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## Art exhibition listings

By Dana Ter / Staff reporter



Ana Maria Micu, Window ... The Billions on Billions (2014).

Photo courtesy of Mind Set Art Center

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Whisper (呢喃) is a solo exhibition at Taipei's 1839 Little Gallery by Wu Cheng (吳箏). Wu's black-and-white photos are inspired by the time he spent in Shanghai working in various photography studios. The upturned easels, strewn paintbrushes and graffiti-splattered walls mirror the anxiety artists can experience when struggling to finish their next work of art. Wu's photography essentially captures how the art studio is like a living organism, mostly because it's a reflection of the artist and his or her ideals as they evolve.

■ 1839 Little Gallery (1839 小藝廊), B1, 120 Yanji St, Taipei City

(台北市延吉街120號B1), tel: (02) 2778-8458. Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 8pm

■ Until March 22

If the 1939 film the Wizard of Oz teaches us anything, it's that "there's no place like home" (and that ruby slippers are cool). Inspired by Dorothy's journey to Emerald City, artist Gao Ya-ting's (高雅婷) video montage, taken from segments of the movie, reconsiders the question of the idea of "home." His work is currently on display in Frees Art Space, along with Kuo Chia-ling (郭嘉羚), Lee Tzu-ling (李姿玲) and Huang Pei-ju (黃珮如) in a group show, Immersing In (彼岸). What binds the artwork together is the idea of unattainability, whether this is finding your way "home," feeling nostalgic for a lost past or pursuing lofty dreams. In order to achieve this, the artists utilize various symbolism from the ocean and clouds, to popular culture.

■ Frees Art Space (福利社), B1, 82, Xincheng N Rd Sec 3, Taipei City (台北市新生北路三段82號B1); tel: (02) 2585-7600. Open Tuesdays to Fridays from 11am to 7pm, Saturdays 1:30pm to 9pm, closed Sundays and Mondays

■ Until March 28

Buddha figures are vaguely distinguishable in Chinese artist Wang Zixuan's (王子璇) acrylic paintings. Hidden behind grainy layers of grey paint resembling ancient stone rubbings — some more obvious than others — each Buddha painting seems to serve as a cathartic marker of Wang's spiritual journey. Yet the paintings have a calming, meditative quality. A former musician and practicing Buddhist, Wang has participated in the restoration of several pagodas in China's Yunnan Province. Her solo exhibition, Admirable Freedom (仰觀自在), opens in Taipei's Tina Keng Gallery tomorrow.

■ Tina Keng Gallery (耿畫廊), 15, Ln 548, Ruiguang Rd, Taipei City (台北市瑞光路548巷15號), tel: (02) 2659-0798. Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10am to 7pm

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■ Opens tomorrow. Until March 29

Le Passeur may mean “gondolier” in French, but Liu Shih-tung’s (劉時棟) solo exhibition entitled The Passeur (望游) at Taipei’s Lin & Lin Gallery does not evoke French — nor Venetian — imagery. Liu, who hails from Miaoli County and completed an artist residency in Los Angeles in 2011, is best known for his colorful collage paintings. Inspired by Taiwan’s nature and folk traditions, his collage paintings of fish gliding gracefully in ponds and flowers sprouting from rocks evoke an idyllic cheeriness. Liu worked in installation earlier in his career, which may explain why his subjects possess effortless movement — like that of a gondolier.

■ Lin & Lin Gallery (大未來林舍畫廊), 16 Dongfeng St, Taipei City (台北市東豐街16號), tel: (02) 2700-6866. Open Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 7pm


■ Opens tomorrow. Until March 29

Like many other artists, writers and creative types, Romanian artist Ana Maria Micu spends most of her days cooped up inside her studio — not very exciting, right? But Micu, for one, has learned how to make productive use of her space. In other words, she paints things she sees in her home from different angles. Although it may sound a bit dull, Micu’s paintings manage to transcend the mundane. Her artwork serves instead as a highly introspective visual diary. “Art is in a symbiotic association with the routines of life,” according to the gallery notes. Depictions of unfinished paintings plastered on walls and materials strewn across the floor add a personal touch. Micu’s solo exhibition, Self-Portrait with Indoor Plant (凝視自我), opens tomorrow at Taipei’s Mind Set Art Center.

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