ANDREA FESTA

The Insiders –Sunjing

Andrea Festa gallery is pleased to present ***The Insiders***, SunJing's first solo exhibition with the gallery, opening on 15 October 2026 from 6 to 9 pm at Lungotevere degli Altoviti 1, Rome. The exhibition is on teh view through December 12th, 2026

The Insiders explores the inner lives of individuals conscious of the structures that govern them yet unable to move beyond their reach. SunJing describes these figures as "clear-sighted drifters": perceptive but powerless, caught between lucidity and resignation.

The title is conceived as a counterpoint to Albert Camus's *The Outsider*. While Camus's Meursault stands apart from accepted social and moral conventions, the figures in SunJing's paintings remain firmly within them—aware of the structures that shape their lives, yet unable to escape their influence. This tension is reflected in the artist's approach to the human figure, which becomes the outward expression of an interior state. Drawing on the Chinese expression *xiang you xin sheng*—the idea that the face mirrors the mind—SunJing considers the body as a landscape shaped by emotion, environment, and social conditioning. The depicted figures are neither conventional portraits nor protagonists in clearly defined narratives. Instead, they embody psychological states, appearing absorbed by anxiety, desire, vulnerability, or exhaustion. Across the exhibition, seemingly ordinary situations are charged with a subtle but persistent sense of instability.

SunJing describes this approach as a form of "psychological realism." Borrowing viewpoints from cinema while resisting explicit narrative, the artist constructs scenes in which gesture, setting, artificial light and subdued colour establish a carefully controlled emotional field. Calm surfaces conceal states of unease; moments of stillness suggest lives on the verge of dissolution.

The works are painted in acrylic on linen prepared with a ground combining paper fibres and gesso. Thin, translucent glazes are layered against passages of dense impasto, producing surfaces that retain the absorbency of paper while evoking fragments of weathered murals. This material tension lends the paintings a sense of accumulated time, as though their figures were contemporary ghosts preserved on documents or walls awaiting future excavation.

BIO
SunJing was born in Wuhan, China, in 1986 and lives and works in Beijing. The artist received a BA in Fine Art from the School of Art at Soochow University in 2009.
Recent exhibitions include Works on Paper, Sala Nova at Andrea Festa Fine Art, Rome (2025); Kinder Than Solitude, Andrea Festa Fine Art, Rome (2024); and The Invisible Clue, Willow Art Space, London (2023). SunJing's work has also been presented at ART021 Shanghai and is held in the collection of the Corridor Foundation.

Andrea Festa
The Insiders
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15th of October to 12th of December 2026
Lungotevere degli Altoviti 1, Rome
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