

SHADES OF BLUE

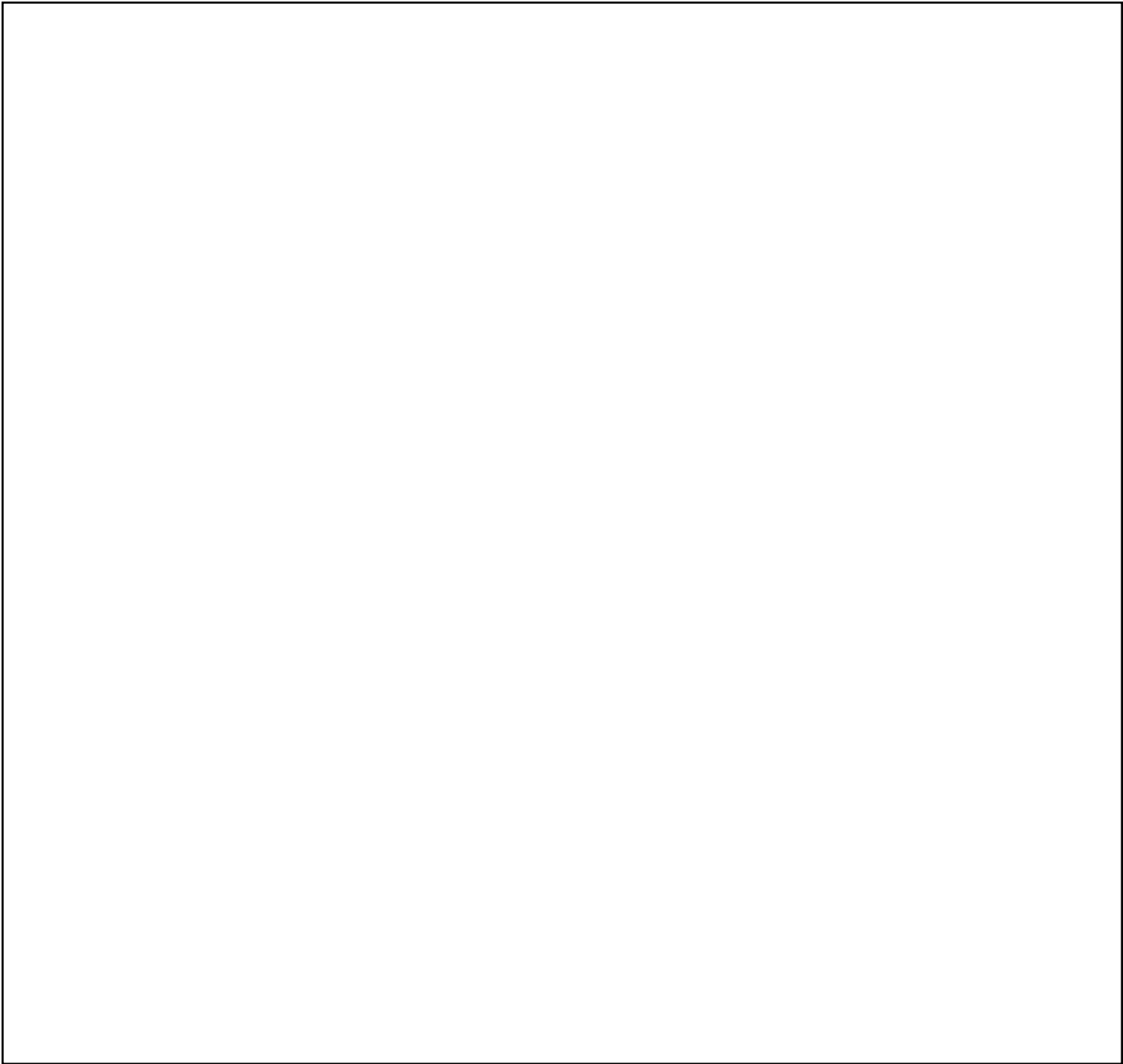
"I do believe that there is an inherent loneliness or melancholy to much of contemporary life... I feel my work speaks to this quality, in addition to being a reflection of my thoughts, fascinations and impulses." – Matthew Wong

Matthew Wong (1984-2019) was a Toronto-born, Chinese-Canadian artist. Wong graduated with a Master's degree in creative media from Hong Kong University in 2012, and started teaching himself about painting in 2013. The works in his *Blue Series* invite viewers into a world of imaginary nocturnal landscapes, brooding interiors and vibrant still life compositions. Wong's exploration of the many moods of the colour blue is a reflection of his artistic process, in which he spent lots of time looking inward. As a result, his paintings and gouaches express wonder and melancholy. Influenced by a range of artistic styles – from Chinese calligraphy and scroll painting to Pointillism and Fauvism – Wong's reflective and meditative pieces become increasingly rewarding through the viewer's patience and careful close looking.

The *Matthew Wong: Blue View* exhibition is on view until April 18, 2022.

Line drawing of: Matthew Wong, *A Dream*, 2019. Oil on canvas, 177.8 x 203.2 cm. © 2019 Matthew Wong Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS) New York. Image courtesy of Karma, New York. Line drawing artist: Lesley Ashton.

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ACTIVITY

Whether landscape or interior space, many of Matthew Wong's paintings are set in calm, quiet and reflective spaces. Can you think of a space, imaginary or real, with a similar effect? What does it look like? If you were to imagine, draw or paint it, what colour(s) would you use? How do different colours change the feeling of the space?



What does your final composition look like? What would you try if you did it again?
Share it with us at #AGOmakes @AGOToronto

