

Martin Wong Polaris - a Different Point of View

Two Insightful, not-too-long Articles on Martin Wong:

<https://www.artnews.com/feature/who-is-martin-wong-why-is-he-important-1234594299/>

<https://www.kw-berlin.de/en/martin-wong-kuratorischer-text/> — highlighted quote below comes from this article

The painting below was made in 1978—81 — right after he moved to New York City. Mia's Polaris was painted 6-9 yrs later in 1987.



Martin Wong, *My Secret World* 1978—81, 1984, Acrylic on canvas, 121,92 x 172,72 cm, Courtesy of the Martin Wong Foundation and P.P.O.W, New York © Martin Wong Foundation

The Dice and “8 Ball” are above his bed. “As Wong’s practice turned more towards painting, he started exploring the visual tropes of ‘chance ’and ‘destiny, ’by including stellar constellations, dice, and the eight ball, as seen in his painting *Tell My Troubles to the Eight Ball (Eureka)* (1978).

Adults — like Martin Wong — may enjoy thinking/discussing why life unfolds as it does...

- If something good or bad happens to us unexpectedly, people often say “**It is in your stars**”.
- “**Behind the 8 ball**” means “In trouble or an awkward position, out of luck.” The term comes from pocket billiards or pool, where in certain games if the number eight ball is between the “cue ball” and “object ball” the player cannot make a straight shot.
- The **dice** symbolize that everything in life is a matter of “luck”/a “throw of the dice.”