

CLIMATE CONTROL

A Tale of Love



Lucia Aguilar, Jasmine Zhang, Tracy Ren,
Austin Leong, Daniel Castro, Akiko Neumann,
Emelie Luostarinen, Yiliu Teng, Clara Li,
Nicolás Colón, and Anne Lesley Selcer

A Tale of Love

October Twenty-Fifth,
Two Thousand Twenty-Four

A group exhibition

with

Lucia Aguilar, Jasmine Zhang,
Tracy Ren, Austin Leong, Daniel
Castro, Akiko Neumann, Emelie Luo-
starinen, Yiliu Teng, Clara Li, Nicolás
Colón, and Anne Lesley Selcer

with a text by

Emily K. Small

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2831 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA

A Tale of Love began with a drum ceremony led by Daniel Castro. As he prepared for the ceremony, he called in the spirit of the gallery, and it gave him a message: “Share the wisdom of your present reality.” Since then, we have been working with this message in mind.

We should also let you know, our exhibitions have begun to blend together, as we try and conceive of them without hard stops or defined beginnings. It is a process of weaving, exploring whether new formats and new ways of supporting one another can forge more durable and expansive worlds. In this process, we have found it helpful to remember the artists and artworks that have made lasting impacts on us individually and in the life of the gallery. For this group exhibition, we draw inspiration from “A Tale of Love” (1998), a film by Trinh T. Minh Ha, which was a central piece in Climate Control’s inaugural exhibition, “Rosewater” (2023).

As you can see, we have taken Minh-ha’s title as the title for our exhibition, but not only. With an eye on not making a cage, we have kept her near by.

This show captures, in an almost documentary style—but not quite—a snapshot of some of the most exciting artists we have encountered in the SF Bay Area over the last year. Intuitively assembled based on what has been on our minds: how a group of artists, a community maybe, might complement one another to create new spaces for exploration. Also, we could not think of a better title for an exhibition at this moment.

Jasmine Zhang’s work from her proceeding exhibition *I Dream of Finding a Lotus Pond*, has been woven into this new iteration. Here is a link to the exhibition information on our [website](#).

[Read full narrative exhibition text by Emily K. Small.](#)



Exhibiting Artists

Lucia Aguilar (b. 1997, Santa Cruz, CA) is a Bay Area-based multidisciplinary artist. Her practice entails mainly oil and acrylic painting and branches into music, video, sewing, and animation. Since graduating from CCA with a BFA in Painting and Drawing she has been included in shows at galleries such as Et al., Climate Contro, Minnesota Street Projects, and Adobe Books. Pop culture as well as spiritual/other-worldly experiences are used as inspiration for her surrealist and post-impressionistic pictures.

Nicolás Colón (b. 1982, San Francisco, CA) is a multidisciplinary artist that began showing internationally in 2013 while living in Mexico City. In 2023 he moved back to San Francisco, his childhood home, and opened Climate Control/Being in life without wanting the world/FEAR, a contemporary art gallery and exhibition space.

Emelie Luostarinen (b. 1987, Stockholm, Sweden) is a visual artist working between Helsinki and Stockholm. Her artistic practice includes painting and sculpture. The works are often autobiographical with a traceable narrative. Most recently, her work has been shown at MEGA foundation in Stockholm, gallery re.riddle in San Francisco and gallery TM in Helsinki. She holds a master's degree in Visual Arts from the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki (2020).

Austin Leong (b. 1990, Los Angeles) is a Chinese-American photographer based in Oakland, CA. Leong's work has been featured and reviewed in The Atlantic, The New York Times, Open Space (SFMOMA), and the San Francisco Examiner. His exhibitions include "With Soft Eyes" alongside Adrian Martinez and Henry Wessel at the Center for Photographic Art, "Looking Forward: Ten Years of Pier 24 Photography" at Pier 24, and his solo "A Wonderful Offer" at Climate Control. His photos are in the collections of SFMOMA, The Asian Art Museum, and Pier 24 Photography. He is also co-director of Book and Job Gallery, a photographer-run studio,

darkroom, and gallery space in San Francisco.

Yiliu Teng (b.1996, Shanghai) is a painter and writer, currently works and lives in San Francisco. Her paintings focus on portraits of female figures, mostly origins from fashion magazines, in thinking of the relation between fashion and death to have a critique on the essence of vanity in current social context. Teng chooses to use expressive color palette and heavy brush strokes which echo to the vitality in lives. Teng received her MFA from California College of the Arts and is a current MA candidate in Visual and Critical Studies at CCA.

Jasmine Zhang (b.1996, Shanghai) Jasmine is an interdisciplinary artist based in Oakland, California. She critically examines postmodern structures and categories—particularly contemporary language, ideas, and ideologies—while also employing these frameworks to pose her questions. Jasmine is driven to push boundaries in contemporary art, believing that one idea can seamlessly transform into another form. She contends that artists do not create but discover. Her primary intention remains to connect with individuals, illuminate their hearts, and remind her audiences of their true selves. Receiving her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2020, her work has been featured at institutions such as The Lab, Di Rosa Art Center, and Minnesota Street Project, and exhibited both domestically and internationally in cities such as Chengdu, Suzhou, London, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Milan. Jasmine believes in reincarnation.



Daniel Castro (b. 1987, Paterson, CA) is an Art Director, a design innovator, and a storyteller—a figure of empathy in the world of creation. His leadership possesses a unique magic, one that inspires his teams to look beyond the obvious, to uncover the subtle narratives woven through their work. In this way, they craft experiences that resonate with timelessness, adapting with grace to the ever-shifting landscapes around them.

Tracy Ren (b.1991, St. Louis, MO) is a multidisciplinary artist, maker, and educator based in Detroit, MI. Ren utilizes art-making as a potent form of spiritual, cultural, and ancestral way-finding. They call most often on natural materials for their energetic or tactile richness while utilizing craft processes for their inherent poeticism. When in the studio, Ren works quickly and intuitively following periods of deep research. Many of the forms found in their work can be traced back to traditional Chinese practices in, for instance, mysticism, mythology, cosmology, architecture, art, and herbalism. They have presented work in galleries such as Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Pt. 2 Gallery, Jessica Silverman Gallery, Wing On Wo & Co, Tiger Strikes Asteroid LA, and the Berkeley Art Center. Currently, Ren is pursuing an MFA in Sculpture at Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Clara Li (b. 2004, New York, NY) was raised in Beijing, is currently pursuing a BA in Art Practice and Rhetoric at UC Berkeley. An interdisciplinary artist and thinker, she investigates social constructions of meaning, using sculpture to explore the liminal space between sign and signifier. Her cross-continental background prompts a continual renegotiation of sociocultural meanings—linguistic, moral, and emotional—leading her to scrutinize the only certainty: the physical. Li's work has been shown at Climate Control Gallery in San Francisco. She has worked as a studio assistant for Roxy Paine, a research assistant for Darcy Grigsby, and currently assists scholar Winnie Wong.

Akiko Neumann (b. 1992, Woodacre, CA) is a visual artist and writer working in book arts. Her recent books “The Windy Day” (2024) and “Mouse Stories” (2023) are housed in the SFMOMA Library Collection. Akiko lives and works in San Francisco.

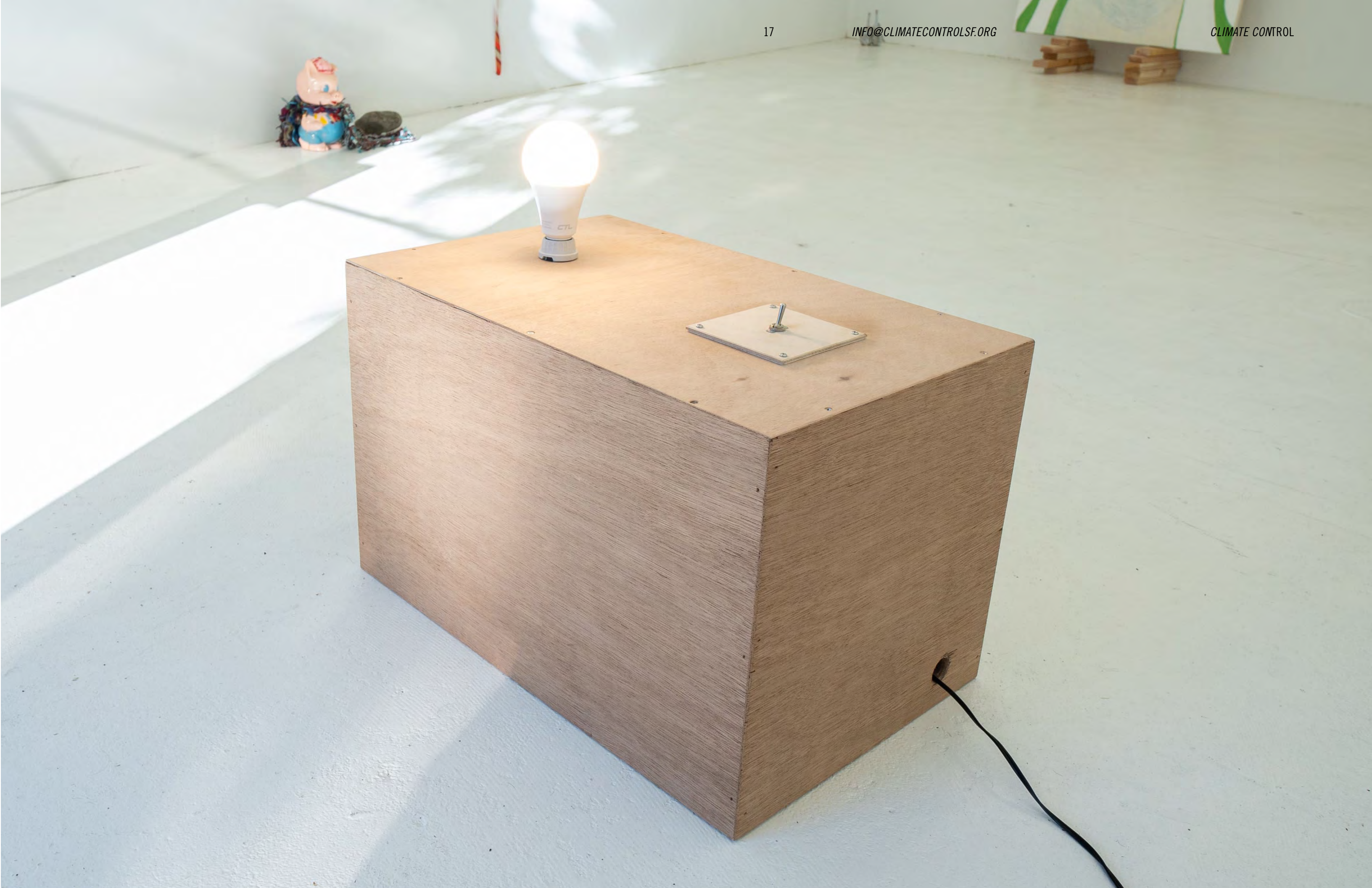
Anne Lesley Selcer (Aka Deep Strawberry) is a writer and artist. Their books include *Sun Cycle* and *Blank Sign Book*. Poetry appears widely in literary magazines including *Baest*, *Fence*, *Annulet*, *Prelude* and *The Chicago Review* among others. Writing on art has been commissioned internationally for art catalogs and artist monographs. Work has appeared at International Short Film Festival Oberhausen, The Moscow International Experimental Film Festival, The Berkeley Art Museum and other spaces. Their writing is collected in multiple anthologies, and poetry criticism can be found in *Jacket2*, *Formes Poétiques Contemporaines* and SFMOMA's Open Space. They have been awarded the CSU Poetry Center Book Prize and The Gazing Grain Prize, in addition to the Southern Exposure Art Writing Fellowship, among other honors.











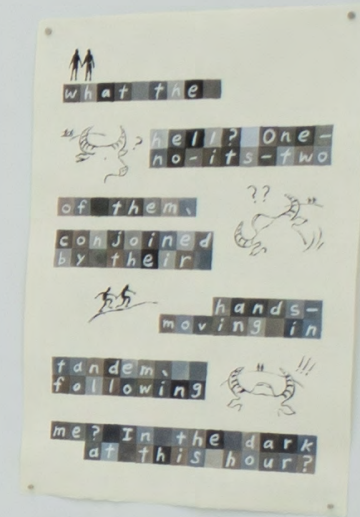
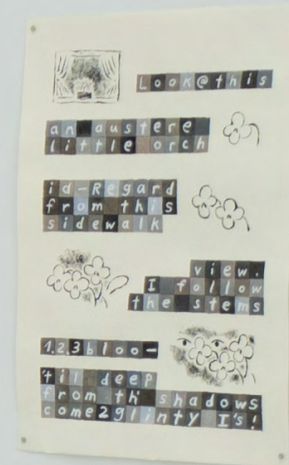






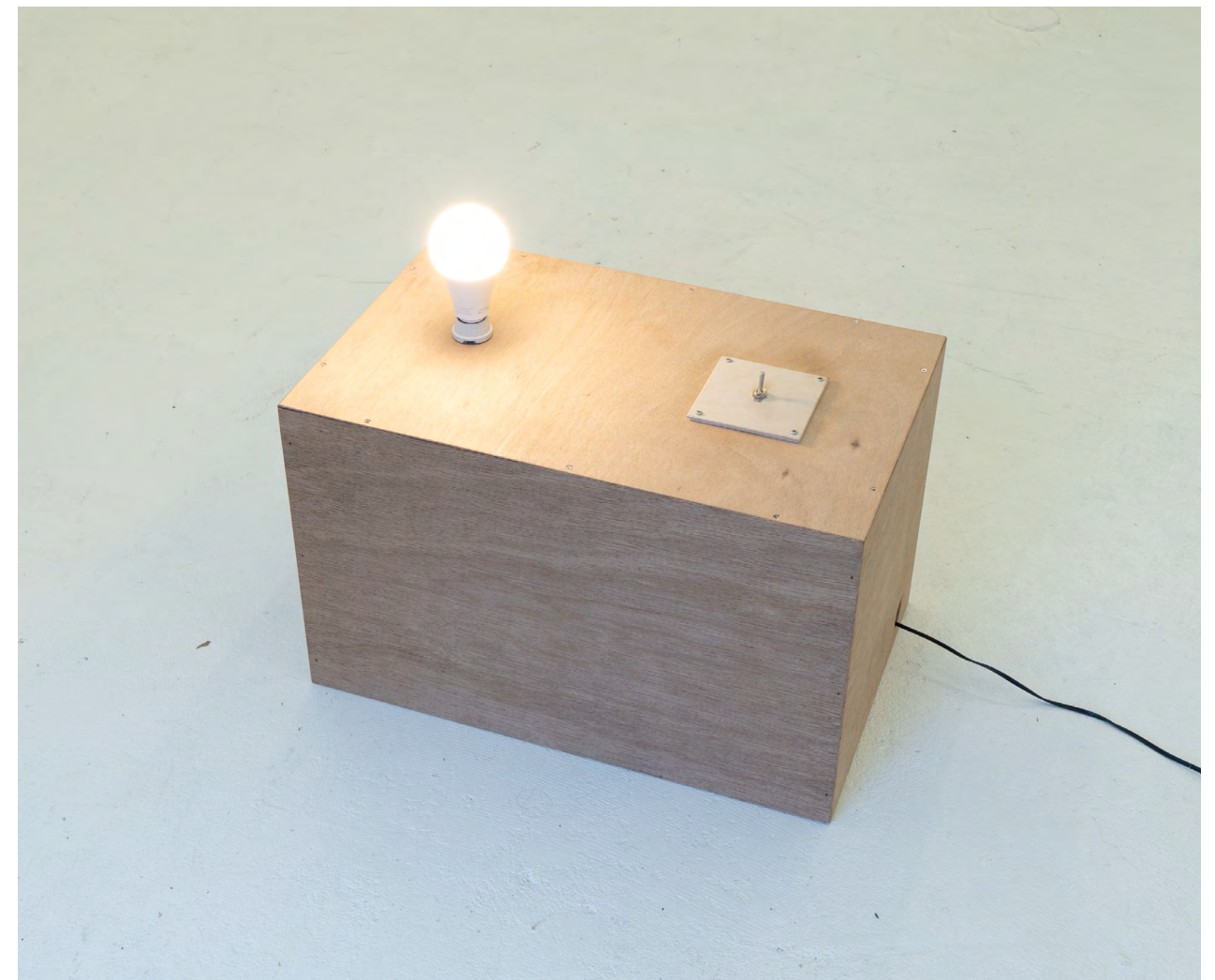








Jasmine Zhang
I dream about finding a lotus pond, 2023
wooden Buddha head, piggy bank, crochet, stone
127 x 78 x 12 inches (dimensions variable)



Jasmine Zhang
Shine for you, 2024
wood box, light bulb, switch
19 x 24 x 15 inches



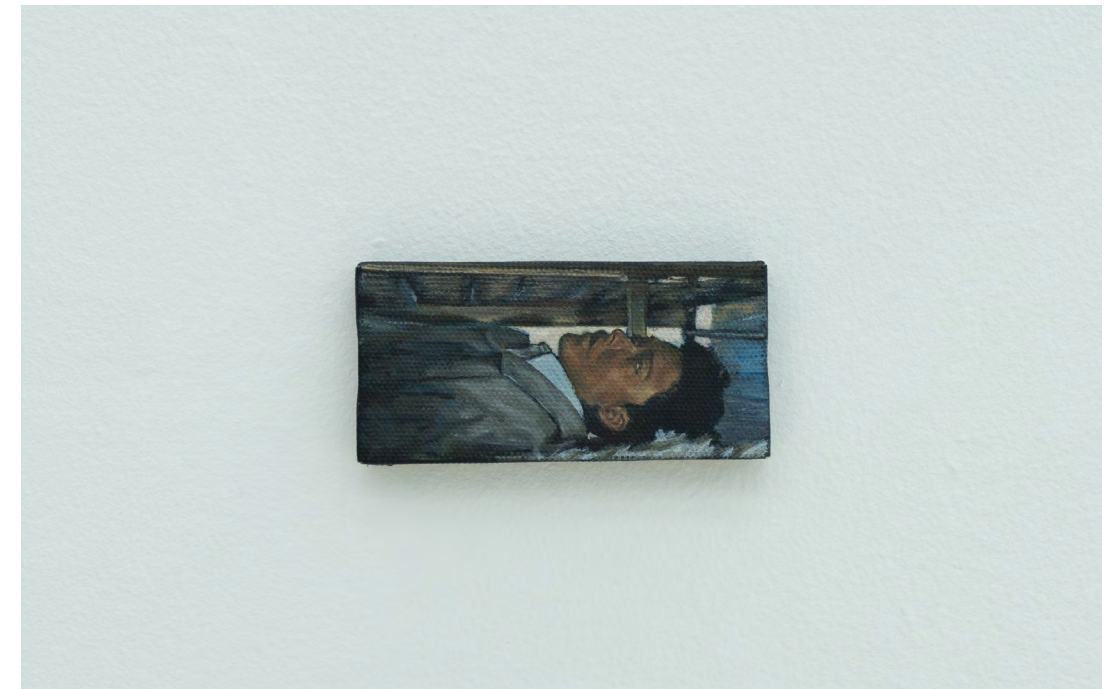
Nicolás Colón
Shining, 2020-24
 Oil on canvas
 70 x 50 inches



Nicolás Colón
A Tale of Love, 2024 (detail)
 46 unique 35mm prints
 402 x 8 x 2 inches (dimensions variable)



Yiliu Teng
untitled (together), 2023
oil on canvas
2 x 4 inches each



Yiliu Teng
untitled (together), 2023
oil on canvas
2 x 4 inches



Yiliu Teng
untitled (face), 2023
acrylic on canvas
16 x 12 inches



Yiliu Teng
untitled (faces), 2023
acrylic on canvas
16 x 12 inches



Anne Lesley Selcer (with Courage, Sally Decker, Evan Kennedy, Sadie Greyduck, Mei-mei Berssenbrugge, Juliana Huxtable, Paul Ebenkamp, Jude Browning, Joseph Mosconi, Stephanie Barber, DROUGHT SPA, and Cy Ozgood).

Sky Will Learn Sky, 2024

Digital audio, 48:17 min.

[Available through CST Imprint](#)



Emelie Luostarienen

Steel, 2024

Watercolor, acrylic, and salt on canvas

97 x 9 inches



Tracy Ren
Vibrations of a Circular Membrane, 2024
four panels of distorting mirrors, white out pen
58 x 58 x 1.75 inches



Tracy Ren
Hand in Hand, 2022
Ceramic, glaze
10 x 7 x 4 inches



Austin Leong
untitled, 2024
Silver gelatin print
11 x 14 inches
Edition of 5



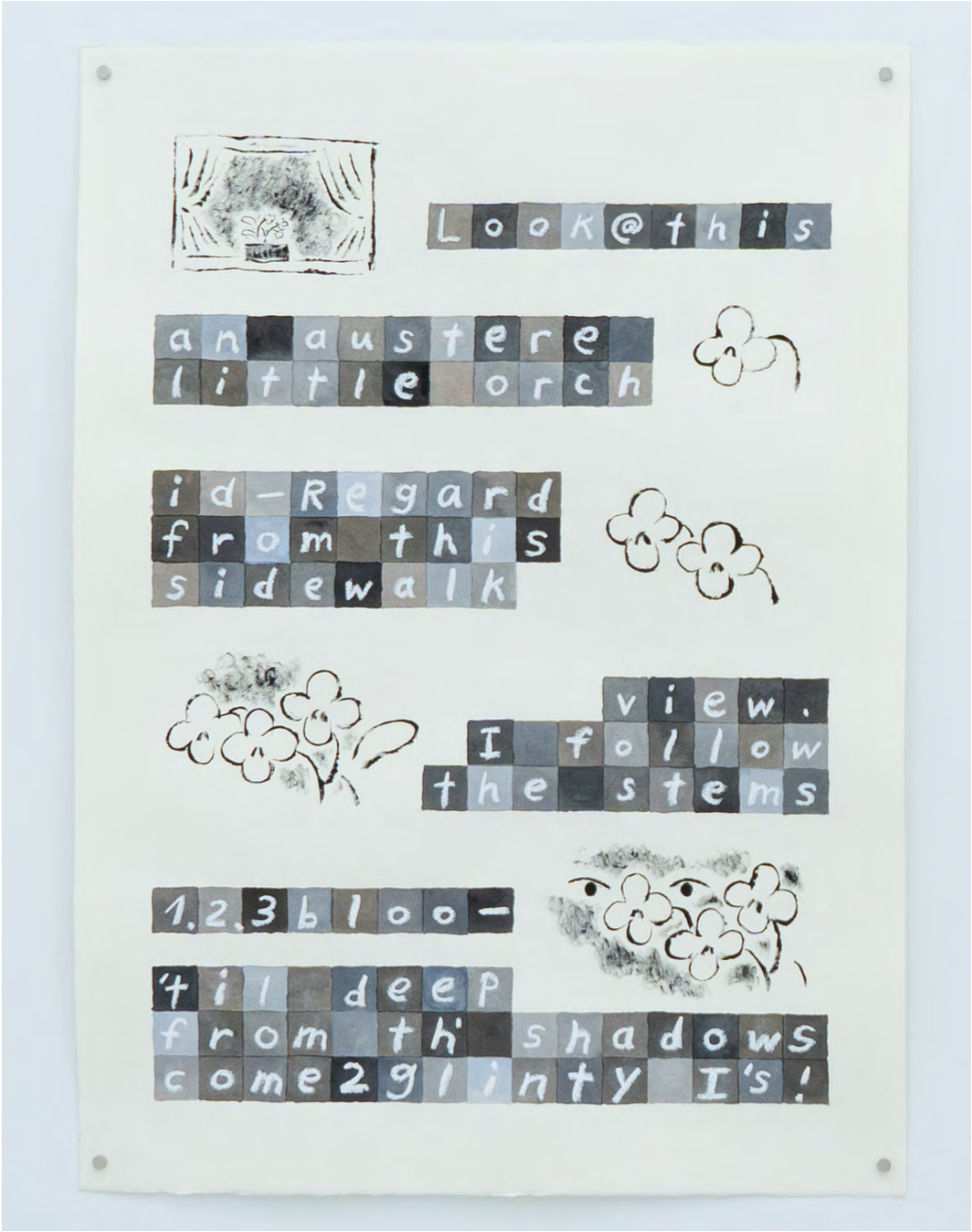
Austin Leong
untitled, 2024
Silver gelatin print
14 x 11 inches
Edition of 5



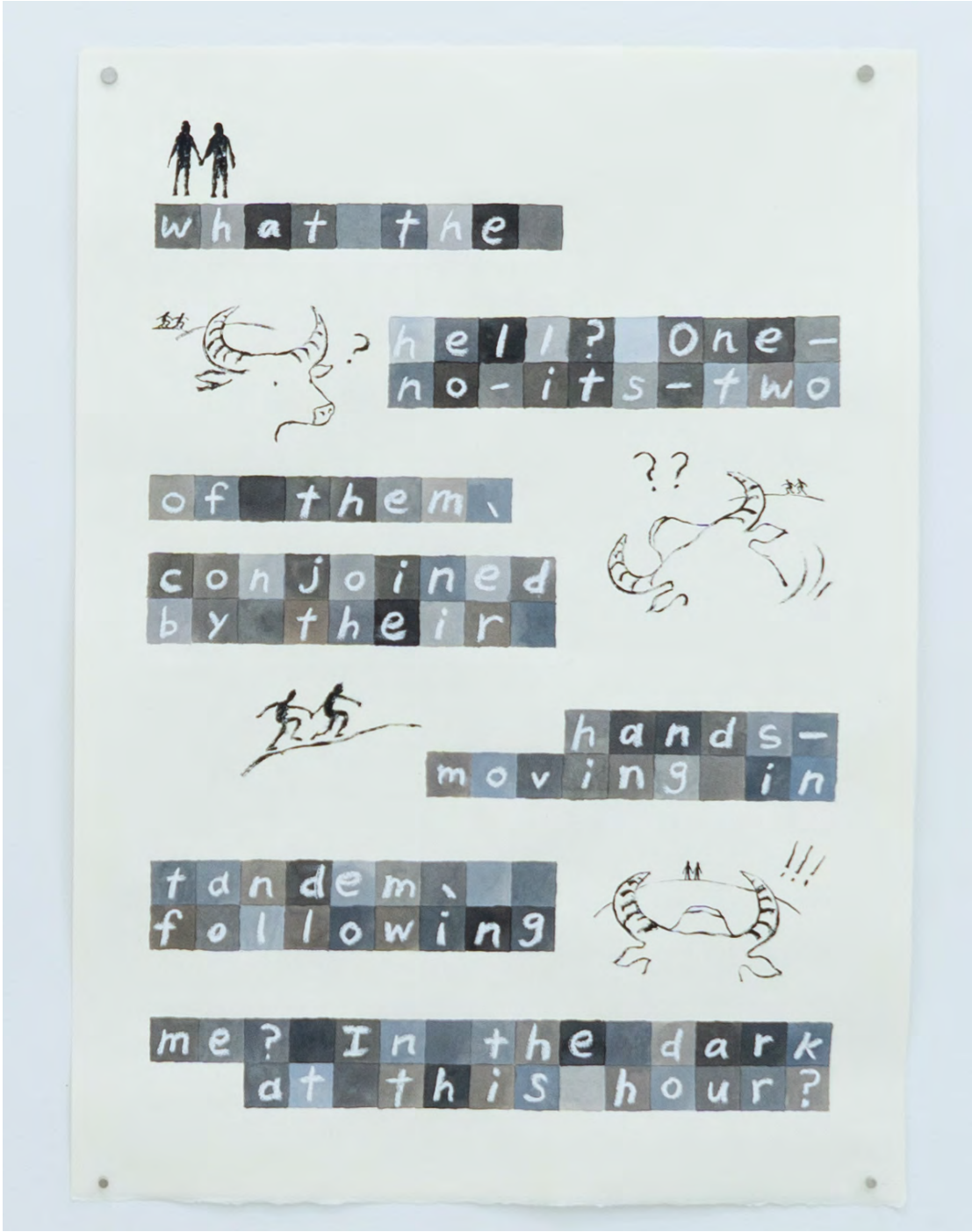
Lucia Aguilar
Fish, 2024
Oil on canvas
20 x 24 inches



Lucia Aguilar
Venus of (Willendorf) My Bedroom, 2024
Oil on canvas
28 x 37 ½ inches



Akiko Neumann
Orchid 1, 2024
Gouache and oil pastel on paper
26 x 19 inches



Akiko Neumann
Bull 1, 2024
Gouache and oil pastel on paper
26 x 19 inches (each)



Clara Li
Where What How?, 2024 (detail)
wire, unfired ceramic
124 x 240 x 16 inches (dimensions variable)



Clara Li
Where What How?, 2024
wire, unfired ceramic
124 x 240 x 16 inches (dimensions variable)



Clara Li
Self Care, 2024 (detail)
unfired ceramic
dimensions variable



Clara Li
Dance, 2024
rebar, plaster, orange peel
72 x 62 x 45 inches (dimensions variable)

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2024