

**For Immediate Release**  
February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024



*Snail*, 16.25 x 21.625 in, Archival inkjet print

## *Gut Feeling*

March 8 – 20, 2024

Yi Hsuan Lai

**Closing Reception and NARS Entrée Encore series Artist Talk moderated  
by Elise Thompson: Wednesday, March 20, 6-8pm**

**NARS Project Space**

NARS Foundation is pleased to announce *Gut Feeling*, an exhibition featuring the photography and sculptural photographic collages of Yi Hsuan Lai. Drawing from her experience as an immigrant and transplant, Lai uses signifiers of the body to explore themes of adaptation, uncertainty, and femininity through sensual visual language. In her staged photographs, Lai employs discarded and found materials alongside portions of her body to create ambiguous yet evocative assemblages. Bubble wrap, balloons, foam, stockings, flowers, and fabric are arranged precariously, showing their visceral sense of aliveness,

capturing the tension between opposing forces, and referencing bodily sensations such as compression and release.

Utilizing a combination of studio photography and digital collage, Lai creates a series of photographic collages printed on diverse materials such as aluminum, vinyl, nylon lycra, and canvas. These images, cut and layered to reveal their sculptural quality, blur the line between soft and hard forms, flatness, and dimensionality, inviting viewers to explore visual and tactile perception shifts. She meditates on each piece as a bodily vessel, which reveals their interior space physically and psychologically.

While the photography is contained in a rectangular format, Lai extends elements from her images into the gallery space, incorporating eerily sprayed foam flowers scattered on walls or floors. A central crate filled with foam further echoes the bodily quality of her photographic work. Lai's slippery, liminal work traverses boundaries between the constructed and deconstructed, animate and inanimate, transforming disposable materials into bodily and otherworldly representations.

**About the artist:**

**Yi Hsuan Lai** received an MFA in photography from School of Visual Arts in New York City (2020) and in 2023 she received support from NYFA's Immigrant Artist Program. She also received residency fellowships from Light Work in 2024 and Vermont Studio Center in 2023. Her work was among LensCulture's Critics' Top 10 in 2022. Her solo exhibition, *Anonymous Town*, appeared in *SPRING/BREAK Art Show* (New York City, 2020). Group exhibitions include *Portraits Beyond Faces* at the *FLOOR Gallery* (Korea, 2023), *Today is Yesterday's Tomorrow* at the *PH Museum Photo Festival* (Bologna, 2022), *Photo London* (UK, 2023), *If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home By Now* at *Wassaic Project* (Wassaic, NY, 2021), and *Smart Objects, Flattened Images* at *Well Well Project* (Portland, OR, 2022).

---

The NARS Galleries are open Monday - Friday from 12 to 5 pm. For more information please call the office: 718-768-2765 or email [info@narsfoundation.org](mailto:info@narsfoundation.org).

**The New York Art Residency and Studios (NARS) Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization committed to supporting artists and curators on an international level as well as engaging the local community in Brooklyn and the Greater New York area. Our mission is to present diverse platforms on which to nurture creative inspiration and innovative cross-pollination of ideas.



**For Immediate Release**

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024



NARS exhibition programs are made possible in part through the generous support from **the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts** with the support of the **Office of the Governor** and the **New York State Legislature**, and, in part, supported by public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the **City Council**.