



Living Skin presents *Semi-Permeable*,

Meditations on membranes, remembrance and mending, curated by Rose Malenfant & Leah Huang

"In erasing memory, we erase the moral compass of our cells"
-Maria Sabina

Memory is older than our brain.
Stored in DNA and bodies of water we simultaneously poison and ingest,
Our memories are the ancestors of our thoughts.

Memory is inherited but far from fixed nor linear, it evolves alongside and carries all that we cross paths with. In the truths and survival instincts that coexist in us, we contemplate the duality of agency and self healing. In stillness, a rhythm continues. The mechanism of the physical body knows both discernment and integration. And with this knowledge, we witness the anchoring of our memory body as a breeding ground for personal and collective alchemization.

Semi-permeable examines the physical and emotional body as dually an accumulation and filtration system. The show is choreographed around water's ability to remember: how we hold it, and how it moves through our bodies. We question our 70+% liquid composition as stories, beliefs, emotions, and pain, cycled through fluids beneath our flesh.

This group show brings together the works of 12 artists, across various mediums, offering a diverse meditation on the desire for remembrance and mending of private journeys. We are reminded of the intertwining forces of the historical, cultural, political, and physical through works like Romina Chul's "Acaríame Hasta El Aborto" (translated to "caress me until abortion"), where we renew our understanding of the agency for removal as a part of a collective and more-than-human fertility cycle. In Chul's work, rejection is validated as an alternative act of love. As we traverse the blurred boundaries between our private being and the infinite landscape, Montanna Binder's photographic paper brings forth the traces of lived memories in the waterfall of El Salto. With time and light as their medium, Binder asks us to question what it means to create by releasing control. The dialogue with memory presents itself through materiality, process, symbolism, and also representation. Whether it is through personal relic making, acts of surrendering, imprint collecting, or the logic defying reconstruction of the familiar, this collection of works together weave an oscillation between defiance and yielding.

- Leah Huang

Featured Artists:

Montanna Binder

<https://www.bindi.media/contact>

Montanna Binder, b. 1997, is a storyteller based in Taos, New Mexico, who embodies photography to uproot the self and the identity in order to re-shape and re-story how we view divergence and worthiness. Self-taught analog and alternative photographic processes are implemented to explore diverse forms of expression. The artist has exhibited locally and internationally, including Taos, NM; Tuscan, AZ; Bellingham, WA; London, United Kingdom; Sydney, Australia; and Hong Kong.

Hope Buzzelli

<https://www.hopebuzzelli.com/>

Hope Buzzelli (b. 2001) received her Master of Fine Arts in Painting from the New York Academy of Art in 2023 and was the recipient of the Martha and Walter Erlebacher Award. Over the last three years the study of anatomy and exposure to Drexel College of Medicine's Human Gross Anatomy Lab, Buzzelli has fully immersed herself in the aesthetic of scientific and medical illustration. She developed her hatch mark language to describe large-scale "pseudo-medical illustration" drawings based on traditional art practices from the 18th century. Utilizing familiar materials from her childhood, the most sought-after supplies in Hope's practice are colored graphite, ink, markers, raw canvas, and wood. Post graduation Buzzelli has a studio practice in Manhattan NY, in addition to restoring artwork in Florence with Dr. Robertta Lapucci.

Romina Chuls

<https://www.rominachuls.com/>

Romina Chuls (1991, Lima) is a researcher and multidisciplinary artist. Her work focuses on postcolonial gender issues in Peru and Latin America, topics related to androcentric memory, gender violence, and sexual and reproductive practices. She holds an M.A. in Arts Politics from NYU as well as a B.A in Fine Arts from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru. In 2021 she was granted the AAUW International Fellowship to support her studies at NYU and her research on anti-colonial pregnancy

interruption practices. Her work has been exhibited in group and solo exhibitions across the U.S and internationally. Chuls has also led embroidery workshops as part of her project Qué Rico Menstruo in Lima, Oaxaca, and New York.

Chris Grand

[Instagram @chrisgrand](#)

Chris Grand is a multidisciplinary artist from New York, based in Brooklyn. His work centers around examining African-American culture's creativity in response to power structures, labor, and addiction. He has exhibited at the Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery and works with the Art Students League of New York. He currently practices sculpturally through the use of colorful but recognizable objects from everyday life such as laundry cups, lotto tickets, marbles, duct tape and sugar. Grand has also created installations as part of pop up events throughout Brooklyn and Manhattan, collaborating in spaces that intersect art, food, fashion and music.

Emma Hines

<https://www.emmahinesart.com/>

Emma Hines is a Hudson Valley based painter. Raised in New York, Hines was dedicated to observing the world around her. She spends a great deal of time meticulously studying the shapes and movements of water, earth, and sky. Water is her eternal muse, and Hines finds a great deal of poetry in the idea that the bodies of humans, animals and rivers are all integral parts of the universal cycle. Her art rejects simple binaries and embraces the queer visual manifestations of the relationship between matter and energy, evolving outside of our linear understanding. Hines received BFA at the State University of New York at New Paltz and has exhibited work in New Paltz, Poughkeepsie, Troy, Warwick and Greenlawn, New York.

Leah Huang

leah-huang.com

Leah Huang is a self taught, Chinese born American artist living and working in Brooklyn, NY. Huang came to painting through her career in fashion and practice in

analog photography. With photography still being an integral part of her practice, she developed a visual language that has reverted itself back onto the most primitive medium of paper. Working mostly intuitively, her paintings embed an array of private symbolism and seemingly recognizable forms, suggesting contradictions and the unresolved zones of life. As a woman, a somewhat-foreign person, and an abandoner of the conventional path, Huang's work explores the psychological space between desire and fear. This process oriented practice reflects a redemptive attempt to shift from the anchor of responsibility to a north star of radical self honesty. Huang's work has been included in group exhibitions throughout NYC and the tri-state area, and is also in private collections across the U.S.

Terra Keck

<https://terrakeck.com/>

Terra Keck is an artist and performer based out of the United States, currently with a studio practice in Brooklyn, NY. Keck's paintings extract elements of mythology, folklore and witchcraft in their relationship to history, identity and contemporary politics. The paintings' meditative atmosphere seeps into the distinctively personal iconographies that feel eerily familiar. Keck is part of permanent collections in Italy, Japan, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Hawaii, as well as several university collections in the U.S. She is a founding member of the international artist collective GRRIC Contemporary, an experimental art space, happening, omnipotence. of mythology, folklore and witchcraft in its relationship to history, identity and contemporary politics.

Weihui Lu

<https://www.weihuilu.com/>

Weihui Lu is a Chinese American artist based in Queens, NY.

Lu is interested in our relationship to time, land, and loss. Using the framework of traditional Chinese landscape painting in a contemporary context, her work explores translucency and ancestral memory, image reproduction and degradation, and the land itself as something alive and prescient, capable of grief as much as we are capable of empathy.

Moving between painting, printmaking, and installation, Lu seeks to create experiences rooted in body and space. She is drawn to slow, craft-based processes, both as a mode of restoration and healing, and an alternative to the digital speed of modern-day image production and consumption.

Lu's work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions across the U.S. She was most recently the 2024 recipient of the Bard Graduate Fellowship and 2023 recipient of the Santa Fe Art Institute BIPOC Award.

Rose Malenfant

<https://www.rosemalenfant.com/>

Rose Malenfant is a multidisciplinary artist, educator and curator from New York, based in Brooklyn. Her sculptural practice is material and process oriented, centered in recovering rhythms of the body and environment. Her work investigates cycles, repetition and preservation, extracting ritual from compulsion, and examining industrialization's imprint on women's lineage in her family. Malenfant works experimentally, using her body or the earth as armature to realize sculptures through nylon pantyhose, bioplastic, silicone, gravity and time. Malenfant is an artist in residence at Textile Art Center AIR cycle 16. Her work has been exhibited by galleries throughout New York and internationally. She has received awards from The Art Students League of New York and the International Society of Experimental Artists. Rose is a member of the Textile Study Group of New York, an alumni of The Alternative Art School and SUNY New Paltz where she studied Visual Art and Visual Arts Education. Malenfant was a recipient of Beam Center's Artist in Residency on Governors Island where she continues to work mentoring young artists through hands-on collaborative projects.

Defne Tutus

mirabile-visu.com

Defne Tutus is an artist, writer and curator based in Brooklyn, New York. She received her B.A. in Art History from Tufts University. She also studied fashion design at FIT, fiber art and metal working at SVA and participated for many semesters in NYC Crit Club. She makes clothing for witches, mythical beasts and the afterlife. Mixing fiber, beads, rocks, metal, plastic and hair together through textile making techniques, she builds a panoply of garments to provoke contemplation about the owner. A fragile animal body imbued with strange, unnameable powers is unveiled. Tutus has shown her work across group exhibitions in the NYC metropolitan region. She is a co-founder of art and literary journal Passing Notes and artist-run gallery TEMPEST in Ridgewood, Queens.

Jaleeca Yancy

<https://www.jrydesigns.net/>

Jaleeca R. Yancy (b.1990) is a contemporary artist working with mixed media, paper, and textiles. From Memphis, Tennessee, she currently lives and works in New York. Her abstract compositions are rooted in experimentation, radical imagination, and sustainability. She creates contemplative work prompted by self-identity, black culture, and mythology informed by history, literature, music, and spirituality. Her works have been exhibited at Knowhere Art Gallery, The National Art Club, Bronx Art Space, Superchief Gallery, Tone Memphis, and Urèvbu Contemporary. She has created public art murals for The Harlem Community Fridge supporting mutual aid for food insecurity, Paint Memphis, and Uptown Grand Central: Grand Scale Mural Project in Harlem. Yancy was an artist in residence with Art Crawl Harlem Studio Residency on Governors Island and Ma's House based on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation in Southampton, New York. She premiered her first public sustainability sculpture with West Harlem Art Fund, and she's currently an artist in residence at LMCC on Governors Island.

Yeqin Zhu

<https://www.yeqinzhu.info/>

Yeqin Zhu was born in Taishan, China (1986), to farmers who met in the factories of Shenzhen city. Immigrating to NYC in 1990, he grew up in a house with a lush village-style backyard garden in the cosmopolitan streets of Sunset Park, Brooklyn. These histories propel him; their currents—manufacture and gardening, belonging and displacement, spirit and material—create a forest of split roads that fold over, burrowing and resurfacing. Zhu adapts painting's contemporary tendency to capture abstract and representational themes of identity, spirituality, and emotion, while fusing relief elements belonging to the domain of sculpture—which is more based in material reality. At the core of Zhu's creative universe lies a profound understanding, that beliefs are nomads. Zhu has had solo exhibitions across the U.S in both NYC and LA. Additionally, designed two large-scale public art installations in New Hampshire and Governors Island, NY. Zhu is a founding and leading member of Haven Arts Park (2020-2023), whose mission is to remediate a contaminated land into a healing-garden art-park.

