MACA

媒体垂询
Media Inquiries

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gasp

MACA Art Center, Beijing, China

2026.05.17–08.23

Artist: Michele Chu

Curators: Yang Li, Zhou Chu

From May 17 to August 23, 2026, MACA Art Center presents *gasp*, the first institutional solo exhibition in Mainland China by Hong Kong artist Michele Chu. Co-curated by MACA Associate Curator Li Yang and Assistant Curator Zhou Chu, the exhibition assembles a series of her latest sound sculptures and installations, constructing an immersive field wherein salt serves as the primary medium through which questions of the body, emotion, and the experience of mourning are activated and sustained.

The title *gasp* designates the body's instinctive reaction to intense emotional turbulence or physical exertion—a sound that precedes language, a trace marking emotion's penetration through corporeal form. Working with salt in three distinct states, the artist cuts open a path from skin into bone while negotiating tensions between heaviness and lightness, matter and sensation.

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Ascending to the second floor, visitors first encounter *mass* (2026) in the staircase, where cascading salt curtains graze the head and shoulders, depositing the weight and trace of salt onto the body in a quiet act of ritual marking. Moving deeper into the space, the corridor installation *gasping* (2026) presents the transformation of sea salt crystals as they slowly emerge from fabric fibres and solidify into form. This dimly lit corridor expands and contracts like breath, producing a sense of disorientation and ritual circuit. At the far end of the space, four participatory sound sculptures, *gravestone lullaby i—iv* (2026), invite participants to enter in specific bodily postures. Sound conducts through solid matter, travelling along the bones and weaving through the body's interior, so that as visitors receive the sound, they themselves become part of the work's resonance.

Through these works, Michele Chu converts deeply personal memories into shareable perceptual apparatuses. The exhibition invites audiences to pause within this field composed of salt and breath, to attend to the gasp bursting out through the body and arriving before language can take hold.

Special thanks to the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) for its support of this exhibition.

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About Artist

Michele Chu in her practice explores intimacy and human connection, specifically the interplay between sensory elements and space to amplify emotional connection between individuals. Her works contemplate what makes us human, through mediums like performances, sculptures, multi-sensory installations and public interventions amongst others.

Her work has been shown at 1a Space (Hong Kong); Negative Space (Hong Kong); and Tai Kwun Contemporary (Hong Kong). Her debut solo exhibition at PHD Group, “you, trickling,” was featured in *The New York Times, Artforum, ArtReview Asia, Frieze, Ocula,* and other publications.

She is a recipient of Soundpocket’s Artist Support Program from 2020–21 and was in residence at London’s Delfina Foundation as part of their “Performance as Process” program in 2023.

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About Curators

Yang Li, MACA Associate Curator and Researcher.

Zhou Chu, MACA Assistant Curator and Researcher.

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About MACA

MACA Art Center is a non-profit contemporary art institution housed in a standalone building of minimalistic industrial style and futuristic design in Beijing's 798 Art District, a major hub for arts and culture in the city. Through forward-looking and experimental content, MACA aims to enable communication traversing disciplinary boundaries while forging international dialogues grounded in the specificities of a Chinese perspective. Our programmatic scope, which spans exhibitions, research initiatives, pan-performance practices, and alternative communal engagement, signals a commitment to exploring ideas outside established epistemic frameworks. MACA seeks to position itself as a new institutional mode, proposing an alternative coordinate within the topology of Chinese contemporary art. Through art, we address our radically transforming times.