

Ani Liu

Ecologies of Care

May 27 through July 30, 2022

Opening Reception Friday, May 27 from 6-8p

Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space is pleased to present ***Ecologies of Care***, a solo show of recent works by **Ani Liu**, a former LES Studio Program resident, on view at 88 Essex Street from **May 27 through July 30, 2022**.

Interrogating the artist's postpartum period, *Ecologies of Care* showcases a series of new works that use the material culture, and its aesthetics, of childcare –breastmilk, formula, diapers, toys, screen time—to reflect on the labor and life cycle of parenthood.

Echoing throughout the exhibition is the sound of a pump that circulates milk within the gallery space. Created as a material reference to the

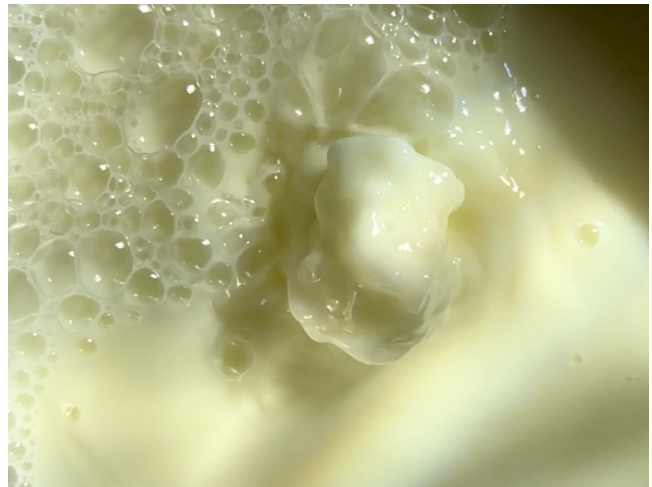
artist's intimate experience with breastfeeding and pumping, the volume of milk present in *Untitled (Pumping; Feeding Through Space and Time)* ranges from the amount produced in a single session of feeding to a month's supply of lactation.

Labor of Love provides a data portrait of the enormous amount of invisible labor that pervades caring for a newborn. Reflecting on the historic devaluation of "women's" work, this sculpture questions and problematizes the types of work we value, and the care that we often take for granted.

Finally, a series of A.I. generated toys fuse the relationship between the construction of identity and instruments of play while exploring the cultural and psychological influences that inform caring for children. Created using a machine learning algorithm trained on real products marketed as "boys" and "girls" toys, these invented toys expose one source of the gendered social values that we place on children and critically ask how we might rewrite and redesign play.

Ani Liu is an internationally exhibiting research-based artist working at the intersection of art & science. Her work examines the reciprocal relationships between science, technology and their influence on human subjectivity, culture, and identity. Reoccurring themes in the work include gender politics, biopolitics, labor, reproduction, simulation and sexuality.

Ani's work has been exhibited internationally, at the Venice Biennale, Ars Electronica, the Queens Museum Biennial, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Asian Art Museum, MIT Museum, MIT Media Lab, Mana Contemporary, Harvard University, and Shenzhen Design Society. Ani's work has been featured on National Geographic, VICE, Mashable, Gizmodo, TED, Core77, PBS, PCMag, FOX and WIRED. Ani is the winner of the Princeton Arts Fellowship (2019-2021), the New York Foundation for



the Arts (NYFA) Fellowship (2020), the Virginia Groot Foundation Fellowship (2020), the S&R Washington Prize (2018), the YouFab Global Creative Awards (2018), the Biological Art & Design Award (2017).

Ani has a B.A. from Dartmouth College, a Masters of Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and a Master of Science from MIT Media Lab. Ani is passionate about integrating multidisciplinary approaches to art making, and is currently an Associate Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. She has previously taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, Princeton University, Columbia University, and is on critique panels at Harvard, Dartmouth, MIT, University of Pennsylvania, NYU, UNC Charlotte, Pratt, Parsons.

Ani continually seeks to discover the unexpected, through playful experimentation, intuition, and speculative storytelling. Ani's studio is based in New York City.

Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space is located inside Essex Market, which is fully accessible by ADA standards. The gallery can be accessed from any ground floor entrance. Cuchifritos Gallery welcomes assistance dogs and has wheelchair-accessible restroom facilities on the lower level and 2nd floor, which can be accessed by the east-side elevator. For access inquiries, please contact Artists Alliance at info@artistsallianceinc.org or (2x12) 420-9202.

Artists Alliance Inc. is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization located on the Lower East Side of New York City within the Clemente Soto Véllez Cultural and Educational Center. Cuchifritos Gallery is supported in part by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council. Exhibition programming is made possible by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the National Endowment for the Arts. We thank the New York City Economic Development Corporation and individual supporters of Artists Alliance Inc for their continued support. Special thanks go to our team of dedicated volunteers and interns, without whom this program would not be possible.