

A.I.R.

Scab **Xinyi Liu**

March 16–April 14, 2024

Opening reception: Saturday, March 16, from 6–8pm

GALLERY II



A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Scab*, an exhibition of new work by 2023–2024 Fellow Xinyi Liu. At the heart of the exhibition is a tactile exploration of wounds and recovery, materialized in an installation featuring disposable facial wipes transformed into expansive wall hangings.

Xinyi Liu, *Sacrifice*, 2023. Disposable wipes, acrylic, packaging bubble, trash bag, staple. 130 x 30 x 40 inches.

During quarantine, Liu began collecting the disposable wipes that she and female friends and family used to clean their faces and remove their makeup. Her daily ritual of preserving and dyeing these disposable wipes, imprinting them with the essence of her skin, serves as a tangible chronicle of human resilience, as well as a symbol of the connection between everyday femininity, domesticity, and fragility. The metamorphosis of these wipes into a canvas becomes a poignant metaphor, reflecting the transient nature of life in the face of global environmental crisis and the inevitable generation of waste during the pandemic.

Also included in the exhibition are works created with mulberry paper, selected for its thin and silky resemblance to human skin. Through meticulous treatments such as imprinting, ripping, wetting, and unfolding with hand pressure, the paper undergoes a transformative process, becoming a canvas for unexpected textures, veins, and patterns unique to the individual—a metaphorical “surgery” breathing new life into materials. At the same time, the muted palette employed in these works mirrors the color of dead skin, evoking the scabs and scars of a healing process.

Xinyi Liu works with mulberry paper and disposable wipes, which resonate with the thin and silky quality of human skin. She creates works that metaphorically mimic the processes of treating wounds to heal. Through her “medical” manipulation, they become her “second skin.” Like a doctor, she does surgeries for her work. She received her BA and BFA from Cornell University and her MFA from Columbia University. She is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University and Syracuse University.

The artist’s work has been exhibited at A.I.R. Gallery, New York, NY; ChaShaMa, New York, NY; YveYANG Gallery, New York, NY; Visual Arts Center, Nantucket, MA; Salón Acme, Mexico; Lenfest Center for the Arts, New York, NY; Half Gallery, New York, NY; CAFA Art Museum, Beijing; CAA Art Museum, Hangzhou; China Printmaking Museum, Shenzhen; EDA Art Space, Shenzhen; Olive Tjaden Gallery, Ithaca, NY; John Hartell Gallery, Ithaca, NY; Mann Library Gallery, Ithaca, NY; Palazzo Santacroce, Rome; Euroasian Art Gallery, Paris; Jugendkunstschule Pankow, Berlin.

A.I.R. Gallery is wheelchair accessible via ramp. There are accessible toilets in the venue. There is comfortable seating with backs. Free tap water is available. The venue is nearest to the F train at York St (0.2 miles) and the A train at High St (0.5 miles). The nearest wheelchair accessible trains is the B, Q, R at Dekalb Av (1.1 miles) and the 2, 3 at Borough Hall (0.8 miles). The roads immediately surrounding the gallery are cobblestone. The nearest accessible parking garage (for an hourly fee) is two blocks away at 100 Jay St. No ID necessary for entry. Please contact info@airgallery.org for more information.



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