

Swim Lessons

Curated by Dasha Aksenova

April 3–May 2, 2026

Zhi Wei Hiu
Bradley Marshall
Montana Simone
Hanna Umin

RAINRAIN

You jump in the pool and it's too deep. Your swim coach lets you loose to thrash around for a minute before taking you back in their arms. Swimming doesn't come naturally. At first, one learns to kick just below the surface to build thrust. Then come the arms, and the particular contortions required to develop speed or lift. Finally, one learns to breathe in sequence, pacing their intake to complement their stroke. These disparate parts connect in one fluid moment when the swimmer feels the water channel perfectly from fingertips to toes and attempts to copy that flow in perpetuity.

The theme of "Swim Lessons" is drawn from a passage of Deleuze's *Difference and Repetition*. In visual art, as in swimming, learning occurs through repeated encounters, until the unknown becomes familiar—understanding cannot be gleaned from the imitation of a model. Similar to the first time one mounts a paddleboard in a lap pool, it is only through a repeated reckoning with the water that one really learns how to carry oneself and swim. We do not learn through the instruction of the teacher, but through an encounter with the waves.

Zhi Wei Hiu, Bradley Marshall, Montana Simone, and Hanna Umin approach their artistic influences as apprentices, channeling each lesson learned into sculptures and installations. In creating this new work, they build active relationships with the rhythms, tensions, and resistances of materials and concepts engaged. By repeating movements and observations in extended loops, they delve deeply into the internal logic of each medium, finding and bending their limits through returning confrontations.

To follow Deleuze's example, the artists decline the simplistic mandate to "do as I say," traditionally offered in basic instruction. Instead, they embrace the ethos of "do with me," repeatedly courting the difference of the object they first picked up from the new, unique form they reiterate upon. This process invites chance, unfamiliarity, and promise into their pieces, diving into encounters like a student jumping into a pool before a lesson.

– Theo Belci and Dasha Aksenova



Zhi Wei Hiu (b. Singapore) is an artist based in New York. She treats analog photography as a vocabulary of events, techniques, chemical processes and industrially produced materials, dissecting and reconstituting its elements into a sculptural dialect. Her sculptures mirror the entanglement of language, image, gesture, object and place in the constitution of memory. Recent exhibitions include Silvered Wake, A Cast Lance at RAINRAIN, Industrial Dry at Jack Barrett, curated by Francesca Altamura, Sin Fatigue at Salma Sarriedine Gallery, and If Silt Saw A Window, When A Wave Flared Blue (with Max Popov) at Putty's Coronation. She received her BFA in Photography from The New School in 2016.

Zhi Wei Hiu
Olhar é o necessário instrumento que,
depois de usado, jogarei fora, 2024
Inscribed glass, silver gelatin print, silverpoint,
cast sterling silver L-hooks, soft silver solder, zinc oxide gesso
8 × 10 × 1/4 in (20.3 × 25.4 × 0.6 cm)
ZWH24MM013



Zhi Wei Hiu
*Looking is the necessary instrument that,
once used, I shall discard*, 2024
nscribed glass, silver gelatin print, silverpoint,
cast sterling silver L-hooks, soft silver solder, zinc oxide gesso
8 × 10 × 1/4 in (20.3 × 25.4 × 0.6 cm)
ZWH24MM014



Zhi Wei Hiu
*Looking is the necessary instrument which,
once used, I shall put aside*, 2024
Inscribed glass, silver gelatin print, silverpoint,
cast sterling silver L-hooks, soft silver solder, zinc oxide gesso
8 × 10 × 1/4 in (20.3 × 25.4 × 0.6 cm)
ZWH24MM015





Zhi Wei Hiu
Untitled (Score), 2026
Silver gelatin print, 4x5 sheet film drying frame,
borosilicate glass, neodymium magnets
4 × 5 × 1/2 in (10.2 × 12.7 × 1.3 cm)
ZWH26SC016



Zhi Wei Hiu
Untitled (Score), 2026
Silver gelatin print, 4×5 sheet film drying frame,
borosilicate glass, neodymium magnets
4 × 5 × 1/2 in (10.2 × 12.7 × 1.3 cm)
ZWH26SC017



Zhi Wei Hiu
Untitled (Score), 2026
Silver gelatin print, 4×5 sheet film drying frame,
borosilicate glass, neodymium magnets
4 × 5 × 1/2 in (10.2 × 12.7 × 1.3 cm)
ZWH26SC018



Zhi Wei Hiu
Untitled (Score), 2026
Silver gelatin print, 4x5 sheet film drying frame,
borosilicate glass, neodymium magnets
4 × 5 × 1/2 in (10.2 × 12.7 × 1.3 cm)
ZWH26SC019





Installation View



Zhi Wei Hiu

Breath, 2026

Exposed 4×5 sheet film, water, encaustic wax, borosilicate glass tube,
steel sphere, 10 sheets of 16×20 silver gelatin paper, breath

Dimensions variable

ZWH26SC020



Zhi Wei Hiu
Breath, 2026
Detail

Montana Simone
Corner Slapper, 2025
Steel, latex, corner, motor
32 × 32 × 12 in (81.3 × 81.3 × 30.5 cm)
MS25SC001



Montana Simone
Corner Slapper, 2025
(documented in motion)





Hanna Umin is an artist based in NYC. She navigates desire, labor, and denial: she desires, she labors, she is denied. In her practice, stylized melodrama magnifies discrepancies between material and referent, precipitating a semantic thunderclap: Hanna Umin examines tragedy and dissociative experience, at one turn with misanthropic pathos, at another with dark humor and performative spite. She was recently included in a group show at Fall River Museum of Contemporary Art, a duo booth with Xxijra Hii at NADA NY, and in a group show Correspondences at François Ghebaly. Umin has had solo exhibitions at mcg21xoxo in Matsudo, Japan; at Love in Manhattan; and at Mole End, in Queens. She has participated in multiple projects with Underground Flower, No Moon, and Gern en Regalia. She received her BFA (honors) from Camberwell College of Art, London in 2013.





Hanna Umin

Saccomazone Players, 2024

Wood, plaster filler, latex paint, oils, shellac, brass, epoxy clay, fingernail clippings

18 x 29 1/2 in (45.7 x 74.9 cm)

HU24MM006



Hanna Umin
Saccomazone Players, 2024
Detail



Hanna Umin
Saccomazone Players, 2024
Detail

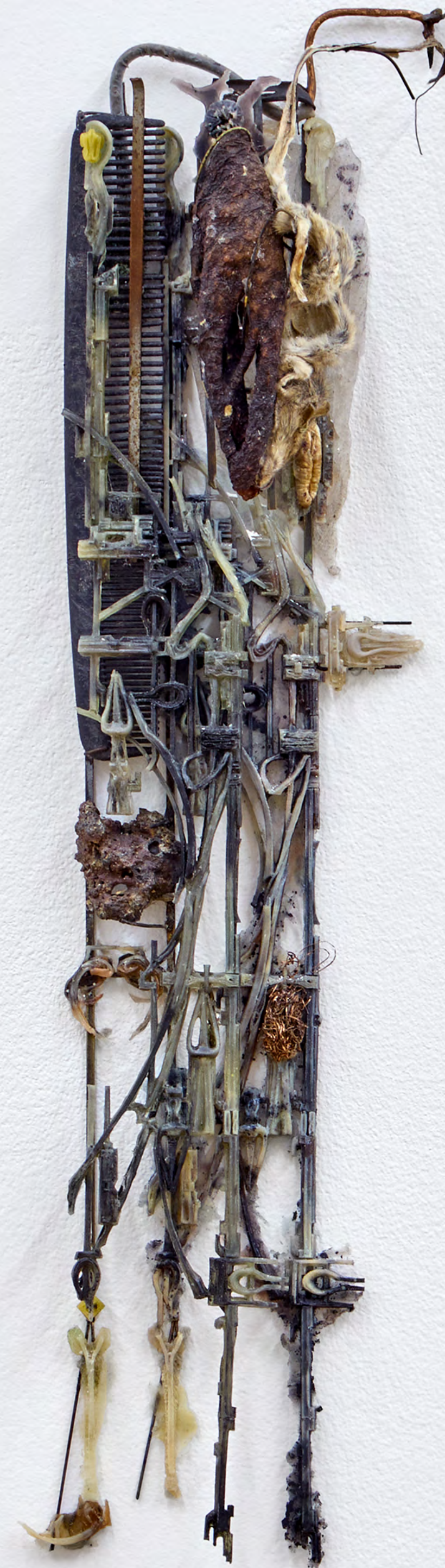
Hanna Umin
Polynices, 2026
Found objects, cast resin, soldered brass
5 1/4 × 3 × 1 in (13.3 × 7.6 × 2.5 cm)
HU26SC001





Installation View

Hanna Umin
Haemon, 2025
Soldered brass, cast resin, found objects, trapped mouse pelt,
vial of the artist's smoker phlegm, artist's blood, fingernail clipping
15 3/4 x 4 1/4 x 2 1/4 in (40 x 10.8 x 5.7 cm)
HU25SC005



Hanna Umin
Sphynx, 2026
Found objects, cast resin, soldered brass, nicotine tar
4 × 1 3/4 × 2 in (10.2 × 4.4 × 5.1 cm)
HU26SC004



Hanna Umin
Seraph, 2025
Found objects, cast resin, soldered brass,
wire, epoxy clay, fingernail clippings
7 × 2 1/2 × 1 1/2 in (17.8 × 6.4 × 3.8 cm)
HU25SC003







Installation View



Bradley Marshall
Waistline and Timeframe, 2025
Sand-blasted steel, stainless steel rigging wire,
powder coated steel, high school ring, epoxy, plastic cup
45 x 29 1/2 x 15 in (114.3 x 74.9 x 38.1 cm)
BM25SC001

Bradley Marshall
Rolltop Adherent, 2024–2025
Sand-blasted steel, bronze, aluminum foot measuring device,
acrylic, vinyl film, sunflower seeds, hardware
18 × 15 1/2 × 12 in (45.7 × 39.4 × 30.5 cm)
BM25SC002





