

Merging Whimsy and Darkness: Pingnan Lu's 'Eyeball Plantation' Series Shines at New York Exhibition

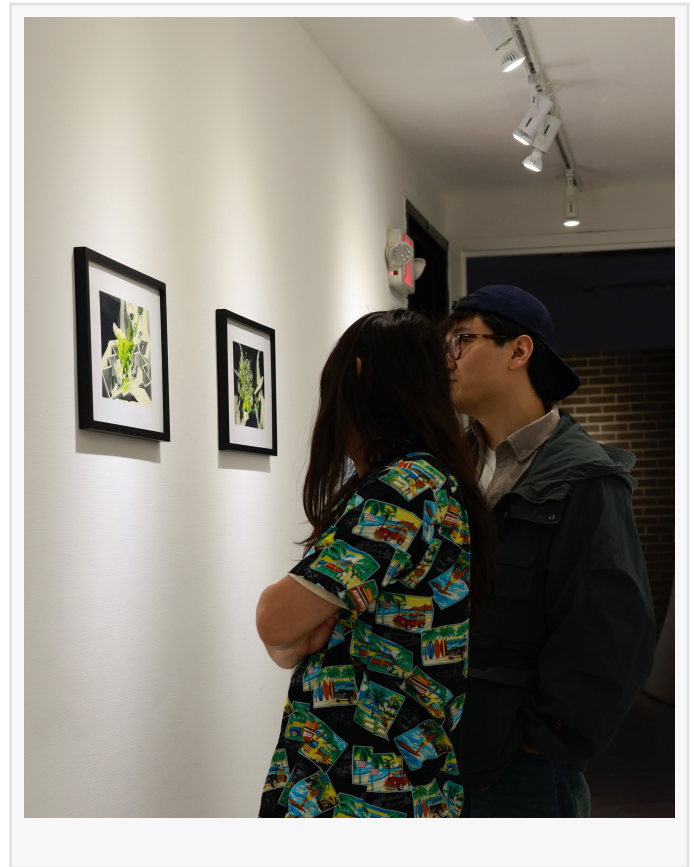
Pingnan Lu's 'Eyeball Plantation' series shines at the 'Through Different Eyes' exhibition, showcasing her unique blend of eerie charm and vivid storytelling.

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, July 12, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Pingnan Lu](https://www.einpresswire.com/profile/Pingnan-Lu) is a talented illustrator from Tianjin, China, who is currently based in New York City. She has recently gained recognition in the art field for her unique and imaginative style and recently exhibited in a group exhibition "[Through Different Eyes](#)", sponsored by [1M Creative](#) and Ling Yue Art in New York City, with Pingnan Lu's work entitled "Eyeball Plantation" created in 2023. This unique series of illustrations seamlessly fuses endearing charm with an undercurrent of eeriness, breathing life into dark fairy tales tailored for the young adult demographic. The exhibition proudly displayed four compelling pieces from the series, all of which garnered considerable acclaim from the attendees.



The Eyeball Plantation series depicts a fascinating world where humans are born blind, and elves are raised in captivity on "eyeball plantations" to provide eyeballs and eyeball repair services to humans. The illustrations showcased in the exhibition centered around themes such as supplying eyeballs to humans, repairing eyeballs for humans, house-moving elves, and ways of showing favor between elves.

Pingnan's background in visual communication design is reflected in her work, which is characterized by a strong sense of design and exquisite organization of content. Her use of contrast between sparse and density is rich, which makes the whole set of works look harmonious and comfortable, with a strong sense of rhythm and vividness, creating a unique visual experience for the viewer. The color palette she employs in this series is a combination of yellow-green and black. The yellow-green color makes the whole series full of vitality, while Pingnan skillfully uses black to shape the light and shadow, creating a slightly spooky atmosphere. These two colors are closely intertwined and connected, giving birth to a unique style of illustration.



Pingnan's love for comics and picture books since childhood has influenced her style of work. In pursuit of her dream, she is currently studying for an MFA degree in illustration at the Fashion Institute of Technology. She recalls reading picture books in her youth, with their worlds often conjuring warm imagery of endearing elves, animal companions, princesses, and princes. However, as she grew older, Pingnan found that she was no longer satisfied with such warm and happy stories. She wanted to create something more nuanced and thought-provoking. Her desire to explore the darker side of storytelling is evident in her Eyeball Plantation series. Pingnan wants to explore more of the complex relationships between humans and elves and the ambiguous morality of the world where one species is raised solely for the benefit of another in her illustrations.

During the creation of the first four pieces of the Eyeball Plantation, Pingnan was asked if the elves in her world were kind. She stated that there are no completely good or bad characters in the story. From the four illustrations that have been exhibited, we can already see that while humans raise elves in captivity, elves also enslave animals. One thing is certain, in the world created by Pingnan, the elves will definitely not be slaves who willingly help humans and provide 'eyeball services' for generations.

Pingnan's attention to detail and a strong sense of design make her work stand out. Her imagination has always been recognized by the public, and people from different countries have collected Pingnan Lu's prints, such as China, the United States, and Italy. Trendy art stores in China that mainly target young collectors, such as Rhythm Art Store, have also started selling Pingnan Lu's artworks.

One of the collectors, who also attended the exhibition, Bill Zhang, expressed his enthusiasm: "I absolutely adored the Eyeball Plantation series. Its uniqueness and imaginative scope, paired with the incredible detail in each piece, truly astounded me. The creativity and meticulous attention to detail in these illustrations were evident. I could distinctly perceive the evolution in her technique and am eager to see whether she will produce new prints." The Eyeball Plantation series is just the beginning of a larger world that Lu is creating. She has plans for follow-up illustrations, including content like Elven Village, Elves Select Eyeballs for Humans, Elves Food Gathering, and other works. Her unique and imaginative vision has captivated a multitude of art enthusiasts, establishing her as a true luminary in the art world.

Pingnan's creative process entails considerable contemplation for every aspect of her paintings, a fact that is manifest in the meticulous attention to detail within her work. "Given that I invest substantial thought into each part of the painting, my work should reflect the time I've dedicated to it, and I hope it effortlessly catches the viewer's eye," she stated. In Pingnan's works, we can see the neat and delicate arrangement of lines. "I will modify lines many times until they reach the highest quality and fluency I can do." These lines are ingeniously blended with light and shadow, and the complete circle does not give people an abrupt feeling.

The "Eyeball Plantation" series is not just visually stunning but also thought-provoking. Pingnan Lu wants to use the world she created to raise questions about the morality of using one species to benefit another. The concept of raising elves solely for the purpose of providing eyeballs and eyeball repair services to humans is a disturbing one, and it is clear that Pingnan has put a lot of thought into the world she has created. Her nuanced approach to character development and storytelling adds depth to the series and makes it more than just a collection of beautiful illustrations.

Many people including art collectors have been captured by Pingnan's artworks, and it is clear that her talent and creativity have not gone unnoticed. Her dedication to her craft and her attention to detail is evident in every piece she creates. Pingnan's unique vision and the world that she has created have left a lasting impression on those who have seen her work and people can't wait to see what she comes up with next. Her illustrations are a testament to her creativity, imagination, and technical skill, and it is clear that she has a bright future ahead of her.

PINGNAN LU

1M Creative

+1 646-565-7073

[email us here](#)

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