



KENISE BARNES FINE ART

ELEEN LIN

STATEMENT

As a “Third Culture Kid” inhabiting in non-places of generic cities, I have always been concerned with the subject of cultural hybridity. In the age of cultural cannibalism where everything is brought together and rearranged to formulate new identities, I reiterate folklores and classical literatures into contemporized cross-cultural narratives. The *Pet* series paintings transform mystical intimacies between man and animal to represent complex urbanites’ obsession with pet ownerships, while the *Mythopoeia* series portray cynical mistranslations of classic tales.

My current work looks at different narratives and how they are translated through an alternative cultural lens. I take classical American literature such as *Moby Dick* and reiterate them with overlapping narratives that are similar in other cultures. Furthermore, by reading the Chinese translation of *Moby Dick* alongside the original text, I am investigating how language and cultural indifferences can shift the storyline or its embedded meanings. The paintings not only mix and match different cultural narratives, but also intertwine different visual languages and use of medium.

I mainly work with a mix of acrylic and oil medium on canvas. The acrylic paint stains the raw canvas to create a watercolor and Chinese ink painting-like backdrop. Layers of transparent and opaque oil paints are then added, giving a collage-like effect. I am also currently working on a series of drawings that will be worked into etchings. These etchings will then be collected to bind into a book. A book that not only retells the story of *Moby Dick* but also essentially illustrates the nomadic solitary experience of drifting among various traditions, the dichotomy of original and translation, and the obscurity of cultural boundaries today.

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