

Bomb Factory Art Foundation 206 Marylebone Road London NW1 6JQ

## Press release

Dien Berziga: WILD GRASS

Curated by Catherine Li

Exhibition: 7 - 12 February, 11am - 6pm Opening: Friday 7 February, 6 - 9pm

'Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past.'
—T. S. Elliot, Four Quarters: Burnt Norton

Wild Grass, an exhibition marking the first solo exhibition of London-based painter **Dien Berziga**. The exhibition reimagines the site as a vast, flat field of dense time, where vitality and decay, loss and remembrance, slide across a singular surface. Featuring Berziga's most recent works from the past two years, the exhibition emphasises his ongoing exploration of the canvas as a time-space, where variations in texture, tactility, and form reimagine painting's capacity for storytelling.

Berziga has developed his practices through distinctive approaches to material and form, unraveling narratives that extend beyond imagery. His paintings are rooted in specific cultural contexts, yet untamed, drawing upon personal and collective recollections and the remembrance of objects, whilst navigating how heritage anchors and transforms in the hands of the maker. The exhibition invites viewers to consider this continuity—what was there and how it got here.

Geometric motifs take on greater importance in both his paintings and structural frames over the last two years, while still retaining expression. The painter explores his desire to celebrate the beauty and mystery of the visible and invisible world. The layered surfaces, under his austere, painterly touch, are always simultaneous and not successive. The imagery, although mostly appearing subtle, remains grounded in reality, holding solid references from his past and present lives. In his frame-paintings, Berziga draws on his culturally hybrid experiences in China and Italy, preserving cultural histories and truths while blending painting, digital techniques, and architectural façades. His works exploit the aesthetic attraction of the aged, timeless qualities and refined techniques of previous centuries, creating a space where the past is preserved through craftsmanship, whilst exhibiting a roughness and unmistakable marks of the maker.

By juxtaposing Berziga's multifaceted practices, *Wild Grass* also examines the fine line between craft and fine art, between traditional craftsmanship and conceptual approaches. The works presented here are not isolated pieces or the products of an individual, but as part of a continuous exploration of heritage and its potential in unexpected directions. Perhaps it is precisely through the ability to remember that today's artists and makers can intervene on behalf of those who came before, protect certain things, and preserve for themselves. Whether change is embraced or resisted, it remains an inseparable part of this matrix of memory.

Catherine Li, 2025

## About the Artist

Dien Berziga is a Chinese-Italian artist living and working in London. His multidisciplinary practice includes painting, digital collage, 3D printing, and the use of found materials. Berziga's work explores themes of individuality and value within urban landscapes, blending traditional techniques with contemporary technology. His paintings evoke childlike wonder, while the carefully crafted frames add a refined aesthetic. This contrast reflects a broader tension in his work between spontaneity and control, as well as experimentation and precision.

Berziga received his bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London in 2023. His works has been featured in recent exhibition at OHSH Projects, London (2025); Art Platz Gallery, Riga, Latvia (2024); Good Rice Gallery Koppel Projects, London (2024); SET studios Gallery, London (2024); Nunnery Gallery, London (2024); University Women's Club, London (2024); Millbank Tower, London (2024); Liliya Gallery, London (2024); Hypha HQ, London (2024); Lot Projects, London (2024); White Conduit Projects, London (2023); Henrietta Contemporary, London (2023); Lethaby Gallery, London (2023); Slash Arts Gallery, London (2022).

i: @berziga dien w: dienberziga.com

## About the Curator

Catherine Li is a curator living and working in London. Her practice centres on site-specific exhibition, public art programme, participatory curation, and digital archiving. Her work engages with curatorial practice as a form of social critique, bringing important issues and fostering dialogue. Li views curating as a way to contribute

to cultural creation, with exhibitions as testing grounds for innovation, research, and development—spaces that not only showcase art but also cultivate and shape communities.

i: @cath\_erine\_li w: catherineli.org

## About The Bomb Factory Art Foundation

The Bomb Factory Art Foundation is a charitable arts organisation with four locations across London. It provides the public with opportunities to engage with contemporary art through a range of activities, including exhibitions, educational workshops, film screenings, poetry evenings, music performances, talks, and other cultural events. The foundation is committed to fostering inclusivity and accessibility in the art world, offering a comprehensive learning and participation programme that enriches local communities and schools.

Established in 2015 by artist Pallas Citroen in Archway, The Bomb Factory Art Foundation was created to support the development of art spaces that nurture artists and offer the public a more inclusive experience. Pallas, motivated by the belief that art has the power to enrich society, embarked on this journey to create not only a gallery and studio space but also a thriving artistic community.

Price upon request, please contact: Catherine Li catherine.li@arts.ac.uk

Exhibition Hours: open daily from 11am to 6pm.