

# Pursuits of Comfort



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Sinclair Cole, Lisa Kelly, Wendy Ma and Kiki Zeng come together to share their responses on the collective need for safety, comfort and connection in times of uncertainty and isolation. This exhibition invites people to gather and reflect on personal pursuits of comfort and aims to cultivate resilience and wellbeing for the seasons of life ahead. A percentage of sales will be donated to ZigZag, a women's resource centre that provides services to young women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and young women who are survivors of sexual violence.

## Sinclair Cole



Sinclair Cole is a painter and illustrator who, in recent years, has focused on the interior of space and subject alike. Through the traditional lens of oils and still-life settings, he often strives to reacquaint movement, colour and dimension into the otherwise stagnant or mundane. Stylistically he draws inspiration from an informing love of surrealism and portraiture across many styles, hoping to one day veer further into that discipline.

Having evolved with the recent years of isolation and compromise—alongside the compounded mental challenges therein—my current practice now seeks to add another aspect to the exhibition's theme in highlighting the unhealthy reliance that arises when comfort conflates with seclusion. That personal experience of sequestering under the guise of safety and the ramifications of 'too much of a good thing' is one I've hopefully captured through wax textures, empty space and domestic imagery. Just as the state of the home reflects its occupiers, the depictions of lived-in moments and once-enjoyed food are each assembled to play off of and contrast with the untouched and sentimental pieces of my fellow artists.

## Lisa Kelly



Lisa Tran Kelly (The Moon Gallery) is a multidisciplinary Vietnamese/Australian artist from Meanjin, Brisbane. With a background in mental health, her practice gravitates towards themes of nature and humanity and attempts to discuss the intersection of art, wellbeing, and recovery. Lisa has exhibited work in Brisbane, worked as a freelance mural artist, and has held art workshops with schools, communities, and charities. Her mediums include gouache, acrylics, and gold leaf and float between mural work and illustration.

For me, these works are an expression of curiosity for the monotonous and romantic elements of home. The uncertainty of the past few years elevated the need for reflection and finding comfort in the simplest and most important pleasures. The paintings and installation pieces made for this show seek to create quiet messages of gratitude for the safety and stability of living space and a restored need for connection to the natural world. The disjointed series of still life and contemporary paintings in frames explore the use of textiles and "kitsch" by veiling paintings with curtains and fabric. These works were a reminder for me to pay attention to things that bring me joy.

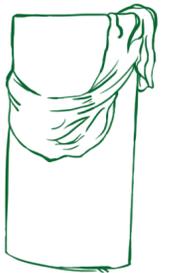
## Wendy Ma



Wendy Ma (Kaomaji Ceramics) is a ceramic artist driven by a desire to stimulate joy and warmth, recognising the impact a carefully placed ceramic piece can have on a home space. With a background in design and fashion, Wendy started working with clay in 2015. Kaomaji is borrowed from the Japanese art of using symbols to convey emotion. She creates under this moniker as her work evolves with her mood and creative process.

This ceramic collection is informed by the growing distance I feel to my birthplace, Hong Kong. After Chinese New Year, I was driven by a desire to reconnect and immerse myself in my culture. Inspired by virtual conversations with family, going to yum cha and participating in cultural occasions with my mother and her friends, these works aim to capture the overwhelming comfort I find in childhood memories and moments of connection through food, places and customs in Hong Kong. I was particularly enthralled by principles linked to Feng Shui, how the use of significant Chinese motifs can affect the energy of a home. Dragons protect households from sickness and natural disasters, turtles ensure long life. These vessels are an ode to my birthplace and my family. As ceramics in the Ming dynasty were made exclusively for the court to bring high hopes, I hope my pieces will bring health, safety and prosperity to the homes they reside in.

## Kiki Zeng



Kiki Zeng is from Sichuan /China, currently based in Brisbane. She/her has multidisciplinary talent for: ceramics, traditional hand-poke tattoo and drawing. Her art works are influenced by Chinese traditional painting and landscape design methodology: how the elements should be balanced with each other, how a white/ empty space can add extra 'spark'. Her ceramics involve a special technique of combining the appearance of fabric's softness with the rigidity of ceramic material. Her mediums include organic-look clay and glazes, Yin and Yang balancing and black outline illustration.

Kiki will create works that emulate soft, gentle and flowing style ceramic pieces, representing the cozy, gentle and dreamy feeling of home. The ceramic will be using organic linen and a special technique to combine them.