

# COIL & CORD

S T U D I O

For Immediate Release

Xiaorui Huang:

## ***Between Ash and Light***

Exhibition Dates: May 28 - June 20, 2026

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 28, 2026, 6:30 pm - 9 pm

Gallery Hours: Saturdays 1pm-6pm and by appointment

Coil & Cord Studio is pleased to present Xiaorui Huang: *Between Ash and Light*, a solo exhibition, on view from May 28 through June 20, 2026.

Xiaorui Huang's artistic practice and subject matter reflect her deep engagement in social justice and human rights movements. What drives her work is a lifelong anger toward unfairness—an emotion that has shaped both her worldview and artistic language. Growing up in a traditional Asian household, Huang witnessed gender discrimination within her family, school, and community. Women were often praised for endurance rather than ambition, expected to serve instead of dream. Through these experiences, she became deeply aware of how inequality can hide behind the veil of culture, where even love and care come with restrictions on who is allowed freedom, agency, and self-expression.

Huang's work in *Between Ash and Light* focuses on themes including feminism, environmental justice, political resistance, and struggles of marginalized communities in Asian communities in the United States and beyond.

Her paintings combine vigorous brushwork, layered mixed media, and collage with direct engagement with personal and collective stories. Through expressive surfaces and emotionally charged compositions, Huang questions tradition, confronts systems of inequality, and amplifies voices that are often overlooked or silenced.

Huang's *Anger* series consists of large-scale mixed-media paintings created in response to the deadly 2022 fire in a predominantly Uyghur neighborhood of Urumqi, Xinjiang, China, which sparked public vigils and protests across China. The series reflects grief, rage, and collective resistance, transforming personal emotional response into visual testimony.

*Between Ash and Light* is Huang's first solo exhibition in New York City. She has had previous solo exhibitions at the Gilbert Gallery (Farmington, CT), the Walter & Joan Hobbs Art Gallery (Mineola, NY), Uniondale Public Library (Uniondale, NY), and the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library (Hewlett, NY). Her work has been shown in New York City in group exhibitions at Bowery Gallery, the Shirley Fiterman Art Center, Powerhouse Arts, and the Theatre 1 Breezeway Gallery. Beyond New York, she has

exhibited work at the Saatchi Gallery (London), the Holy Art Gallery (London), Las Laguna Art Gallery (Laguna Beach, CA), and the Teravarna Art Gallery (Los Angeles).

Huang is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY), where she teaches painting. She studied Fine Art at St Joseph's College in the UK and earned her M.F.A. at Brooklyn College. She is a member of the artist-run cooperative Bowery Gallery in New York City, where she will be showing new work as part of a 3-person show in December 2026.

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