



The End of the World is Forever (Detail Shot), linocut, charcoal, pencil, ink, acrylic and pen on tracing paper, 46 ft x 12 in, Weihui Lu

PRESS RELEASE

THE END OF THE WORLD IS FOREVER

October 15 – November 7, 2021

Opening Reception: October 15, 6-9 PM

Gallery Tutu is pleased to present *The End of the World is Forever*, an installation by Queens based artist Weihui Lu, opening on October 15, 2021, and on view through November 7th.

Lu deconstructs elements of traditional Chinese landscape painting to examine themes of immigrant identity, environmental issues, and mental health. Monochromatic landscapes, painted on translucent materials, become both a gesture to re-connect to and reclaim an ancestral past, and an expression of grief at what our relationships to the land, and ourselves, have become.

The show's name and title piece draws from the imagery in Xu Daoning's Song dynasty painting, *Fishing in a Mountain Stream*, which depicts the barren sides of a mountain range, almost entirely stripped bare of trees. By using this historical record of deforestation and recreating it as a linocut print, Lu attempts to change the scale of time in the larger conversation about climate change, from a reactionary search for quick, stop-gap solutions, to the need for more long-term paradigm shifts about human-land relations.

At the same time, the stark palette and abstract marks which obscure and degrade the image also speak to the artist's interior existence, and the emotional toll of living in a time of perpetual crisis; it remarks on the damaging capitalistic tempo that is as much a strain on the human psyche as it is on the environment. The continuous handscroll format of the piece acts as a resistance to the digital and technological speed of modern art consumption, in hopes of re-establishing an embodied pace in the viewer's perception of the work.

It is precisely this streak of hopefulness, despite the artist's critical awareness, that imbues the work with both complexity and momentum. The title, and repetition of the central image, offer a sense of solace – a reminder that humanity has encountered many moments of near-apocalypse before, and that perhaps we are only in one stage of the ongoing cycle.

Weihui Lu

Curated by April Zhu

9-26-2021