

Franz Kaka

LAURIE KANG
EARTH SURGE

Press Release:

Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather are pleased to present *Earth Surge*, a solo exhibition by Laurie Kang. The exhibition is on view at 28 Elizabeth Street (New York, NY) from November 5 through December 18.

* * *

The exhibition's title, *Earth Surge*, takes its name from an acupuncture point on the bottom of the foot. Likewise, the sculpture *Origin Gate* (2021), on view in the gallery, shares its name with an acupuncture point on the lower abdomen. In it, enlarged, cast aluminum slices of dried lotus root together make a wind chime, roped through with tryphobic tunnels and openings. Lotus plants are mud creatures: they grow in still ponds, producing rhizomatic networks of nourishing tubers. In consumption, the roots constitute the body; like the body, they're porous, attended by orifices and throughways.

A single enlarged cast aluminum lotus root also appears in Kang's *Great Shuttle* (2021), which is currently on view as part of the New Museum's *2021 Triennial: Soft Water Hard Stone*. There, it's positioned on the floor in front of a monumental structure: metal scaffolding bearing photographic paper and film both fixed (as photograms) and unfixed, of which the latter will continue to change over the course of the exhibition. *Great Shuttle* also takes its title from an acupuncture point, this one near the top of the spine, itself named after the tool that, in weaving, carries the weft thread across and between the warp.

Kang also uses the language of weaving to describe the photograms of *Interstitium, (Door)* (2021). Similar in composition to those affixed to one side of *Great Shuttle*, they feature geometric screens dotted with foggy circles. To make them, she layers photographic papers with woven paper tape and circular silicone cutouts, and leaves them to tan under sunlight. In the gallery, they're patched into the shape of a door, gridded and ambiguously interrupted by apertures through which light, color, energy and information can travel. Their latticework is also an image of the body's fascia, both binding and mediating flow. Like acupuncture, which Kang is studying to become a practitioner, a theory of circuitry is foundational to her installations.

Especially in the vicinity of *Mother* (2019), a community of stainless steel bowls of assorted sizes, these weavings speak to technologies of domestic space and experiments in reproductive labor. In keeping with this, Kang describes the New Museum installation as having been produced or gestated by *Mother* (2019), the work at the centre of *Earth Surge*. Each bowl is a container for material variations on sterility and contamination: wet beds of pigmented silicone; Asian pear, cabbage, and ginseng cast in aluminum; copper chainmail woven by her twin sister, the artist Hanna Hur; and nameless shapes of twisted polymer clay, among others. Set on the floor of the gallery, the bowls are staged as if for some speculative, low-slung ceremony.

1485 Dupont St, #208
Toronto, ON M6P3S2
Canada

+1 (647) 823-7430
info@franzkaka.com
www.franzkaka.com

Franz Kaka

LAURIE KANG
EARTH SURGE

- Tess Edmonson

Laurie Kang's work explores the body as an ongoing process and environment. She is currently included in the *2021 Triennial: Soft Water Hard Stone* at New Museum (New York, NY) and has previously exhibited at SculptureCenter, Interstate Projects, Cue Art Foundation, New York; Oakville Galleries, Oakville; The Power Plant, Franz Kaka, Cooper Cole, Gallery TPW, and Carl Louie, Toronto; Remai Modern, Saskatoon; Galerie Antoine Ertaskiran and L'inconnue, Montreal; Raster Gallery, Warsaw; and Camera Austria, Graz. Artist residencies include Rupert, Vilnius; Tag Team, Bergen; The Banff Centre, Alberta; Triangle Studios and Interstate Projects, Brooklyn. She holds an MFA from the Milton Avery School of the Arts at Bard College and is represented by Franz Kaka in Toronto. She is currently studying Chinese Medicine towards becoming an acupuncturist.

1485 Dupont St, #208
Toronto, ON M6P3S2
Canada

+1 (647) 823-7430
info@franzkaka.com
www.franzkaka.com

Image List:

All images courtesy the artist and Franz Kaka, Toronto
Photo credit: Sebastian Bach

01_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Earth Surge*, presented by Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather, Helena Anrather, New York, NY

02_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Mother*, 2019-2020, Stainless steel mixing bowls, pigmented silicone, rubber, polymer clay, power mesh, paint can, cordyceps fungus, steel machinery, peach pit, lotus seed, pewter, cast aluminum ginseng, cast aluminum cabbage, cast aluminum peach pit, cast aluminum lotus root, cast aluminum Asian pears, cast aluminum anchovies, cast aluminum clay forms, aluminum mesh, sand bag, plastic wrap, copper chainmail made by Hanna Hur, reflective foil, plastic bags, copper garden mesh, slippers, dried mung beans, dried fish bladder, dried magnolia flowers, dried hibiscus, ground mung and adzuki beans, cast bronze, hats

03_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Earth Surge*, presented by Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather, Helena Anrather, New York, NY

04_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Earth Surge*, presented by Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather, Helena Anrather, New York, NY

05_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Earth Surge*, presented by Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather, Helena Anrather, New York, NY

06_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Earth Surge*, presented by Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather, Helena Anrather, New York, NY

07_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Earth Surge*, presented by Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather, Helena Anrather, New York, NY

08_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Origin Gate*, 2021, Bronze, cast aluminum lotus root, thread

09_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Origin Gate* (detail), 2021

10_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Origin Gate* (detail), 2021

11_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Mother* (detail), 2019-2020

12_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Earth Surge*, presented by Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather, Helena Anrather, New York, NY

13_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Interstitium (Door) I* (detail), 2021, Photograms, unfixed film (continually sensitive), spherical magnets, cast aluminum anchovy

14_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Earth Surge*, presented by Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather, Helena Anrather, New York, NY

15_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Earth Surge*, presented by Franz Kaka and Helena Anrather, Helena Anrather, New York, NY

16_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Mother* (detail), 2019-2020

17_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Mother* (detail), 2019-2020

18_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Mother* (detail), 2019-2020

19_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Mother* (detail), 2019-2020

20_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Mother* (detail), 2019-2020

21_LK_Earth Surge Franz Kaka at Helena Anrather: *Mother* (detail), 2019-2020