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Frieze Los Angeles: Exhibitions to See

By Elaine YJ Zheng | Los Angeles, 2 February 2022



Yuri Yuan, *Into the Unknown (After Turner)* (2021). Oil on canvas. 121.92 x 152.4 cm. Courtesy Make Room.

Yuri Yuan: “*The Great Swimmer*”
Make Room, 5119 Melrose Avenue
15 January–12 February 2022

Longing and loss permeate Yuri Yuan's oils on canvas, which show solitary, faceless figures caught in the stillness of daily life, as their surroundings quiet down for a moment and they are left in contemplation.

The Great Swimmer borrows from an unpublished fragment by Czech writer Franz Kafka, which evokes an awakening from dreams, or for the artist, a submerging into recollection.

Paintings on show are inspired from the swimming lessons Yuan took at the age of 13 following her move to Singapore from China—among them, the lone body in Towel (2021) wrapped in a dark blue towel, looks towards the turquoise pool, recalling the painter's alienation.