Spin Cycle
Liu Tianlian

YIWEI GALLERY

Location — Javits Center, New York, NY
Date — Sep 24 – Sep 27, 2026
VIP Preview — Sep 24, 2026
Booth — P27

Liu Tianlian
Spin Cycle #2, 2026
Mineral Paint and Ink on silk
36 x 24 in

Liu Tianlian
Spin Cycle #7, 2026
Mineral Paint and Ink on silk
36 x 24 in

Yiwei Gallery presents a solo presentation by **Liu Tianlian** (b. 1987), transforming the booth into a reimagined New York laundromat populated by paintings from the artist's ongoing *Laundry Room* series.

Liu reinterprets "gongbi (工笔画)", the traditional Chinese technique of meticulous brush painting, through a contemporary lens. Working primarily on silk with traditional Chinese pigments, she brings the precision and delicacy of this centuries-old practice into dialogue with the visual language and social realities of contemporary urban life.

Since immigrating to the United States in 2023, Liu has become increasingly drawn to everyday spaces shaped by immigrant communities, including laundromats, nail salons, street vendors, and small neighborhood businesses. In her paintings, these familiar environments shift between observation and imagination, becoming dreamlike spaces through which she explores migration, cultural identity, memory, and belonging.

For The Armory Show, the gallery will recreate elements of a New York laundromat, extending the painted scenes into the physical space of the booth. The presentation brings Liu's imagined world into three dimensions, creating an immersive environment in which the laundromat becomes both an ordinary urban setting and a site of cultural encounter. Through the juxtaposition of traditional Chinese painting techniques and the vernacular landscape of contemporary New York, Liu reflects on how identities and traditions are carried, adapted, and reconstructed across places.

Liu Tianlian (b. 1987)

Liu Tianlian reimagines the traditional Chinese meticulous brushwork technique (gongbi hua/工笔画) through a contemporary lens. Her practices evolve to explore themes of cultural identity, psychological introspection, social commentary and the tensions of modern society through traditional techniques. Her paintings, often executed on silk with traditional Chinese pigments, creates a distinct narrative to bridge cultural and temporal boundaries.

Since immigrating to the United States in 2023, Liu's artistic practice has been increasingly inspired by immigrant-centered spaces like nail salons, laundromats, and street vendors. Liu transforms these ordinary spaces into dreamlike narratives that reflect her diasporic life and fantasies. Her intricate compositions, rendered with delicate precision, reinterpret the heritage of gongbi painting while engaging with contemporary concerns.