



**Larry Li**  
***Fragments of a Story***

F2T Gallery | Via Statuto 13, 20121 Milan

Opening Wednesday July 7th, 2022, 6-9pm  
July 8th - September 10th, 2022

*"We all engage with our sense of self through fragmented perspectives. Little pieces of a whole. The stories, experiences, and information that one hopes will connect into a cohesive image of self."*  
Larry Li

F2T Gallery is proud to present the first European solo show by Larry Li (Los Angeles, 1998). The strong aesthetic that characterizes the body of work in the exhibition tells the story of the artist, who was born and raised in the United States, being a son of the Chinese diaspora, that plays a predominant role in each of his works. It is the connection and continuous alternation between his past and present that influences the narrative of this journey.

A central aspect of Larry's technique is precisely the fragmentation of his multicultural identity, and his desire to become the interpreter and witness of his background, through representations of lost memories. An ambitious mission, on which the complexity of a person's identity is full of missing pieces, blurred memories and an inexorable desire for more answers.

In his body of work, these mismatches and gaps play a key role: paintings of family photographs are interconnected with depictions of civil riots and protests, in this case during the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, in order to show the duality between tenderness and pain that characterize the artist's personal history.

The technique itself speaks about the lack of clarity that the artist feels when facing such significant events. Pastels and oil sticks represent the most famous symbols of Chinese culture on the paintings, family and war scenes are rendered through the melting of painting and different photo transfer techniques. Photography becomes a central aspect of the process from which each work originates; in some cases, the boundary between photography and painting appears blurred, denying the full access to the work at the viewer and the artist himself, but bringing an authentic perspective of an individual shaped from two cultures so far apart. The objects are traced, like evanescent memories that reveal themselves, and then disappear.

As a well-rooted tree, Chinese culture emerges unequivocally in the artist's works: just as the character "木" Mù, in the Chinese alphabet, represents a Tree whose roots penetrate deep into the Earth, the same happens to Larry and his aesthetic. Originally, 木 was drawn with both roots and branches. Later it was decided to reduce the branches and leave the roots; an important and meaningful choice: what

we do not see is more important than what we see. Even though the tree loses its leaves or is pruned, if the roots are strong, it will bloom again.

*Larry Li (b. 1998) is a Chinese American artist born and raised in the bay area, California. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California. His practice operates in a space of cultural contrast. Merging painting, drawing, collage, and other mediums to create works that visualize his inherited experiences and cultural identity. Drawing from his own family history and larger Chinese/American narratives from a contemporary perspective. His work alters history, conflating different time and cultures into one surface, hoping to grapple with his cultural amnesia through the lens of his own diasporic perspective.*

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Gallery hours | Tuesday – Saturday, 11am – 7pm

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