

LARISA TAO LIU

Exhibitions

2022 INFINITE SENSES,
PUZZLE GALLERY,
SYDNEY

2022 THE GRAD SHOW
(DRAWING EXHIBITION),
NATIONAL ART SCHOOL,
DARLINGHURST, NSW.

Artist Statement

Larisa Tao Liu is a Chinese-Australian artist whose practice combines painting and sculpture. Liu's area of investigation falls into materiality, using surface, texture, and form as tools to explore cultural, social and philosophical implications.

She relies on intuition in her experiment-based process, listening to the voices of different materials and letting them speak for themselves. Methods include sculpting, casting, and painting using both art and non-art mediums, and currently exploring industrial materials such as concrete, sand, and cement. Many of her newest pieces incorporate found objects, used either during the process or as a fragment of the end result.

By transforming the materials, she challenges the boundary between painting and sculpture, rethinking and investigating cultural identity and conveying new visions of contemporary life. She finds beauty in broken elements recovered from ruins as they represent a moment in time in history when it was once whole. Detail in Liu's work reveals her intentional approach to creating intricacies within traditionally "masculine" materials.

The result is abstract textural work that reflects themes of archeology, provision, femininity, critique of consumerism, and philosophy.

Education

2018 – 2022 BACHELOR
OF FINE ART, NATIONAL
ART SCHOOL, SYDNEY.

2013-2014 MASTER OF
COMMERCE, THE
UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY.

2010-2012 BACHELOR
OF COMMERCE, THE
UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY.

Biography

My story begins in China where philosophy was deeply embedded into my childhood upbringing. At a young age, I showed a strong desire to make things by hand with whatever I could find in the garden.

Then, almost half my lifetime ago, I came to Australia to study and slowly settled into the Western culture. This physical distance from my birthplace allowed me to rediscover my heritage from a now-outsider point of view and re-engage with my cultural identity. My Chinese heritage plays a key role in my routine and philosophy, while learned Australian values have guided me to develop a sense of independence, divergence, and nonconformity which is reflected in my visual art. Experiencing two strongly contrasting cultural backgrounds has gifted me with a complex multifaceted worldview which shapes all aspects of my work, life, and leisure.

After completing a Master of Commerce and 4 long years of sitting stagnant in corporate finance, a gut feeling told me I should be pursuing something I truly love doing — even if it meant leaving my stable job behind. My study and experience in this industry/workplace made me think about consumerism and capitalism in a totally different way. My journey from commerce to fine arts reflects the same duality I felt between Chinese and Australian upbringings. Transitioning to Fine Arts at NAS was a crucial turning point in my career and happiness. During my study through experimentation and re-exploration with textures, I found my true passion landed in materiality and making.

I believe opportunity is limitless and we should not be held back by time, tradition, nor comfort.