



A Soft Touch: Exploring Empowerment and Resistance Through Textile



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art proudly presents [A Soft Touch](#), an innovative exhibition featuring ten contemporary artists from diverse positionalities, including feminist, queer, migrant, and decolonial perspectives whose works engage with the material 'softness' of textiles while embodying empowerment and resistance.

Curated by Sophia Cai, the exhibition challenges traditional perceptions associated with the phrase 'soft touch' and reimagines it as a strategy to challenge assumptions on agency, tenderness, and care.

"*A Soft Touch* is an exhibition that was guided by my appreciation for textile practice and labour and the ways that artists use thread, fabric, yarn, and materials to connect to create new meaning," says Cai. "I wanted to bring together a group of artists whose works revealed themes of resistance or endurance and challenged dominant art historical narratives about the value of textiles and craft. This was in part also inspired by my experience in craft spaces as a woman of colour, where critical conversations about race, class, and gender were often lacking."

By challenging preconceived notions and reclaiming 'softness' as a potent force for autonomy and dissent, the exhibition inspires dialogue and reflection on the ways in which art can shape our perceptions and redefine societal norms.

"My hope as a curator is that *A Soft Touch* can provide a space for artists and non-artists alike to recognise the value in living and creating with 'softness' in your heart."

EXHIBITION DETAILS AND LINKS

[A SOFT TOUCH](#) | [MEDIA KIT](#)

01 July - 13 August 2023

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

181-187 Hay St, Haymarket
Warrane / Sydney NSW

Tue, Wed: 11am - 5pm | Thu: 11am - 8pm | Fri-Sun: 11am - 5pm

To arrange interviews with Sophia Cai or for further information about *A Soft Touch*, please contact 4A's Communications and Engagement Manager:

Dilpreet Kaur Taggar | dilpreet.taggar@4a.com.au | 0452 230 934

***A Soft Touch* features:**

Soraya Abidin
Anney Bounpraseuth
Andrew Chan
Paula do Prado
Mehwish Iqbal
Kait James
Yasbelle Kerkow
Haneen Mahmood Martin
Ema Shin
Siying Zhou

About Sophia Cai:

Sophia Cai 蔡晨昕 is a curator, arts writer and lecturer based in Narm/Melbourne, Australia. She is the Artistic Director of Bus Projects, one of Australia's longest running independent artist-run organisations, and also teaches at the Victorian College of Arts, University of Melbourne and Monash Art Design & Architecture, Monash University, while maintaining an independent curating and writing practice. Recent exhibitions include *Sincerely Yours* at West Space and Arts Project Australia, *Personal Mythologies* at La Trobe Art Institute, and *The Four Letter Word* at Artbank as part of its Emerging Curators Program. Her ongoing project *Disobedient Daughters* has been exhibited at Metro Arts (2018) and Counihan Gallery (2021), and was accompanied by a printed catalogue, supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, with newly commissioned writing by 10 Asian-Australian writers.

Image credits:

(left) Andrew Chan, *It's you, Miss 花 (Hua)*, 2023. Courtesy the artist.

(middle) Kait James, *Invaders, Game Over* 2019, Private Collection. Courtesy the artist.

(right) Ema Shin, *Hearts of Absent Women*, 2021. Courtesy the artist.

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