

**Ireland:** The Swiss artist Aia Lu and her moving landscapes from Kenmare



Aia Leu is a Swiss artist. She works from her studio in Kenmare (Ireland), where she moved in 1989. She studied figure sketching in Vevey, Switzerland as a teenager. She came from a family of famous artists: her paternal grandmother is the Swiss artist Eva Aeppli. Aia's work draws directly from her multicultural and bohemian upbringing. Her art is particularly influenced by both her years spent as a child in India, and the richness of the Irish landscape. Her artwork was on exhibit as a part of 'Leu Family Art' at the Museum Tinguely Basel in Switzerland in 2021.

*SR: how and to what extent have your childhood and family influenced your art?*

AIA LU: I was surrounded by art as a child and was encouraged by my parents to be creative. Although when I paint, I have my own style and subjects, I feel I am undoubtedly influenced by my artistic family especially the women: my paternal grandmother Eva Aeppli, her life-like sculptures of the planets and human emotions especially interest me. But I also love my aunt Miriam Tinguely's beautiful little miniature watercolor paintings.

*SR: your paintings have mainly landscapes as subjects, but there are usually some artefacts left on it. What kind of communication takes place between you and the nature where you paint?*

AIA LU: I love nature, archaeology, and mythology with symbolism. My paintings are intuitive. My art is not always personal, so it is not like 'I'm painting my dreams' – it is more a storytelling. I don't always know the story myself until it starts to emerge when I paint. Sometimes there are simple landscapes and sometimes they are filled with symbols and objects. I like to call this personal process: 'a moving landscape'. My paintings are a fusion, influenced by the surroundings I am immersed in.

*SR: you've been recently involved in an important tarot project. How much challenging has this been for you and how has it influenced your art?*

AIA LU: The project was a collaboration with astrologer Joanna-Kate Grant who wrote the book. The tarot deck I painted over 80 paintings, each painting unique which is inspired by Jo's writing of each card. Sometimes it was very challenging but it has been an amazing

journey. I had complete freedom to paint what inspired me from the story of each card: they are not really illustrations but paintings. In the end I painted more than was needed for the book and deck which is called: 'Thoth Journey: The oracle of Change' which includes over 80 paintings. About a third of them are large paintings for the Major Arcana and the Minor are of smaller size. It took about five years, and I finally finished the project in 2020. I found that, after painting the tarot project, my art has become freer.

GIOIA PALMIERI



The golden lunula and the rockpool on the shoreline", oil painting on linen – 50 × 60cm. Leu Art Family's exhibition, Museum Tinguely, CH.

Website: [www.aialeu.com](http://www.aialeu.com)  
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 Exhibition: <https://tinyurl.com/art-leu-family>