

## **Sami Tsang**

*A Good Hard Look*

May 27 - July 1, 2023

**COOPER COLE** is pleased to present, *A Good Hard Look*, a solo exhibition by Sami Tsang. This highly anticipated solo exhibition marks the artist's first presentation at the gallery and will feature a new body of ceramic sculptures, rice paper drawings, and an immersive installation.

*Some days I am in the past.*

*Some days I am fighting the past*

*How do I merge the difference I feel within*

*Instead of competing which side I belong to, I feel confident to be as is.*

*Everyday battle, as usual as eating food.*

*It never fully goes away, it stays with me, I live with it.*

*It comes back stronger some days.*

*Some days I am able to fight it off before it fully develops.*

*A Good Hard Look*, showcases a remarkable collection of sculptures and drawings that not only manifest Tsang's artistic prowess but also reveal her deep-seated emotions and inner conflicts.

Tsang's artworks are a reflection of her life experiences, and examine her struggles with the past and the present. Her sculptures are as heavy in emotion as they are in physical form. Through her masterful understanding of ceramic media, and the intimate approach to the illustrative line work found across her body of artwork, Tsang is able to capture a nuanced understanding of how to merge seemingly disparate emotions and thoughts. These artworks act as a tool of survival, and she encourages the viewer to take a good look at ourselves, to identify, pick up, eat, feel, live with, digest, and become a part of our pain.

**Sami Tsang** (b. 1997 Windsor, Ontario, Canada) uses clay, rice paper, and drawing to materialize internal questions and traumas. Weaving together domestic and psychological narratives related to the conservatism of her youth, Tsang references Chinese proverbs and uses humour, distortion, and whimsy. These stories are not presented didactically, but through a fantastical visual language that combines memories, internal dialogues, folklore and imagined futures.

Tsang earned her MFA at Alfred University, New York, and was the 2019 recipient of the Gardiner Museum Prize. She has since exhibited internationally at galleries and museums such as T293, Rome (forthcoming); The Power Plant (forthcoming), Cooper Cole, Toronto (2023, 2022); Art Gallery of Burlington, Burlington (2022); Tandem Gallery, Bakersville (2022); the Gardiner Museum, Toronto (2021) and Charlie Cummings Gallery, Gainesville (2021). Tsang currently lives and works in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



**Sami Tsang**  
*A Little Girl's Life*, 2023  
Ceramic, engobe, glaze, chain, resin  
67.5 x 15 x 18 in (171.5 x 38.1 x 45.7 cm)  
S.Tsang0035



**Sami Tsang**  
*Panda for Dinner, 2023*  
Ceramic, engobe, glaze, faux fur, light bulb+socket, ribbon  
49 x 18 x 27 in (124.5 x 45.7 x 68.6 cm)  
S.Tsang0037



**Sami Tsang**  
*Parts of Me Had to Die, 2023*  
Ceramic, engobe, glaze, chain, resin, faux fur, acrylic  
58 x 24 x 15 in (147.3 x 61 x 38.1 cm)  
S.Tsang0036



**Sami Tsang**  
*A Tiger Mommy's Path, 2023*  
Ceramic, engobe, glaze, acrylic, resin  
41 x 22 x 18 in (104.1 x 55.9 x 45.7 cm)  
11 x 11 in (27.9 x 27.9 cm) Base  
S.Tsang0033



**Sami Tsang**  
*Emerging Woman*, 2023  
Ceramic, engobe, glaze, shell chip, chain, resin  
45 x 27 x 17 in (114.3 x 68.6 x 43.2 cm)  
S.Tsang0034



**Sami Tsang**

*Find My Truth or Live Life I, 2023*

Find My Truth or Live Life

Xuan paper, ink, colour pencil, gel pen, acrylic, thread, chain

13.125 x 26.625 in (33.3 x 67.6 cm)

S.Tsang0025

Prices available upon request.



**Sami Tsang**

*Find My Truth or Live Life II, 2023*

Find My Truth or Live Life

Xuan paper, ink, colour pencil, gel pen, acrylic, thread, chain

13.125 x 26.625 in (33.3 x 67.6 cm)

S.Tsang0026





**Sami Tsang**  
*Find My Truth or Live Life III, 2023*  
Find My Truth or Live Life  
Xuan paper, ink, colour pencil, gel pen, acrylic, thread, chain  
13.125 x 26.625 in (33.3 x 67.6 cm)  
S.Tsang0027



**Sami Tsang**  
*Find My Truth or Live Life IV, 2023*  
Find My Truth or Live Life  
Xuan paper, ink, colour pencil, gel pen, acrylic, thread, chain  
13.125 x 26.625 in (33.3 x 67.6 cm)  
S.Tsang0028



**Sami Tsang**  
*Find My Truth or Live Life V, 2023*  
Find My Truth or Live Life  
Xuan paper, ink, colour pencil, gel pen, acrylic, thread, chain  
13.125 x 26.625 in (33.3 x 67.6 cm)  
S.Tsang0029



**Sami Tsang**  
*Find My Truth or Live Life VI, 2023*  
Find My Truth or Live Life  
Xuan paper, ink, colour pencil, gel pen, acrylic, thread, chain  
13.125 x 26.625 in (33.3 x 67.6 cm)  
S.Tsang0030



**Sami Tsang**  
*Find My Truth or Live Life VII, 2023*  
Find My Truth or Live Life  
Xuan paper, ink, colour pencil, gel pen, acrylic, thread, chain  
13.125 x 26.625 in (33.3 x 67.6 cm)  
S.Tsang0031



**Sami Tsang**  
*Find My Truth or Live Life VIII, 2023*  
Find My Truth or Live Life  
Xuan paper, ink, colour pencil, gel pen, acrylic, thread, chain  
13.125 x 26.625 in (33.3 x 67.6 cm)  
S.Tsang0032

## **Sami Tsang**

Born 1997 Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Raised Hong Kong, China

Lives and works in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

## **Education**

- 2021 MFA Ceramic Art, Alfred University, New York, USA  
2019 BA Craft and Design (hons), Sheridan College, Toronto, Canada  
2015 BealArt Secondary Art School, London, Canada

## **Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions**

- 2023 T293 Gallery, Rome, Italy (*forthcoming*)  
Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada (*forthcoming*)  
Companion Gallery, Humboldt, TN, USA  
Sami Tsang, ClayAKAR, Iowa City, USA
- 2022 *Disgraceful Me*, Project Booth, Art Toronto, Canada  
*Know Your Place*, Art Gallery of Burlington, Burlington, Canada  
Sami Tsang, ClayAKAR, Iowa City, USA  
Sami Tsang & Sasha Barrett, Tandem Gallery, Bakersville, USA
- 2021 Sami Tsang, Charlie Cumming Gallery, Gainesville, USA  
*Mooncake Party*, Gardiner Museum Award Winner, Gardiner Museum,  
Toronto, Canada  
*Mooncake Party*, MFA Thesis Exhibition, Fosdick-Nelson Gallery, Alfred,  
USA

## **Group Exhibitions**

- 2023 *In Parallel*, The Power Plant, Toronto, Canada (*forthcoming*)  
*Other Tigers*, The Lost & Found, Toronto, Canada  
Annual Artstream Spring Tour and Exhibition, Fort Collins, CO, USA
- 2022 *Separate/Together*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada  
*Every Answer is Correct*, Ernst & Young, organized by the Powerplant  
Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, Canada  
*Above Board Tableware*, Above Board Ceramics, (online)  
*Award Exhibition*, Craft Ontario, Toronto, Canada  
*Plenty*, Black and Smith Gallery, Jerseyville, Canada



*What a Cup Knows*, Artstream Nomadic Gallery, Fort Collins, USA  
*Material Mugs VII*, Companion Gallery, Humboldt, USA  
*Breakthrough Plus*, Fusion Clay & Glass Ontario, Toronto, Canada  
*Earth Oracles*, Mayten's Project, Toronto, Canada

- 2021 *Alfred MFA 2021 Group Exhibition*, Sculpture Space, Long Island City, USA  
*Above Board Tableware exhibition*, Above Board Ceramics, online  
*Virtual Markers Market*, The Ceramic Congress, The Ceramic School, USA  
*15th Yunomi Show*, ClayAKAR, Iowa City, USA  
*Award Exhibition*, Craft Ontario, Toronto, Canada
- 2020 *Crafts in the Art: International Virtual Exhibition*, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand  
*Y'all Virtual Sale*, Houston Center of Contemporary Craft, Houston, USA  
*Americano 2020*, ClayAKAR, Iowa City, USA  
*14th Yunomi Show*, ClayAKAR, Iowa City, USA  
*Confluence*, Robert C. Turner Gallery, Alfred, USA
- 2019 *The Intimate Object XV*, Charlie Cummings Gallery, Gainesville, USA  
*The Functional Canvas IV*, Charlie Cummings Gallery, Gainesville, USA  
*NCECA Juried Student Exhibition*, Soo Visual Arts Center, Minneapolis, USA  
*Bonspiel Mug Show*, Hennepin Made, Minneapolis, USA  
*Sheridan Ceramics Graduate Exhibition*, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, CA  
*All Year Ceramics Exhibition*, Craft and Design, Sheridan Gallery, Oakville, Canada
- 2018 *Liquids Cream and Gels*, Online, The Gynocratic Art Gallery, Fredericton, Canada  
*Breakthrough Exhibition*, Fusion, Toronto, Canada
- 2017 *Made in Canada*, Gardiner Museum, Toronto, Canada  
*Year End Exhibition*, Craft and Design, Sheridan Gallery, Oakville, Canada
- 2016 *All Year Ceramics Exhibition*, Craft and Design, Sheridan Gallery, Oakville, Canada
- 2015 *Graduate Art Show*, BealArt, London, Canada
- 2014 *Year End Art Show*, BealArt, London, Canada

## **Press**





- 2022 Leah Collins, "There's no such thing as the perfect family, and this artist's work taps into that fact" CBC Arts, October 24  
Megan Yuri Young, "Shaping Personal and Universal Narratives" Now Playing Toronto, October 24  
Odessa Paloma Parker, "Pandemic life has taken away the much-needed element of surprise" The Globe and Mail, February 25  
Zhiyi Fang, "Separate/Together at Cooper Cole Gallery" [artoronto.ca](http://artoronto.ca), February
- 2021 Marissa Y Alexander, "15 Canadian women ceramic artists to follow" Gardiner Museum Blog

### Residencies and Awards

- 2022 Artist in Residence, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, CA  
2019 Gardiner Museum Prize, Toronto, CA

### Grants

- 2022 OAC, Skills and Career Development Grant  
Pottery Supply House Grant, Craft Ontario, Toronto  
Emerging Clay and Glass Artists, FUSION Clay & Glass Ontario, Toronto
- 2021 Tucker's Pottery Supplies Clay Supply Grant, Craft Ontario, Toronto, CA
- 2019 Clifford Scholarship, for Exceptional Personal Achievement, Sheridan Colleg  
Gardiner Museum Award Winner, *You Know What I Mean*, Toronto  
Mudtools Merit Award, NCECA Juried Student Exhibition, Minneapolis  
FUSION Scholarship Award, Fusion, Toronto
- 2018 Joan Bennet Award, for Outstanding Achievement, Sheridan College
- 2017 Best In Show Award, *Made In Canada*, Gardiner Museum, Toronto