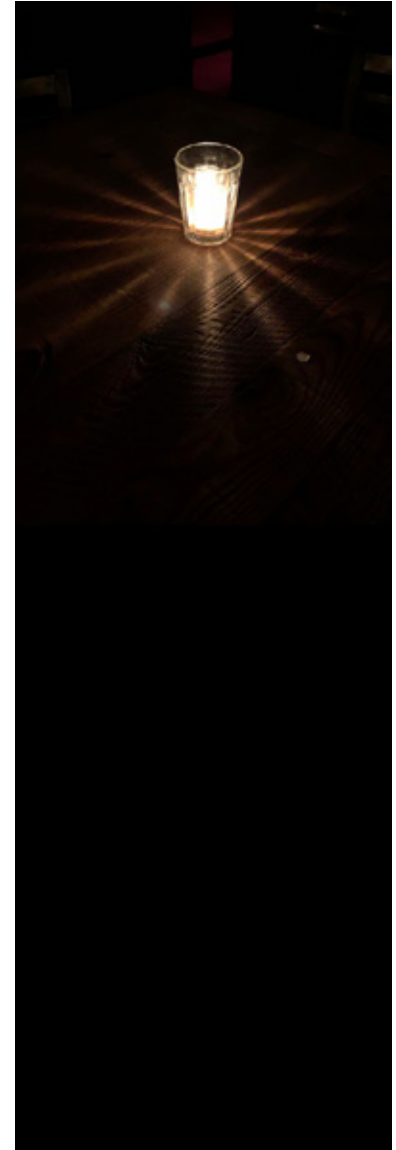


Covey Gong
Mayfly
June 23–July 27, 2019

If there is human-made intelligence, what does it
take to create a spirit or a soul?
Do I start by crafting a body?
How to give body to an obscure idea or a myth?
It seems like we always have to work with what we
have, by extracting and deconstructing existing forms,
we create a body by reassembling.
What if the soft tenuous silk adopted a different body?
Can silk be sculpted as flesh?
Can wire and rods be molded into bones?
And does merging “flesh” and “bone” make a hosting
body for a spirit, a soul, a feeling, or a notion?
What difference does it make to generate a body
rather than producing one?
Is the body receptive or interactive?
What’s the consistency of a soul, is it sticky? Smooth? Or watery?
If a spirit finds its body, does it take the shape of its vessel?
Or the other way around?
If a spirit is restless, does the body it resides in
enters a state of dormancy?
Or the other way around?
Is dreaming a process of alien notions finding a host?
A notion takes form into a mythical creature.
As the light dies, a mayfly emerges.
Its entire life bursts.
In a flash.
Dreams creep into my body at night and leave by dawn.



—C.G.

Covey Gong (b.1994, Hunan, China) received his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and currently lives and works in New York. Recent exhibitions include Salt Projects, Beijing (solo); Museum Gallery, Brooklyn; Mother Culture, Los Angeles; And Now, Dallas; Giovanni’s, Queens; and 48/19 Liebhartgasse, Vienna.

Edited by Viola Angiolini

Clockwise from entrance:

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2019
Brass, bronze, silk
73 x 8 x 8 in closed, variable dimensions when open

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2019
Bronze, acrylic yarn, ballpoint pen on canvas
10.5 (38 including fringe) x 5.5 in

II
2019
Brass, bronze, silk, acrylic on canvas
11.5 (38 including fringe) x 12 in

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2019
Bronze, silk, acrylic and colored pencil on canvas
13 (38 including fringe) x 5 in

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2019
Brass, bronze, silk
73h, width variable, base 8x8 in
73 x 8 x 8 in closed, variable dimensions when open

Office:

Untitled (re: Alfred Kubin)
2019
Bronze, poly confetti yarn, ballpoint pen and colored pencil on canvas
10.25 (33 including fringe) x 5 in