METRO PICTURES

Greenberger, Alex. "Cui Jie Is Now Represented by Metro Pictures, Pilar Corrias, and Antenna Space," ARTNews.com (May 14, 2018)





Cui Jie, Shanghai Bank Tower 2, 2017, oil on canvas.

The Shanghai-based artist Cui Jie is now represented by the galleries Metro Pictures (of New York), Pilar Corrias (London), and Antenna Space (Shanghai). Cui, who was born in 1983, was previously represented by Shanghai's Leo Xu Projects, which closed in 2017 after its founder, Leo Xu, became a director of the Hong Kong arm of David Zwirner gallery.

Cui's paintings and sculptures offer futuristic-looking visions of urban centers inspired by those of her home country, China. She conjures glassy buildings that corkscrew into the sky. While these structures may look unnatural and impossible, Cui often has pre-existing generic constructions—real-life skyscrapers and towers—in mind as she creates her work. With their collaged-looking aesthetic and their emphasis on mass-produced materials, her paintings and sculptures refer to the work of various modernist avant-gardes, such as the Constructivists and the Bauhaus school.

Though it's mainly been shown in mainland China, Cui's work has recently begun appearing more frequently in the United States and Europe. It was shown in New York last summer at a group show at Metro Pictures called "A New Ballardian Vision" (organized by Leo Xu Projects as part of Condo New York) and at MoMA PS1 in the exhibition "Past Skin." This summer, her work will appear in the inaugural FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, which opens in July and is organized by the artist and critic Michelle Grabner.