

OPERA GALLERY



(L-R) Pieter Obels, *I See Myself* (detail), 2026, Corten steel on wooden base, 235 x 110 x 105 cm | 92.5 x 43.3 x 41.3 in;
Feng Xiao-Min, *Composition N°16.4.25* (detail), 2025, acrylic on canvas, 210 x 300 cm | 82.7 x 118.1 in

PIETER OBELS | FENG XIAO-MIN

4 June – 5 July, 2026

Press Preview: 4 June, 5-6pm

LONDON

First major exhibition in the UK for Feng Xiao-Min and first in ten years for Pieter Obels during London Gallery Weekend

Opera Gallery London is pleased to present 'Pieter Obels | Feng Xiao-Min', a two-artist exhibition of new works pairing Pieter Obels' Corten steel sculptures with Feng Xiao-Min's atmospheric abstract paintings. On view from 4 June to 5 July 2026, and presented as part of London Gallery Weekend (5-7 June), this exhibition marks an important moment for both artists.

While both artists demonstrate a deep engagement with material, their approaches diverge. Obels' practice is grounded in structure and physical presence, whereas Feng Xiao-Min's work is ethereal and meditative. Working in different cultural and geographic contexts—Pieter Obels in Tilburg, the Netherlands, and Feng Xiao-Min in Fontainebleau, France—the works in the exhibition highlight each artist's distinct practice, culminating in a balanced and complementary presentation.

Pieter Obels' sculptural process can be seen as a study of balance, tension, and movement. Working primarily in Corten steel, he cuts and shapes the material while embracing its natural oxidation process. The resulting forms—often ribbon-like and seemingly suspended—challenge expectations of weight and mass, holding motion in a state of equilibrium. Without the use of models or preliminary designs, Obels' intuitive studio practice often takes inspiration from the flowing curves and natural growth patterns of tree branches and botanical forms. "For me, [Corten steel] feels like clay. I try to take this hard, stubborn steel and form it into something soft, gentle, and organic." Working in harmony with the material itself, Obels likens his sculptural process to a plant in the garden, stating, "It has its own way to grow." His large-scale sculpture *I Know the End, Let's Dance* (2024), will be installed adjacent to the gallery in Medici Courtyard for the duration of the exhibition.

In contrast, Feng Xiao-Min's paintings examine the interplay of light, material, and perception. Through layered pigments and subtle tonal shifts, he creates compositions that hover between abstraction and landscape. Drawing on both Eastern philosophy and Western abstraction—and evoking a broad range of influences—from Chu Teh-Chun to J. M. W. Turner—his work encourages a slow, contemplative mode of viewing, placing emphasis on sensation and memory over representation. Referencing the process of Qing dynasty painter Shitao, Feng approaches painting and calligraphy as "two branches from the same root."

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"Since I come from a calligraphy background, that foundation helped me in mastering brushstrokes and spatial composition," said Xiao-Min, adding, "my approach is to seek contemplation and poetry in my paintings."

"Despite their different approaches, both artists engage with the idea of lightness in compelling ways," said Giulia Lecchini, Deputy Director of Opera Gallery London. "Pieter Obels creates a sense of lightness against the physical weight of steel while Feng Xiao-Min's paintings explore light through tonal variations in acrylic paint. We are delighted to present this dialogue between their practices during London Gallery Weekend."



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About Pieter Obels

Born in Kruisland, Netherlands in 1968, Pieter Obels has featured prominently in solo and group exhibitions across Europe and the U.S., including The Solo Project at Art Basel and the Schweizerische Triennale der Skulptur in Switzerland. His work appears in institutions such as the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, The Morgan Library NY, as well as the Farjam Collection in Dubai and the Abu Dhabi Royal Collection. His sculptures have been displayed publicly in Gemeente Roosendaal in the Netherlands, Berkeley Square in London, Günzburg Sculpture Park in Germany and the gardens of Château de Vullierens in Switzerland. He lives and works in Tilburg, Netherlands.



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About Feng Xiao-Min

Born in Shanghai, China in 1959, Feng Xiao-Min is a French-Chinese artist. He studied at the Shanghai School of Arts and Crafts before moving to France in the late 1980s, where he has lived and worked since. Feng has exhibited extensively in Europe and Asia, with his work has been showcased at institutions such as National Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan, SOMA Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea, Zhejiang Provincial Museum in HangZhou, China, Shanghai Museum of Fine Arts in Shanghai, China and Grand Palais in Paris, France. He lives and works in Fontainebleau, France.

About Opera Gallery

Founded in Singapore in 1994, Opera Gallery has forged a network of galleries worldwide with locations in London, Paris, New York, Geneva, Madrid and Dubai, establishing itself as one of the leading forces within the international art market.

Headed by Gilles Dyan, Chairman and Founder, Opera Gallery specialises in modern, post-war, and contemporary art. In addition, the gallery represents international emerging artists such as Andy Denzler and Gustavo Nazareno, alongside internationally recognised names such as Ron Arad, Manolo Valdés and Anselm Reyle.

For more than 30 years, Opera Gallery's mission has been to showcase the dynamic, innovative, and diverse expressions of modern and contemporary art through its ambitious yearly exhibition programming and collaborations with private collections and leading public institutions. Opera Gallery in London is led by Deputy Director Giulia Lecchini.

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