

Amy Yao

Bay of Smokes

January 23rd – March 5th, 2016
Opening Saturday, January 23rd, 6 – 8 p.m.

VSF is thrilled to present Amy Yao's first solo exhibition at Various Small Fires. *Bay of Smokes* plays with the form of contamination. It is a continuation of Yao's interest in the aesthetics of industrial and domestic spaces from the perspective of access, gender, identity and the codification of space through form, color and language.

A suspicion is demanded towards the kind of ill-advised self-production, unavoidably occurring in biological bodies at sites of material transformation. Contamination is the constant, the knowledge of it (the data representation) is the revelation – the thing perceived as change.

The ability to relocate natural materials inexpensively and efficiently relies on anatomo-politics -- the ability to integrate bodies into efficient system. Concurrently this seemingly never-ending flow of natural resources has radically transformed how bodies are able to move. Airports and Logistics operations require streamlined efficiency without room for disruption. Human bodies and materials both become material to be scanned and identified for the benefit of our "security". New tools are required for the processing of bodies and materials. With all our devices, what escapes/ resists detection and identification?

Yes, This is Rice! Bit it is made of plastic and it's spreading across Asia. A media induced outsourcing of fear, displacing equally riveting circumstances of domestic contamination onto foreign bodies abroad. Yet the victims in both cases remain minorities and people of color. *Lead contamination near Exide Plant may be worse than previously thought, Boyle Heights, CA, Commerce, CA.* Barely a newswire blip, a planned scenario of environmental injustice. Pollution is segregated too, and its obfuscation is a product of racism sublimated, reappearing as nationalism and xenophobia. Easier to forget about what happens in a dysfunctional home.

Driving from A to B and end up forgetting most of the journey due to its familiarity; isn't this condition, the most efficient biopower: its mental absentness from the moment at hand? Floating back to the consumeristic induction producing this activity (and its subsequent collective dreaming)... A landscape where what we don't want to remember coalesces with our comfort zone.

Amy Yao (b. 1977) has had solo exhibitions at venues including Indipendeza, Rome; Paradise Garage, Venice, CA; 47 Canal, New York; Jack Hanley Gallery, New York; Green Gallery, Milwaukee; New Jerseyy, Basel, Switzerland; Mathew Gallery, Berlin, Germany. Her work has also been shown in group exhibitions at such institutions as MoMA/ P.S. 1, New York; Air de Paris, Paris; White Flag Projects, Saint Louis; Space Studios, London; Swiss Institute, New York; White Columns, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tuscon; Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York; Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland, OR; Night Gallery, Los Angeles; Andrew Kreps, New York. She co-curated the group exhibition *Artificial Complexion* at Various Small Fires (2014).