

Jennie Jieun Lee
Strawberry Nose
March 22 - May 4, 2024

COOPER COLE is pleased to present, *Strawberry Nose*, a solo exhibition by Jennie Jieun Lee. This exhibition marks the artist's third solo exhibit at the gallery and will run from March 22 - May 4, 2024 in the gallery's west exhibition space.

The actions around the creation of the works in this exhibition is centered around the concept of the ready-made, a term first coined over 100 years ago by the artist Marcel Duchamp. His most notable work, a facsimile of a urinal aptly titled *Fountain*, was made from porcelain using a slip-cast mold and marked a defining conceptual moment in the cannon of art history.

Flash forward 117 years and we find ourselves in the present, a time where environmental concerns around global warming are at the forefront of conversation, and artists with sustainable practices prove to be the voice of the time. To this effect, it was serendipitous when Jennie came across a large collection of ceramic molds from Holland and Alberta, two now defunct companies active in the 1970-80's that are best known for creating a series of decorative homewares such as animals, tchotchkes, knick knacks, bookends, tableware, etc. There is an undeniable sense of nostalgia in the imagery and no doubt you would have seen examples on your grannies shelf, or collecting dust in a thrift shop over the years.

Building upon pre-existing forms designed for mass enjoyment, Jennie created this body of work to initiate dialogue surrounding domesticity, representation, history, and consumption, highlighting the evolving nature of each over time.

Some of Jennie's found molds have never been poured, while others are well worn from multiple pours over the years. Each pour has been further manipulated by the artist by way of shape or glaze as they enter into a new dialogue.

As a sign of the times in which they were created, many of the molds are titled with culturally insensitive names. One mold in particular, *Polynesian Woman Bust* has been repatriated by the artist in critique of the tropes defined by the western lens of Orientalism. While exploring ideas of representation is a fundamental concept in Jennie's practice, she actively leaned away from using molds with antiquated racial stereotypes to instead focused on the more domestic designs. Figures of thimbles, vases, felines (an homage to Penelope Umbrico's ceramic cats series), literature, and fruits are all in the mix. One mold in particular is a heap of strawberries, which led to the title of the exhibition, *Strawberry Nose*, a childhood nickname she and her sister had given to her mother in reference to the size of the pores on her face.

This childhood critique of beauty is mirrored in the exhibition design. Sculptures are organized in a classical sense, unique groupings, each presented on plinths reminiscent of still life tableaus. They are set against a voluminous fabric backdrop, a draping photographic curtain titled *Bruises* which captures the intimate brushstrokes from one of Jennie's expertly glazed stoneware vessels. This installation evokes battered sensibilities of the Renaissance, an impression that is advanced by the wall-based works in the show, a collection of bricolage objects that defy traditional definitions of a painting. Airbrushed and graffitied panels are layered with ceramic objects adhered to the surface (over-fired dishes recycled after use by the artist and her students for snacking during class at the

School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University). These pieces offer a disparate portrayal of nostalgic domesticity and critique towards the formalism of art history.

As a disruptor, Jennie Jieun Lee's work continually pushes viewers to reconsider the traditional distinctions between sculpture and painting. Her pieces prompt us to question not only how artistic boundaries are evolving but also how societal and cultural influences shape our perceptions of world.

Jennie Jieun Lee (b. 1973 Seoul, South Korea) is a ceramist who has spent more than ten years defying the conventional limitations of her chosen media. The experimental approach to her practice sees her capitalize on the natural fragility of her medium, and apply a unique abstract gestural method to glazing. Her works range in scale from domestic size vessels to wall based compositions, to large scale structural installations. Conceptually her work is driven by ideas which speak towards representation, art and societal histories, and form. By challenging the historical perception of ceramics as symbols of controlled domesticity, Lee crafts busts, vessels, and paintings that blur the line between intention and chance, beauty and distortion.

Lee earned her MFA from California State University Long Beach and a studio diploma from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She is the recipient of several grants including Tisch Faculty Fellowship (2022), Art Matters Foundation Grant (2019), The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (2017), and the Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant (2016). She has collaborated with fashion designer Alexander McQueen; and her work can be found in the permanent collection of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art. Recent exhibitions include Cooper Cole, Toronto; Alexander Gray Associates, Germantown; AF Projects, Los Angeles; Halsey McKay Gallery, East Hampton; Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles; Martos Gallery, New York; The Pit, Glendale; and Marlborough Chelsea Viewing Room, New York. Lee currently teaches ceramics at School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University and lives and works in Sullivan County, New York, USA.

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For press and sales inquiries please contact the gallery:

+1.416.531.8000

info@coopercolegallery.com



Jennie Jieun Lee
Bruises, 2024
Custom Printed Fabric
137.5 x 378 in (349.3 x 960.1 cm)
J.JL0046



Jennie Jieun Lee
SMFA CLAY, 2024
Glazed stoneware, porcelain, wood, acrylic paint
45 x 39.5 x 3 in (114.3 x 100.3 x 7.6 cm)
J.JL0043



Jennie Jieun Lee
Stage 1, 2024
Slip-cast porcelain, glaze
Dimensions variable
J.JL0047



Jennie Jieun Lee
Stage 2, 2024
Slip-cast porcelain, glaze
Dimensions variable
J.JL0048



Jennie Jieun Lee
Stage 3, 2024
Slip-cast porcelain, glaze
Dimensions variable
J.JL0049



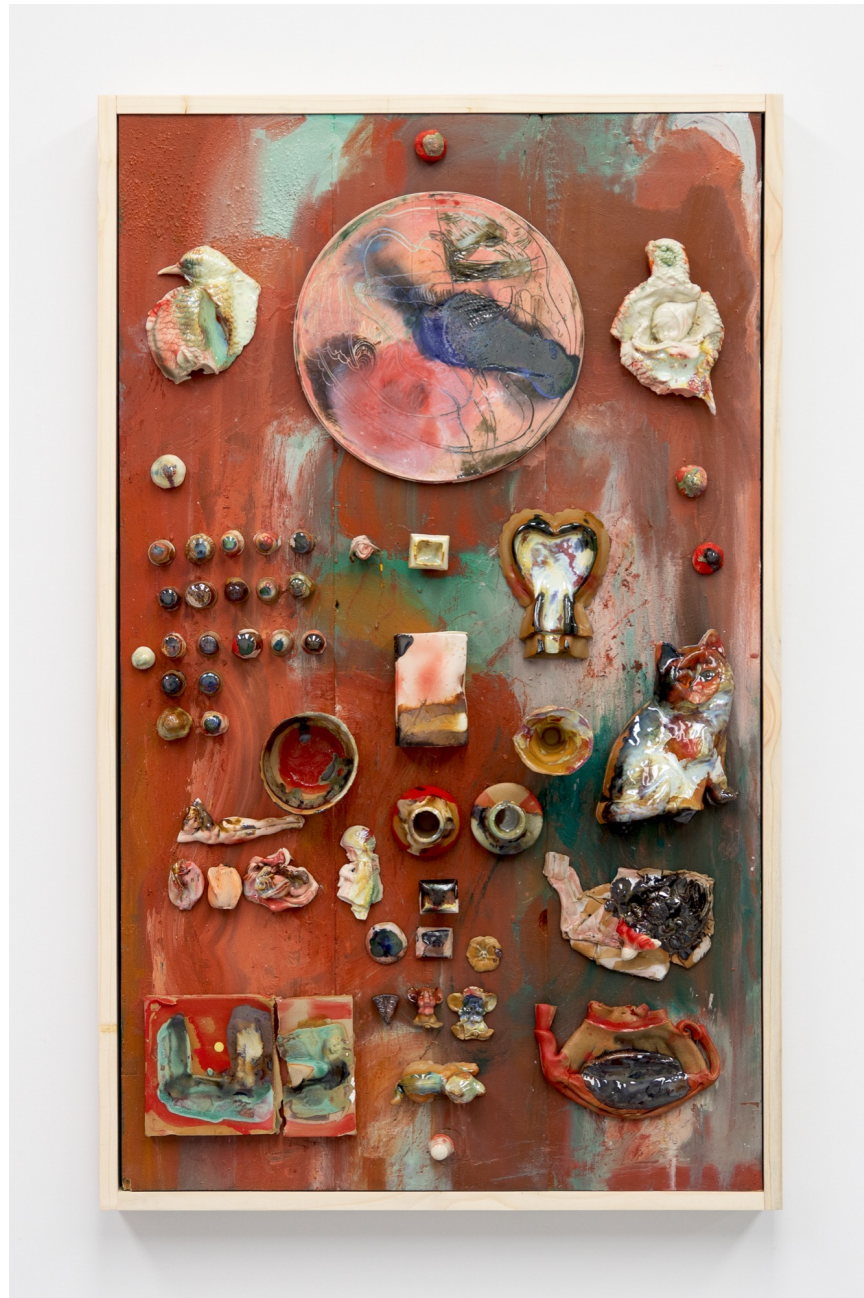
Jennie Jieun Lee
Stage 4, 2024
Slip-cast porcelain, glaze
Dimensions variable
J.JL0050



Jennie Jieun Lee
Stage 5, 2024
Slip-cast porcelain, glaze
Dimensions variable
J.JL0051



Jennie Jieun Lee
Stage 6, 2024
Slip-cast porcelain, glaze
Dimensions variable
J.JL0052



Jennie Jieun Lee
Strawberry Nose, 2024
Slip cast porcelain, glaze, oil, wood
38.4 x 23.6 x 3 in (97.5 x 59.9 x 7.6 cm)
J.JL0044

Jennie Jieun Lee

Born 1973 Seoul, South Korea

Lives and works in Sullivan County, New York, USA

Education

- 2019 California State University Long Beach, LA, MFA in Ceramics
1999 School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, Studio Diploma

Teaching

- 2022 School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University, Boston, USA
Adjunct Faculty Princeton University, Princeton, USA
2019-21 Adjunct Faculty New York University, New York, USA
2018 Visiting Artist, California State Long Beach, Long Beach, USA

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions

- 2024 *Strawberry Nose*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, CA
2022 *Marie*, Martos Gallery, New York, USA
2021 *Jennie Jieun Lee: Sowing as the World Ends*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, CA
2020 *JENNIE JIEUN LEE*, Halsey McKay Gallery, East Hampton, USA
2019 *Sizzling Gouba and Long Beach*, Martos Gallery, New York, USA
2018 *Hope Gangloff and Jennie Jieun Lee*, Halsey McKay Gallery, East Hampton, USA
2017 *Seizure Crevasse*, The Pit, Glendale, USA
Tennis Elbow, The Journal Gallery, Brooklyn, USA
2016 *Graham Collins and Jennie Jieun Lee*, Marlborough Chelsea Viewing Room, New York, USA
Jennie Jieun Lee & Mariah Robertson, Eleven Rivington, New York, USA
Immigrant's Ear, Levy Delval, Brussels, Belgium
The Devil You Know, The Outlet Gallery, Milwaukee, USA
2015 *Mrs. Thompson's Mirror*, Martos Gallery, New York, USA
Am I Ugly, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada
Jennie Jieun Lee & Patrick Brennan, Halsey McKay Gallery, East Hampton, USA

- 2014 *Smile Purgatory*, Galerie Lefebvre et Fils, Paris, France
 2013 *Jennie Jieun Lee & David Bratton*, Clayspace 1205 Gallery, Brooklyn, USA
 1998 *Jennie Jieun Lee & Lila Lee*, Siberia Gallery, New York, USA

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *Aesthetics of Everyday Objects: The Cup*, ATLA, Los Angeles, USA
 2023 *I Spy*, Alexander Gray Associates, Germantown, USA
AND THE MOON BE STILL AS BRIGHT, Harper's, New York, USA
 2022 *Broken Open*, Museum of New Art, Portsmouth, USA
Separate/Together, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada
 2021 *8 Americans*, Chart Gallery, New York, USA
Francesca DiMattio, Sam Falls, Jennie Jieun Lee, Dan McCarthy, Sally Saul, Airfield Gallery, Kingston, USA
Ten Years, Halsey McKay Gallery, East Hampton, USA
100 Sculptures, Anonymous Gallery, New York, USA
 2020 *In the Weeds*, Curated by Georgia McGovern, Olympia, New York, USA
You Look Like a World, Curated by Hilary Schaffner, Able Baker Contemporary, Portland, USA
The Rock on Montrose, public installation, Brooklyn, USA
 2019 *The Project Room: Amir H. Fallah, Nasim Hantehzadeh, Jennie Jieun Lee, Fay Ray*, Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, USA
 2018 *NOMAD: Anna Sew Hoy, Amy Yao & Jennie Jieun Lee*, Artist Curated Projects, Los Angeles, USA
Clay Today, The Hole, New York, USA
Language: Art for Leonard Peltier, LAWS, Los Angeles, USA
 2017 *From Punk to Funk: Left Coast Ceramics*, Curated by Peter Held, Iverson Museum Syracuse, USA
Geranium, Stems Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
How Deep is Your Love, Cooper Cole, Toronto, CA
ON POWER & PEACE, Situations, New York, USA
 2016 *Re-Planetizer*, Curated by The Pit, Regina Rex, New York, USA
Life Eraser, Curated by Domenico de Chirico, Brand New Gallery Milan, Italy
Summer Show, C. Grimaldis Gallery, Baltimore, USA
NADA Art Fair, with The Landing Gallery, New York, USA

- 2015 *When the Sun Hits*, The Pit, Los Angeles, CA
Object Painting, Painting Object, Jonathan Viner Gallery, London, UK
Jezebel Spirit, Evening Hours, NY, USA
La Musée Imaginaire, Lefebvre et Fils, Paris, France
The Negative Hand, Anonymous Gallery, Mexico City, Mexico
What is Wrong With We, Martos Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Swingers WKND, BOS, Brooklyn, USA
White Columns Benefit Exhibition and Auction, New York, USA
Media, Curated by Jens Peter Brask, Jacob Bjorn Gallery, Arhus, Denmark
Now Eat Your Head, Greenpoint Terminal Gallery, Brooklyn, USA
- 2014 *Paradise Sauna*, TSA LA Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Sha Boogie Bop, Anonymous Gallery, New York, USA
NADA Art Fair, Shoot the Lobster, New York, USA
Sight Unseen/I'm Revolting, Ceramics, New York, USA
Steve Keister, Jennie Jieun Lee, Elizabeth Levine, Ille Arts, East Hampton, USA
- 2012 *Bad Fog*, Curated by Eddie Martinez, Martos Gallery, New York, USA
I Want To Believe Something Extraordinary Can Happen, Bowman Bloom Gallery, New York, USA
- 1995 *Jennie Jieun Lee, CT King, Corrine Rhodes*, ABC NO RIO, New York, USA

Art Fairs

- 2023 NADA Miami, with Cooper Cole, Miami, USA

Residencies

- 2024 The Church, Sag Harbor, USA
 2018 Center for Contemporary Ceramics, California State University Long Beach, USA

Awards

- 2022 Tisch Faculty Fellowship
 2019 Art Matters Foundation
 CSULB Graduate Research Fellowship

- 2017 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship
Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant Recipient
- 2015 Artadia New York Award Recipient

Press

- 2024 Roberta Smith, "On the Lower East Side, a Secret Space, a Mini-Biennial",
The New York Times, January 18
- 2023 Alexa Brazilian, "The Ceramists Putting a Fresh Spin on Traditional Korean
Techniques", The New York Times, November 27
- 2022 Martha Schwendener, "What to see in Art Galleries Right Now", The New
York Times, October 13
Isabel Ling, "Unconventional Urns that Go Beyond Solemnity" The New
York Times, September 27
William Van Meter, "Alexander McQueen Creative Director Sarah Burton
asked 12 Female Artists to Interpret Her Pre-Fall Collection, With
Intriguing Results" Artnet News, June 17
Dawn Chan, "8 Americans at Chart" Artforum, March
- 2021 Annabel Keenan, "At New York's Chart Gallery, '8 Americans' Celebrates
Asian American Artists" Cultured Magazine, December 27
- 2020 "New American Paintings" Pacific Issue #145, Juried by Chistine Y. Kim
- 2019 "Jennie Jieun Lee" Deep Color Podcast Episode 58, October 28
- 2018 Ollman, Leah, "Ceramic art, once written off as mere craft, wins a brighter
spotlight in the L.A. scene" LA Times, April 25
- 2017 Taft, Catherine, "Review for Seizure Crevasse at The Pit" Artforum
Summer Issue
Krimko, Stuart, "Jennie Jieun Lee at The Pit", CARLA, July 27
Whitney, Christine, "The New York Artist Charting New Territory in
Southern California" The Cut, April 26
Ollman, Leah, "At the Pit in Glendale, Sculpture That Keeps You On Your
Toes", Los Angeles Times, April 11
Campbell, Andy, "Jennie Jieun Lee" Critic's Picks, Artforum, March 31
"Interview with Jennie Jieun Lee", Crushfanzine.com, February 14
- 2016 Sutton, Benjamin, "Ceramics Stage a Coup at NADA Miami Beach 2016",
Hyperallergic, December 1



- Connelee, Morgan, "At Present with Jennie Jieun Lee",
TheVernacular.com, October
- Wong, Karen, "Bond Street: 3 Favorite Business" BondStreet.com,
Summer
- Steadman, Ryan, "8 Things to Do in New York's Art World by June 25"
Observer, June 20
- Feher, Adam, "6 Can't-Miss Art Shows Of The Week Of June 20, 2016"
Forbes Online
- 2015 Skidmore, M. "Shaping the Future: Ten Marvelous Modern Ceramicists",
anOthermag.com, November 25
- Figueroa, M. "5 Women NYC Artists", Vamp Magazine, Issue 4
- Gladstone, Sebastian, "Jennie Jieun Lee" Foundations Issue 3, The
Genre Issue
- Page, David, "Rough and Tumble Rambunctiousness at The Pit Gallery,"
Los Angeles Times, September 3
- Creahan, D. "Mexico City: The Negative Hand at Anonymous Gallery
through August 28th, 2015", Art Observed, August 17
- Steadman, Ryan. "A New Way to Be an Artist", Observer.com, August 7
- Artsy Editorial, "30 Emerging Artists to Watch This Summer" Artsy, July
14
- Editors of Artnews. "Artadia Awards Grants To All 10 New York Finalists",
ARTNEWS, June 27
- Biggs, Caroline. "Artists in Residence", Domino Magazine, Summer
- Indrisek, Scott. "Art Lovers: Romantic Teamwork in Bushwick's Swingers
WKND", Blouinartinfo.com, June 4
- Segal, Mark. "The Art Scene 6.11.15" The East Hampton Star, June 11
- Mangle, Tony. "Jennie Jieun Lee's First Solo Show at Martos Gallery",
Shrimp Peelsandhair.com, May 27
- Wagley, Catherine. "5 Art Shows You Should See This Week", LA Weekly,
May 27
- Baird-Persson, Laird. "The Latest Trend in Fashion? Mixing Clothing and
Ceramics" Vogue.com, March 12
- Singer, Maya. "Rachel Comey Pre-Fall 2015 Review", Style.com,
December 9
- 2014 Hartman, Eviana. "Rachel Comey Curates a Ceramic Pop-Up", New York
Times Style Magazine, December 9



- Shapiro, Debra. "Studio Visit- Jennie Jieun Lee Ceramicist", Sight Unseen, September 24
- Weber, Pauline. "Entretien: Jennie Jieun Lee, la ceramique a fleur de peau" Le Huffington Post, July 18
- Whitford, Emma. "Everything Guide to Urban Claymaking" New York Magazine, June 16
- Frank, Priscilla. "Bizarre Ceramic Masks Explore The Dark Side of Agoraphobia", Huffington Post, June 10
- "Behind the Mask, Artist Jennie Jieun Lee", Seen Heard Known, June
- Mangle, Tony. "Get Your Clay On, Ceramics are Hot!"
- ShrimpeelsandHair.com, May 2
- Pentelow, Susie. "Jennie Jieun Lee", Traction Magazine, April 30
- Wallace, Ian. "This Clay's on Fire! Behind the Surprising New Renaissance in Ceramic Art" Artspace, April 17
- Steadman, Ryan. "Bad Fog: Eight Artists in Eddie Martinez's Circle" Whitewall Magazine, February 3
- 2013 Rakowski, Kelly. "Jennie Jieun Lee Ceramicist" Sight Unseen, September 9

Public Collections

The Bunker, West Palm Beach
Compound, Long Beach
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts