandoval/MW)



Sharon Yaoxi He
Untitled, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
62 x 48.5 in.
\$7,000

By grounding their practice in both philosophical and historical frameworks while embracing abstraction and emotional immediacy, Sharon creates works that blur the boundaries between vision and sensation, thought and experience. Their paintings are not just objects to be viewed from a distance, but environments that unfold through the viewer's active engagement with the ever-shifting dynamics of perception itself.