

WORKPLACE

The Week

'Where to Buy: Olivia Jia at Workplace Gallery'

11 June, 2022

Olivia Jia at Workplace Gallery



Crane and Comb at Bedroom Window (2022)

Where to buy...

The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery

Over the past few years, a number of young painters have revived arcane styles that had long ago been written off by the arbiters of artistic fashion. In the case of American artist Olivia Jia (b.1994),

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it is trompe l'oeil, the illusionistic medium which has not been taken seriously by the cognoscenti since before the Second World War. For this show, Ex Libris, Jia appropriates the pages of books – nature encyclopaedias, scrapbooks, art historical tomes – often juxtaposing their contents with imagery sourced from memory, the internet or her own immediate surroundings. A self-portrait in profile is set against a depiction of the Moon shining through the branches of a tree on the opposing pages of one such book; another sees torn sheets, depicting everything from an owl's eye to an antique vase, arranged on a cracked mirror. All the while, a palette heavy on blues and greens gives the paintings a distinctly nocturnal air. Romantic and intelligent in equal measure, it's a strong body of work. Prices range from £2,000 to £5,000.

*40 Margaret Street, London W1
(020-8396 6622). Until 17 June*