

Thomas Erben Gallery



Unfurled

*Opal Ecker DeRuvo, Kara Güt, Sharon Yaoxi He,
Fiza Khatri, Andreia Santana*

July 13 - August 4, 2023

Opening reception: Thursday, July 13, 6 - 8 PM

Thomas Erben Gallery is pleased to present *Unfurled*, an exhibition of works by Opal Ecker DeRuvo, Kara Güt, Sharon Yaoxi He, Fiza Khatri, and Andreia Santana, curated by Anthony Terzino, on view from July 13 through August 4, 2023. Embracing a wide range of mediums from photography, video, painting, and sculpture, *Unfurled* explores the notion of history as a fluid, non-formalized entity. How might individual positions illuminate the ebb and flow of history to upend existing structures – or at the very least, devise a way out? Attention is drawn to the politics of subjectivity and knowing as they intersect with objects, bodies, and spiritual entities.

Opal Ecker DeRuvo uses lasers, frequency generators, and strobe lights to question photography's role in structuring scientific knowledge and the collapsing of subjects into flattened identities in order to perform new gender subjectivities.

Kara Güt mixes image-based and digital media into virtual worlds to shape new forms of human intimacy. Using the mod "Immersive Lover's Comfort" by flexcreator, Güt distorts the intended narrative of a role-playing game, opening up a multiplicity of identities that are possible at any given moment, and in any given character.

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Meticulously constructed, **Sharon Yaoxi He's** abstract paintings reveal and simultaneously conceal spatialities translated from Chinese landscape painting in a continued unfolding of architectural space, gesturing to what a painting never captures, never knows, and never can show.

Informed by the ethos and politics of feminist and queer space-making in Pakistan, **Fiza Khatri's** paintings draw from taxidermy specimens found in museum ethnographies as well as poetic and sacred traditions to construct new fictions between the invented and the real.

Andreia Santana's glass sculptures, cast from relics, debris, and wildlife affixed onto scaffold-like structures, appropriate techniques of archaeology to draw attention to the forgotten. Additionally, her ironed-out fish glue sculptures explore the use of this material and associated ritual practices that link the real to the supernatural.

Together these positions converge in a choreography of movements, each conjuring new possibilities.

Opal Ecker DeRuvo is a transfeminine transdisciplinary artist. Their work has been shown at Childs Gallery and the Rivers Academy, both Massachusetts; The Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Connecticut; Boys Club, Berlin; The Westmoreland Museum of Art, Pennsylvania, Jeffrey Deitch, New York; and the International Print Center of New York. They received an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale University, and has completed residencies at Atelier Circulaire, Montreal; and Ateliers im Alten Schlachthof, Germany.

Kara Güt is a multidisciplinary artist whose primary focus is image-based, digital media. Her work has been shown at Hybrid Box; Hellerau European Centre for the Arts, Dresden; Hesse Flatow, New York; Las Cigarreras Cultural Centre, Alicante; Azkuna Zentroa, Alhóndiga Bilbao; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit among others. She received an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and is an alumni of Pioneer Works Tech Residency, the SPACES artist residency, and the Banff Visual + Digital Art residency. Kara lives and works in Ohio.

Fiza Khatri was born and grew up in Karachi, Pakistan. Their work has been shown at Jhaveri Contemporary; The Clemente Center and Olympia Gallery (both New York); IVS Gallery, Karachi; Lahore Biennale Collateral; The Research and Publication Centre, Lahore; and New York Studio School. They received an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale University.

Sharon Yaoxi He is a Canadian painter born in China. She received a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art + Design and is currently an MFA candidate at Columbia University.

Andreia Santana is an artist living and working in New York. Santana received a MFA in Studio Art at Hunter College - City University of New York with a Fulbright/Fundação Carmona e Costa Grant, and a degree from ESAD - Caldas da Rainha and is an alumni of the Independent Study Program at the Maumaus School in Lisbon. Her work has been shown at CCB, Lisbon; Serralves Contemporary Art Museum, Porto; MAAT, Lisbon; In Extenso, Clermont-Ferrand; CIAJG, Guimarães; Hangar, Lisbon; Generali Milano, Milan; MACE Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas, Elvas; Galeria Filomena Soares, Lisbon; Porto Municipal Gallery, Porto; UNA, Milan; Peninsula Art Space, New York; Galerias Municipais de Lisboa - EGEAC, Lisbon; Chiado 8, Lisbon; Culturgest, Porto/Lisbon; La Nave; Madrid, Hunter College Galleries, New York among others.