

Matthew Wong

Born in Toronto, 1984

Died in Edmonton, Alberta, 2019

Matthew Wong produced some of the most tender and alluring figurative paintings in recent memory, and “Blue,” the solo show he planned before his suicide last October, contained no shortage of memorable canvases, but *Starry Night* (a formidable, worthy title) exudes an especially powerful gravity, its lambent heavens illuminating a vast darkness below. One sign of mastery: just look at the number of ways in which he uses dots. It nods to O’Keeffe, Kusama, and Hartley while charting its own path. Superb.

1,000 Number of paintings and drawings he completed, as Bloomberg reported

KEY SHOWS:

👁️ “Day by Night,” 2019, Massimo De Carlo, Hong Kong

👁️ “Trance,” 2018, Aishti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon, curated by Albert Oehlen

👁️ “Outside,” 2016, Karma, Amagansett, New York, curated by Matthew Higgs

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Number of solo shows during his lifetime

2013

The year he began to focus on painting, having previously studied photography



Starry Night, 2019, oil on canvas, 60 x 70 inches – shown in “Matthew Wong: Blue,” at Karma, New York, Nov. 8, 2019–Jan. 5, 2020.