

SOPHIA CHAI

Born Busan, South Korea, lives and works in Rochester, MN
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EDUCATION

- 2002 University of Illinois at Chicago, Master of Fine Arts in Photography
- 1996 University of Chicago, Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Character Space*, Light Work, Syracuse, NY
(curated by Whitney Hubbs, Associate Director, Light Work [catalogue])
- 2023 *Mouth-Space*, Hair+Nails Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2021 *Alternations*, Threshold Arts, Rochester, MN
- 2020 *Interpolation*, Hair+Nails Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2020 *Sight Lines*, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN
- 2017 *Not Now, Not Here*, Covert Operations Gallery, via Instagram @covert_operations_gallery
- 2016 *A Room of Her Own*, 106 Green, Brooklyn, NY
- 2011 *Space is Dying*, Proof Gallery, South Boston, MA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Tiptoeing Through the Kitchen, Recent Photography*, Lühring Augustine Chelsea, New York, NY
- 2022 *Surface Tension*, Bethel University, St. Paul, MN
- 2022 *Modes of Being*, The Anderson Center at Tower View, Red Wing, MN
- 2022 *Wheel of Life*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2021 *Color Shape Form Body*, Marinaro Gallery, New York, NY
- 2021 *MCAD-Jerome Fellowship Exhibition*, Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (4-person show)
- 2021 *RIGHT NOW*, Hair+Nails Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2020 *FUTURE FUTURE*, Hair+Nails Gallery, Minneapolis, MN
- 2017 *August Sun* (curated by Ridley Howard), Dodd School of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia
- 2017 *Whitney Houston Biennial*, The All Women Biennial, Chashama at XOCO 325, New York, NY
- 2017 *Known Unknowns* (organized by Cait Carouge, Eleanor King, and Michael Woody), 86 Orchard Street, New York, NY
- 2016 *Lost Cause* (curated by Alex Paik), TSA Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 *Formulations* (curated by Owen Houhoulis), Sculpture Space, Queens, NY
- 2016 *Baseline* (curated by Melissa Staiger), galleryELL and Trestle Projects, Brooklyn, NY
- 2016 *NADA New York Art Fair*, Organized by 106 Green Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015 *Around Flat* (curated by William Staples), Knockdown Center, Queens, NY
- 2015 *Bronx Calling: The Third AIM Biennial*, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY

- 2014 *The A.I.R. Gallery 11th Biennial* (curated by Nancy Princenthal), A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2014 *The Flat Files: Year Two*, TSA Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2014 *Synthetic Zero Event* (curated by Mitsu Hadeishi), Bronx Art Space, Bronx, NY
- 2013 *Greenpoint Now*, The Yard, Brooklyn, NY
- 2013 *NURTUREart Benefit*, Bernarducci Meisel Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 *THE PIC/NIC – Benefit*, Proof Gallery, South Boston, MA
- 2010 *tART@A.I.R._2010: What's in a Collective*, A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2010 *Irrelevant: Local Emerging Asian Artists Who Don't Make Work About Being Asian*, Arario Gallery, New York, NY
- 2009 *El Globo de Juan #2*, Estaleiro Cultural Velha-a-Branca, Braga, Portugal
- 2008 *tART Summer Salon Show*, Rabbithole Studio, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 *Have a Good Day*, DUMBO Art Under the Bridge Festival, Brooklyn, NY
- 2007 *L.I.C. Now*, Experimental Gallery, Long Island City, NY
- 2003 *Mythical Nation*, ArtSpace, New Haven, CT
- 2002 *FORMFIT*, The Great Space, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2002 *UIC MFA Thesis Exhibition*, Gallery 400, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2002 *Scrappy #2*, Woodshop, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2001 *Traumatic*, Open-End Art, Chicago, IL
- 2001 *ILL*, The Great Space, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 2001 *UICMFA@WOOD*, Wood Street Gallery, Chicago, IL

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Minnesota State Arts Board Creative Support for Individuals Grant
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- 2020 Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant
- 2019/2020 MCAD-Jerome Foundation Fellowship
- 2019 Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council Advancing Artist Grant
- 2019 Studio residency, Castle Community, Rochester, MN
- 2015 Finalist, FLOW project at Randall's Island, The Bronx Museum of the Arts
- 2015 Artist in the Marketplace, The Bronx Museum of the Arts
- 2009 Smack Mellon Hot Picks Artist
- 2000-2002 Full Tuition Scholarship, University of Illinois at Chicago

PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

- 2020-present Public Art Integration Project (*Punctuated Asymptote*) for **Discovery Walk**, commissioned by the City of Rochester & Destination Medical Center, Rochester, MN
- 2022-present Art Design Project for the LINK Rapid Transit System (in collaboration with Matthew Winkler and Cole Nfonoyim-Hara), commissioned by the City of Rochester, Rochester, MN

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Microsoft Art Collection

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Contact Sheet 224: Sophia Chai, Exhibition Catalogue, Light Work, Syracuse, NY, 2024

Lex Thompson, "Photography is all we need - photography is never enough," exhibition essay for *Surface Tension*, Bethel University, St. Paul, MN, 2022

2019/2020 Jerome Fellowship Exhibition, Catalogue (essays by Christina Chang), Minneapolis, MN 2021

Hair+Nails Magazine #22 (essays by Brooks Turner, Arwen Wilder, and Sheila Dickinson), 2020

Ryan Fontaine, "On *Sight Lines* at Rochester Art Center," TEMP/Reviews, 2020

Ryan Steadman, Highlights from NADA New York, *Observer* (online), May 7, 2016

Bronx Calling, The Third AIM Biennial at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Catalogue

Canteen, Issue 9, Featured Artist, 2015

Rebecca Bratburd, "Throwing Elbows at an Art Show," *The Wall Street Journal*, October 29, 2013

Rohin Guha, "Sweet tARTs Go Down The Rabbit Hole" *Black Book Magazine*, Jul 3, 2008

PUBLICATIONS AS AUTHOR

"On Punctuated Asymptote: Empathy as an Empowering Force," *_SCAPE Journal*, Aus Perez and Colin Thomasgard, eds. published by the American Society of Landscape Architects - Minnesota Chapter (ASLA-MN), Issue 1, 2023. 24-26

Contributing Writer, *Make A Fountain*, a performance catalogue by Ying Liu, 2018

Contributing Artist, *Mother Mother*, Volume 2, curated by Sheilah (Wilson) Restack, 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022 - present MFA Mentor, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis, MN

2024 Guest Artist, Art in Public Spaces, Metro State University, St. Paul, MN

2022 MFA Guest Critic, University of Minnesota

2021 Adjunct Faculty (Visual Foundation I and Art Appreciation), St. Mary's University, Winona, MN

LECTURES

2024 Artist Talk for Mayo Medical Students as part of the "Looking at Art: A Way into Seeing Patients and Self" selective, Jan 30.

2022 Artist Talk for Mayo Medical Students as part of the "Looking at Art" selective, Dec 6.

2022 Artist Talk, Anderson Center at Tower View, Red Wing, MN, Aug 13.

2022 Artist talk, Bethel University, St. Paul, MN, Oct 27.

2021 Panelist (moderated by Christina Chang), Jerome Fellowship Exhibition, online, Feb 24.

2020 Artist talk for Mayo Medical Students, "To see is to forget the name of the thing one sees," Oct 23.

2020 Artist Talk for Mayo Medical Students as part of the "Looking at Art" selective, May 5.

2020 Artist talk, *Uncovering studio practice*, Rochester Art Center, MN, Feb 15.

2019 Vail Visiting Artist Talk, Denison University, Granville, OH, Oct 9.

2016 Artist talk, Museum of Chinese in America, New York, NY, Jul 5.

2016 Panelist, *Process & Progress* (moderated by John Ros), Trestle Projects, Brooklyn, NY, Jan 30.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Board Member, SEMAC (Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council), 2024-present

Core member of AN/OTHER NY, a collective of artists, writers, and curators that advocate for Asians and Asian Americans in the arts, 2015-2018

GALLERY AFFILIATION

Hair+Nails Gallery, Minneapolis, MN