

GRACE SACHI TROXELL

MFA 2021

INTRODUCTION BY Z. CECILIA LU

Untitled (Moss) and *Untitled (Carrots)* are rife with play, granting bodily forms to the earthly and vegetal, transforming the organic into something both human and alien. Standing around human height, *(Moss)* and *(Carrots)* and their materialized metaphors surface questions of birth, growth, aging, and decay, but do so by residing in the messy in-betweens rather than in binaries. *(Moss)*'s lumpy body, insufficient bib, and aided defecation could be the signs and needs of a newborn — or of an elder. Just as *(Moss)* considers the cyclicity of aging, *(Carrots)*'s stove-like belly, pregnant with vegetables, and its self-penetrative headdress of erect squashes ponder a language of reproduction and nurture.

As much as these bodies hold human indicators, they are also of the earth. From the clay surface that cracks like dry soil fissures in the summer to the organic materials of moss, carrot pulp, and slip-cast homegrown vegetables, *(Moss)* and *(Carrots)* ask us what it means to anthropomorphize. They draw connections between planet and inhabitant, shrinking the growing contemporary distance between ourselves and the earth.

Although *(Moss)* and *(Carrots)* are sourced from familiar material, Troxell's sorcery is one of transformation: ground carrots and moss become a new surface, terra, and skin for these otherworldly bodies. We are forced to confront our environment from a new perspective, and with immediacy. As our envoys, *(Carrots)* and *(Moss)* prompt us to behold the lumpy, halved, and seamed together vegetables as beautiful. Theirs are proud bodies, standing upright with shoulders un-hunched. The textured imperfection, anti-artificiality, and anti-sleekness are what construe these sculptures as living, and this earth as worthy.



Grace Sachi Troxell
Untitled (Moss), 2021
unfired no shrink clay, slipcast clay vegetables,
moss, buttermilk, steel
61 x 34 x 34 inches



Untitled (Carrots), 2021
unfired no shrink clay, slipcast clay vegetables,
carrots, turmeric, lemon, ginger, steel
74 x 30 x 30 inches