

SOPHIE YINGYING ZHENG

Creative Portfolio

NEUTRAL BUOYANCY SERIES

ARTIST STATEMENT

Neutral Buoyancy

Neutral Buoyancy is an ongoing exploration of the physical, spatial, emotional, and psychological states of being underwater. Named after the physical state where a body neither rises nor sinks, this series focuses on the moment when gravity releases its pull and the external world recedes into stillness.

Inspired by years of scuba diving experience across the Asia-Pacific, my interest lives entirely beneath the surface—not in depicting coastlines or marine life, but in capturing suspended time, deep-water luminosity, and weightlessness. Beneath the surface, as the noise of the world recedes and social identity fades, existence settles into the simple, rhythmic awareness of breath.

To translate this onto canvas, I build translucent oil glazes to mirror the way deep water filters, refracts, and holds sunlight. Each glaze traps ambient light, creating an internal vibration within the painting.

By stripping away coastlines, waves, and sky, paint ceases to merely depict light—it functions directly as light itself. As an ongoing exploration, Neutral Buoyancy serves as a visual sanctuary: an invitation to step past surface noise and enter a calm and luminous space for reflection and presence.



0 1

Neutral Buoyancy (Premiere)

60 × 80 cm

Oil on canvas

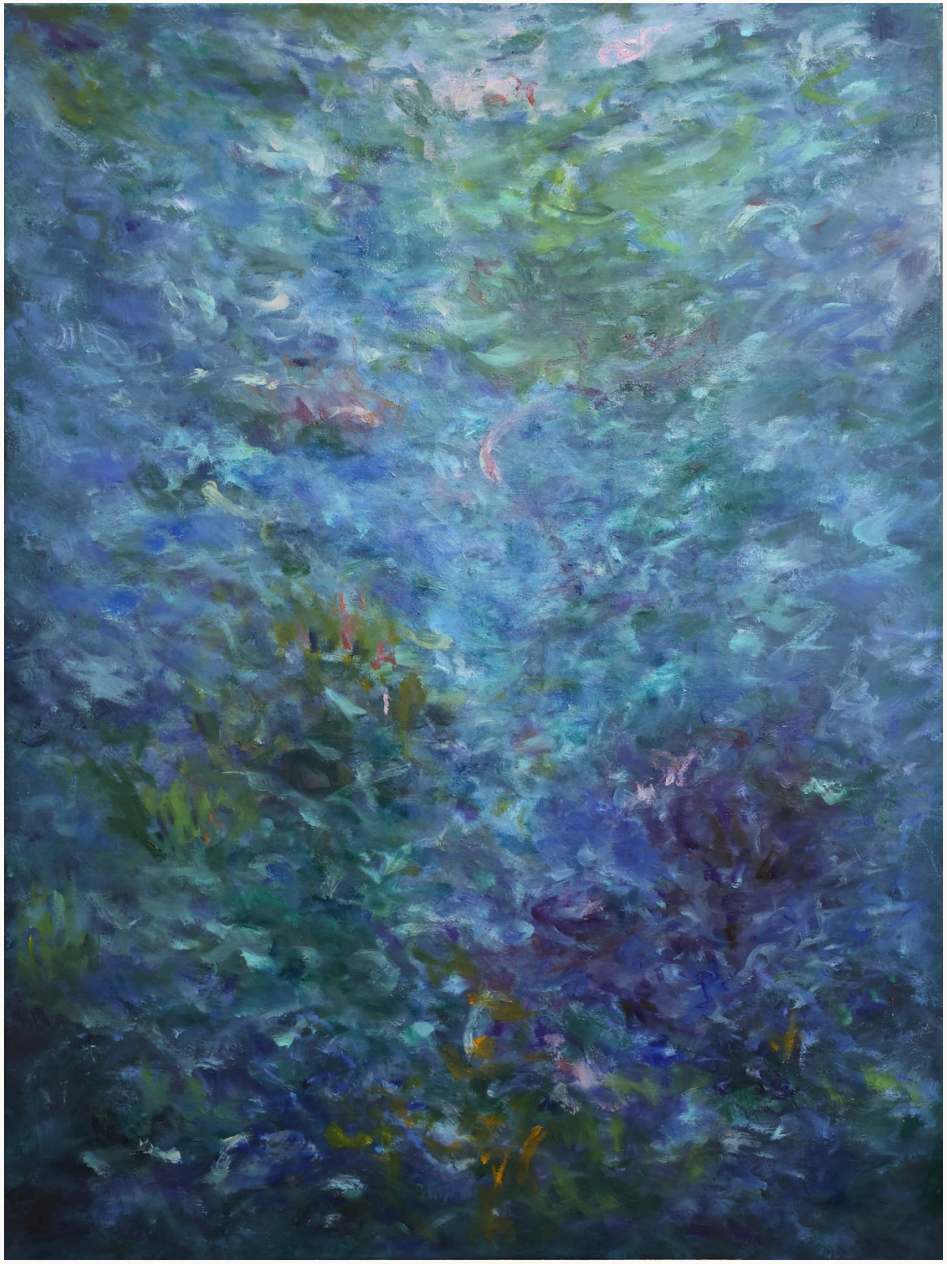
2026

01

Neutral Buoyancy (Premiere)

INTERIOR VIEW





02

Neutral Buoyancy (Symphony)

60 × 80 cm

Oil on canvas

2026

02

Neutral Buoyancy (Symphony)

INTERIOR VIEW





0 3

Neutral Buoyancy (Let There Be Light I)

80 × 60 cm

Oil on canvas

2026

03

Neutral Buoyancy (Let There Be Light I)

INTERIOR VIEW





04

Neutral Buoyancy (Let There Be Light II)

80 × 60 cm

Oil on canvas

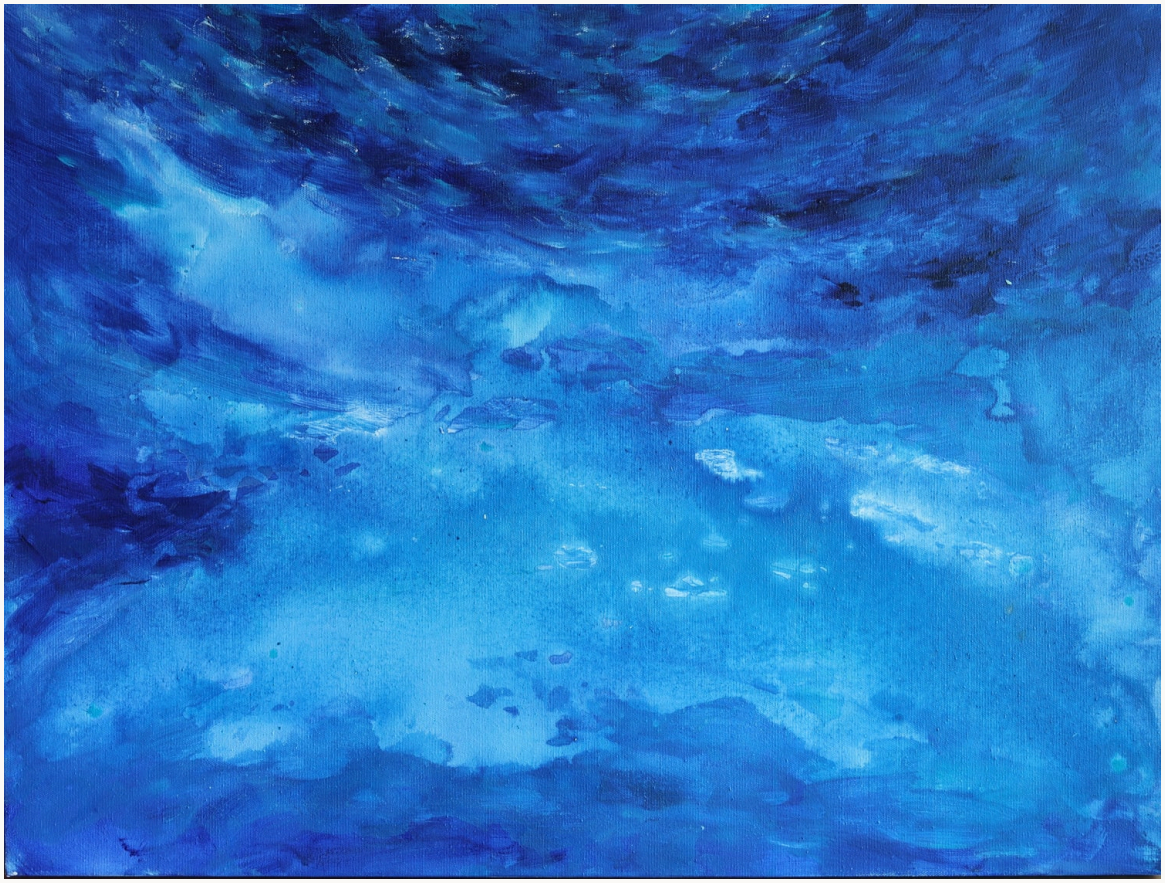
2026

04

Neutral Buoyancy (Let There Be Light II)

INTERIOR VIEW





05

Neutral Buoyancy (Ascent)

80 × 60 cm

Acrylics on canvas

2026

05

Neutral Buoyancy (Ascent)

INTERIOR VIEW





0 6

Neutral Buoyancy (Awakening)

60 × 80 cm

Oil on canvas

2026

06

Neutral Buoyancy (Awakening)

INTERIOR VIEW





Artist Biography

Sophie Yingying Zheng is a Hong Kong-based contemporary artist whose practice investigates the physical, spatial, emotional, and psychological states of being underwater. Moving from atmospheric realism into luminous abstract oil painting, Zheng translates deep-ocean states into layered visual fields of color, presence, and emotional sanctuary.

Inspired by years of scuba diving across the Asia-Pacific, Zheng's work steps past traditional marine horizons. Bypassing surface waves and sea life, her practice centers on capturing suspended time, deep-water luminosity, and the physical sense of weightlessness. Beneath the surface, as the noise of the world recedes and social identity fades, existence settles into the simple, rhythmic awareness of breath. This relationship with the ocean informs her ongoing exploration, Neutral Buoyancy, where multi-layered translucent glazes allow paint to function directly as light itself.

Balancing her studio practice with a full-time career in finance, Zheng holds a degree from The University of Hong Kong, where she also studied art history. This dual path enables her to bridge structural discipline with intuitive, emotional expression. Her work has been exhibited across Hong Kong, Tokyo, and at the Buddhist Origin Art Museum at the White Horse Temple in Luoyang, China, and is held in private collections internationally.

Exhibitions

OCTOBER 2026	Hibiki: Reverberations Of The World and Luminous Becoming	IF Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
MARCH 2026	And NOW Here: Asian Artists Charity Art Exhibition	Buddhist Origin Art Museum, Luoyang, China
MAY 2025	Nature’s Palette: A Journey Within — Charity Exhibition	IF Gallery, Hong Kong

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