Skyler Chen
Biography

Skyler Chen was born in 1982 in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan. He graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in Fine Arts in 2006. Currently, he lives and works in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Chen's work seamlessly blends classicism and modernity, creating intimate and occasionally provocative scenes that juxtapose contemporary desires with a classical aesthetic.

Struggling with undiagnosed dyslexia, Chen turned to painting as a means of communication. His art explores his queer Asian identity and conveys the experience of being a queer person in a conservative culture.

Drawing from his personal life experiences, Chen incorporates a blend of languages and cultures in his work, from traditional Taiwanese iconography to American commercial imagery. His paintings focus on details that highlight the symbolic power of objects and memories. In Chen's compositions, symbolic elements such as erotic magazines, dumplings, fresh fruit, and birds find their place on the canvas. Through his art, he finds healing, embracing his queerness while navigating the challenges of dyslexia. Painting serves as his medium of communication, enabling deeper connections with himself and others.

Earthy tones, warm shades, isolated characters, and allegorical objects inhabit Chen's work, providing a visual representation of the human experience. His works feature enigmatic figures in familiar settings, projecting their queerness onto the objects around them. The detached and static figures in Chen's paintings are specific to our time, yet they can also be perceived as timeless, conveying one of the greatest contemporary feelings: aloneness.

Solo exhibitions

2026

2026 - Imitation of life (Imitare la vita), curated by Marta Papini, Casa Masaccio Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea, San Giovanni Valdarno, I

2024

2024 - How far I would have to go to become myself, MASSIMODECARLO, London, UK

2023

2023 - GLANCE, Unveiling hidden desires, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F

2022

2022 - elsewhere, Platform China, Beijing, PRC

2021

2021 - DO ASK, DO TELL, EVE LEIBE GALLERY, London, UK

2020

2020 - Imagined Realities, Amsterdam, NL

2014

2014 - Peach Blossom valley, Serindia gallery, Bangkok, T

2013

2013 - Tradition, Rotterdam, NL

2012

2012 - Migration, Amsterdam, NL

Group exhibitions

2025

2025 - Taipei Biennale, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, TW

2024

2024 - The Order of Nature, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore, SGP

2023

2023 - Bordercrossing Possibilities and Interactions, Yuz Museum, Shanghai, PRC
2023 - Capture, Platform China, Beijing, PRC

2022

2022 - In Bloom, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F
2022 - Anther Spring, DISKUS, Aalst, B
2022 - Touch Wood, curated by EVE LEIBE GALLERY, Prior Art Space, Berlin, D

2021

2021 - Girasol, Jo-Hs, Mexico City, MEX
2021 - Last days of Summer, EVE LEIBE GALLERY, Milan, I

2020

2020 - L.E.S. CRIB, SHIN Gallery, New York, USA
2020 - Group show, Serindia Blue Gallery, New York, USA

2010

2010 - Group show, Monkey wrenching art center, Kaohsiung, RC

2008

2008 - Group show, Openshouse Gallery, New York, USA

Public Collections

Australia

The Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth

China

X Museum, Beijing

Greece

George Economou Collection, Athens

Hong Kong

SUNPRIDE FOUNDATION 骄阳基金会, Hong Kong

United States of America

Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, Florida
Forbes Collection, New York