

Sotheby's INSTITUTE OF ART

Liminality as Battle-line

Curated by Hejun Xu and Jingmei Yu

October 31 - November 5, 2018

Opening Reception: Wednesday, October 31, 6 – 8 PM

Location: 570 Lexington Ave, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10022

New York, NY – Sotheby's Institute of Art is pleased to present *Liminality As Battle-Line*, a group exhibition curated by Hejun Xu and Jingmei Yu, two MA Art Business candidates in class of 2018. The exhibition will be on view at Sotheby's Institute of Art, New York from October 31st through November 6th. The exhibition is part of a series of projects curated by students of Sotheby's Institute of Art enrolled in Curating Contemporary Art. The exhibitions are free and open to the public from 9 am to 6 pm with pre-registration required.

Liminality as Battle-Line, featuring **Elaine Byrne**, **Ludovica Carbotta**, **Anh Thuy Nguyen**, and **Pei-Ling Ho & Emily Smith**, is an exhibition exploring the liminal experience through the persisting structures of womanhood, international identities, and the social and cultural battles in the United States today. Evoking a poetic state of art, material, body and space, the exhibition unravels ideas and practices created in this liminal realm that is constantly challenged by the ongoing negotiation between history and progression, diaspora and the dissolution of national borders, as well as emancipation and power.

In the exhibition, a variety of mediums are used as experimental approaches to narrate contemporary contradictions: **Elaine Byrne**'s video captures the landscape in no man's land - the Tijuana border between the US and Mexico. Borders, as traditional promises of security to nation-states, are being challenged by an increasingly open and globalised world. There are visible as well as invisible borders, for example, conflicts in power and pre-existing structures in the quest for any democracy. **Ludovica Carbotta** reacts to this issue by building a prototype of a wall using petg plastic. Meanwhile, before the transition to establish any new identity or structure, the dissolution of borders provides a liminal stage where connection, progression, and proximity are examined - these notions appear in **Anh Thuy Nguyen**'s sculptures, made mainly by steel, silicone, and soft stone. The exhibition also invites performance artists, **Pei-Ling Ho and Emily Smith**, to use their bodies as vehicles that reflect a specific mentality: in the US, women with international identities exist in a greater realm of liminality, where a new battle-line has been built to fight against the contradictory forces of our time. In this work, the two artists represent themselves as both the witnesses and the warriors of these battles.

Elaine Byrne (Ireland, 1973) received her MA in Visual Arts Practices in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin. She won the TINA Prize (2015) to produce a solo show in Rome in 2016 and 8th Arte Laguna Sculpture Prize for her sculpture "RAUM", which was exhibited in Venice Arsenale (2014). **Ludovica Carbotta** (Italy, 1982), lives and works in Spain. Graduated from MFA Goldsmiths University, London (2015), her works have been exhibited at the Kunstlerhaus Museum, MAXXI Museum, Dublin Contemporary, Swiss Institute, and Les Instants Chavirés. **Anh Thuy Nguyen** (Vietnam, 1993) graduated from MFA Interdisciplinary Fine Art from School of Visual Arts in 2018. She has exhibited at Miyako Yoshinaga, BOSI Contemporary, Java Project, and she also received Prindle Institute Prize for Exceptional Visual Art Project in 2014 and 2015. **Pei-Ling Ho** (Taiwan, 1993) is a present MFA student in School of Visual Arts, New York. She has participated in group exhibitions including Satellite Art Show in Miami, WET. Performance Art Night in UK, Wärmflasche Edition 2017 in Berlin, and the 29th Festival Les Instants Vidéo in France. **Emily Smith** (New York, USA; 1989) is the artistic director of NOT for reTALE. She has performed at the MoMA and the BAM Fisher in 2016. She co-produced and curated Fete, a biannual performance series in Brooklyn. **Pei-Ling Ho** and **Emily Smith** will work together to produce an interactive performance for the show.

For images and more information please contact: jingmei.yu@sia.edu or hejun.xu@sia.edu

RSVP is mandatory. Please bring photo identification to gain entry to the building.