

# Press Release

# Brooklyn Museum



Oscar yi Hou, 2021. (Photo: Oscar yi Hou)

## The Brooklyn Museum Awards Third Annual UOVO Prize to Oscar yi Hou

Brooklyn-based artist to receive a solo exhibition, public installation, and \$25,000 cash award

The Brooklyn Museum is pleased to award Oscar yi Hou the third annual UOVO Prize, which recognizes the work of emerging Brooklyn-based artists. yi Hou's practice primarily focuses on the human form, and explores the complexity of identity through layers of iconography, symbolic references, and poetry. As the awardee, yi Hou will receive a solo exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum, a commission for a 50x50-foot public art installation on the façade of UOVO's Brooklyn facility, located in Bushwick, and a \$25,000 unrestricted cash grant. His public installation and Museum exhibition will debut later this year. yi Hou was selected by a team of curators from the Brooklyn Museum, and the exhibition, the artist's first solo museum show, will be curated by Eugenie Tsai, John and Barbara Vogelstein Senior Curator, Contemporary Art, Brooklyn Museum.

"We're thrilled to select yi Hou as our next UOVO Prize recipient and welcome this opportunity to introduce the breadth of his artistic practice to our visitors. In addition, we're excited to see how he'll put his work in conversation with examples drawn from our

newly reinstalled collection of Asian art, a strategy utilized by past prize winners including Baseera Khan. We deeply appreciate the continued support of UOVO, which makes it possible for us to highlight some of the incredible emerging talent from across our great borough,” says Tsai.

Born in Liverpool, England, to Cantonese immigrants, yi Hou is known for vibrantly hued paintings that often depict queer, Asian diasporic subjects, exploring parallels between these two marginalized identities. The portraits portray individuals drawn from yi Hou’s circle of friends and capture their relationships with each other and with the artist. yi Hou’s painterly canvases are also dense with graphic symbols, some of which resemble characters from both Chinese calligraphy and American graffiti. yi Hou’s given Chinese name (一鸣) refers to a bird’s cry, a symbol that appears often throughout his work as a stand-in for himself. Structurally, yi Hou’s practice can be seen as his own interpretation of the Chinese tradition of the “Three Perfections”—the classical combination of poetry, calligraphy, and painting within a single visual work.

“It’s such an honor to be presenting my first solo museum exhibition with the Brooklyn Museum, especially since it’s so close to where I live,” says yi Hou. “I’m thrilled to be working closely with the staff, and I thank the jury for their faith in me. Part of my excitement lies in the fact that I’ll be working in dialogue with one of America’s foremost collections of Asian art, fueling my preoccupation with Western-owned East Asian archival materials. I hope that, in encountering the figures, symbols, and texts that populate my practice—contextualized within the Brooklyn Museum—viewers will trace relations between the past and the present, kindling new meanings and connections.”

Steven Guttman, UOVO Founder and Co-Chairman, adds, “We are privileged to join the Brooklyn Museum in announcing Oscar yi Hou as the third annual recipient of the UOVO Prize. yi Hou’s work encapsulates many of the themes germane to American art, and we are honored to provide a platform for him to express his vision to our local community.”

Previous UOVO Prize winners include John Edmonds and Baseera Khan. Khan’s exhibition, *I Am an Archive*, is on view at the Brooklyn Museum’s Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art through July 10, 2022.

### About the Artist

Oscar yi Hou (b. 1998, Liverpool, England; lives and works in New York) received his B.A. from Columbia University, New York. Previously, he studied at the Sorbonne Art School (École des Arts de la Sorbonne), Paris. Recent solo exhibitions include *A sky-licker relation* at James Fuentes, New York (2021); *A dozen poem-pictures* at James Fuentes Online (2021); and *Crane Seeking Comforts* at T293 Gallery, Rome (2021). Selected group exhibitions include Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate, UK (2021); Half Gallery, New York (2021); Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles (2020); Asia Society, New York (2019); and Royal Academy of Arts, London (2016). He is currently an artist-in-residence at 4 World Trade Center, New York, as part of the Silver Art Projects studio program.

### About the Brooklyn Museum

The Brooklyn Museum contains one of the nation’s most comprehensive and wide-ranging collections, enhanced by a distinguished record of exhibitions, scholarship, and service to the public. The Museum’s vast holdings span 5,000 years of human creativity from cultures in every corner of the globe. Collection highlights include the ancient Egyptian holdings, renowned for objects of the highest quality, and the American collections, which are unrivaled in their diversity, from Native American art and artifacts and Spanish colonial painting, to nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American

painting, sculpture, and decorative objects. The Museum is also home to the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, which is dedicated to the study and exhibition of feminist art and is the only curatorial center of its kind. The Brooklyn Museum is both a leading cultural institution and a community museum dedicated to serving a wide-ranging audience. Located in the heart of Brooklyn, the Museum welcomes and celebrates the diversity of its home borough and city. Few, if any, museums in the country attract an audience as varied with respect to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational background, and age as the audience of the Brooklyn Museum.

## **About UOVO**

UOVO is the nation's leading storage and logistics provider for art, archives, and collectibles with state-of-the-art facilities in New York, Delaware, Florida, and California. UOVO is operated by an expert team of industry professionals and offers bespoke solutions to meet the specialized needs of any collection. UOVO's services include climate-controlled storage, private viewing galleries, local transportation, international shipping, installation, packing, archival photography, digital inventory management, and more.