

Wei Li

Spout Cup, 2023, digital print

Chili Sauce, 2023, digital print

Artist statement

In my practice, I'm searching for a visual language to address the complexity of hybrid identity and the subjective and emotional experience of living in a socially and ethnically diverse modern culture. The experience of being an immigrant to Canada provides me with crucial inspiration in my practice. This dual cultural background challenges me to integrate different cultural perspectives.

The contradictions inherent in forming a new hybrid identity have entered my work and continue to create tension within it. In my digital series, I look for a representational possibility that combines digital aesthetics with traditional art-making sensibilities. By replacing parts of ordinary objects with the human body/skin, I create grotesque anthropomorphic hybrid containers which trigger the viewer's visceral and emotional responses.

The gestures in my works are symbolic and metaphoric. I use the body/skin as material to activate social commentary on identity, diaspora, femininity, motherhood, and popular culture. The use of household products or objects also invokes conversations about the objectification and commodification of the human experience.

This new series of digital works not only address the psychological experience of hybridity from my personal experience, in the meantime, echoes our complex reality in a subtle and meditative way.