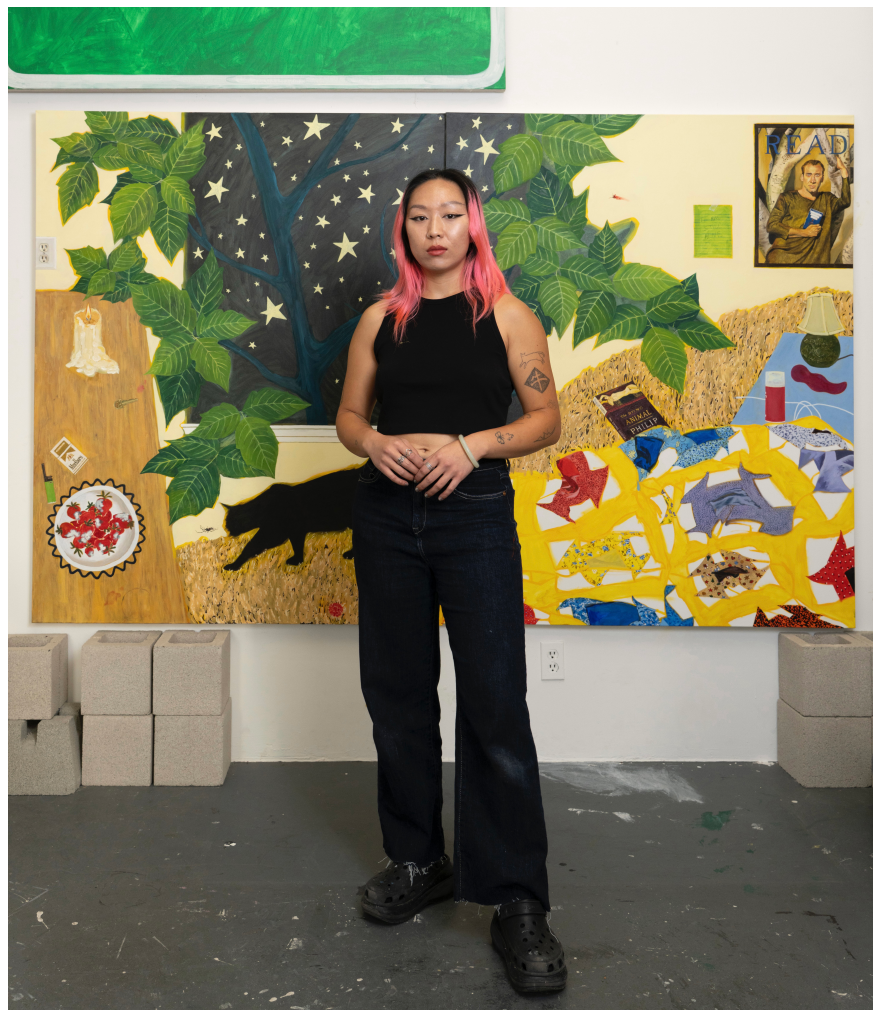


Catherine Wang *When The Music's Over*

August 23 - October 4
Curated by Dasha Matsuura



Portrait of Catherine Wang, 2025. © Catherine Wang. Courtesy of the artist and AMPHI Gallery. Photo by Siqi Fan.
Artwork in photo: *Trying Not to Scratch*, 2024. Oil on canvas, 60 × 96 in.

AMPHI Gallery is pleased to present *When The Music's Over* - the debut solo exhibition of new works by Catherine Wang. The Los Angeles-based artist's expressive paintings create threads of tension between nature and built space, moments of joy and danger, melancholy and exuberance. Wang's still lifes and landscapes are imbued with the exhilaration and foreboding of young adulthood.

A recent MFA graduate from the California Institute of the Arts, Wang's work beautifully balances emotive, painterly gestures and grounded tightly rendered moments to give the viewer a glimpse of a story. Scenes of suburban Los Angeles engulfed in overgrown, abstracted vegetation echo the painterly marks of embers and flame. Intimate still lifes depict bedrooms and living spaces displaying vibrant, multi-faceted portraits of their inhabitants just out of frame. Thrumming with energy from the discomfort of change, Wang's visual world offers a sharp wit and sensitivity.

Like a snippet of an overheard conversation in passing, each of the paintings provide a piece of a narrative or a fleeting feeling made physical within Wang's compositions. Largely devoid of human figures, their work often feels like the viewer has just arrived in the instant everyone has left - cigarette butts or a lingering trail of smoke trailing behind. Remnants of small rebellions, a scrawled bit of graffiti or litter, lend the work a note of nostalgia and melancholy.

Frenetic and chromatic Wang's paintings capture movement within the suburban landscape, a piñata blurs precariously against an eerily lit tree or embers fluttering in the Santa Ana winds. A deep sense of impending change and growth is present in the works included in the exhibition. Within those heavy moments is also a large dose of levity and humor. The artist states, "*Many of my paintings are about situations that I can't control, whether that's personal or environmental. If you're coming up against things that are so overwhelming and devastating, what else can you do but crack a joke? And it seems insignificant but humor can stave off so much fear and pain.*" Encapsulating the swirling beauty, chaos and difficulty of the present moment, Wang's paintings are a celebration in the apocalypse, a joyful dance as the last notes of the music end.

Join us for an opening reception on Saturday, August 23rd from 5 to 8pm. The artist will be in attendance.

Catherine Wang

When The Music's Over

On View: August 23 – October 4

Opening Reception: Saturday, August 23, 5–8pm

Notes

For all press inquiries, contact:

Lu Chen

luchen@amphigallery.com

About the Gallery:

Established by Tony Zhu and Lu Chen in 2024 in South Pasadena, AMPHI is a contemporary art gallery committed to discovering and presenting work by local and international artists. With a focus on experimentation and dialogue, the gallery provides a platform for artists to develop and share new ideas, and works with artists and communities to explore the evolving roles and meanings of physical gallery spaces in a hypermediated era.

About the Artist:

Catherine Wang (b.1998 Lakewood, CA) is a painter based in Los Angeles. They earned their Bachelor of Arts and Science degree in Computer Science and Art Practice from Stanford University in 2022 and their MFA from the Art Program at California Institute of the Arts in 2025.