

Clae Lu: Playroom

Reflecting upon sites of play and rest as a generative space for cultural work.

February 28–June 9, 2023

Opening reception and
performance by Clae Lu:
Tuesday, February 28,
6–8pm

Gallery Hours:
Groups of four or more
are required to schedule
an appointment in
advance via
info@iscp-nyc.org
Monday–Friday
10:30am–5:30pm



Clae Lu, performance documentation from *Protect Asian Lives Rally* at East River Park, 2021. Courtesy of the artist



Clae Lu, 團團圓圓, 2023, oil on canvas, dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist

The International Studio & Curatorial presents *Playroom*, a solo exhibition of work by Clae Lu, recipient of The New York Community Trust's Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund residency at ISCP, curated by Kathy Cho. *Playroom* presents a variety of experimental works that range from painting, to a meditative installation, to sonic compositions on the 古箏 (gu zheng), also known as the Chinese zither. All of these creative practices are meant to create space for and support the artist's chosen families, their closely connected community.

In recent years Lu has collaborated with fellow artists in experimental music and dance performances. During their residency at ISCP Lu has refocused on their individual practices, returning to mediums and themes that bring pleasure, joy, and comfort. Central to the exhibition is an installation inviting audiences to rest, reflect, and meditate to a sonic playlist created together with editor and music publisher Ben Florencio. The installation serves as an idealized architectural facsimile of the various spaces where Lu seeks out and nurtures communal kinship. A constellation of wall hanging works documents Lu's everyday life: paintings of a family style meal and of their main instrument, the 古箏 (gu zheng). Dating as far back as 400 BCE, this traditional Chinese string instrument is usually plucked. Lu's experimental approach to playing it is an intentional act of queering, a reclamation of how the 古箏 (gu zheng) can be understood and explored. Throughout the exhibition, Lu asks, "What does it mean to celebrate the mundane?" and "How does my community come together to create new traditions?"

During the opening reception on February 28, 2023, Lu will perform a selection of experimental compositions on the 古箏 (gu zheng). An additional public program will be announced at a later date before the exhibition closes in June.

Clae Lu (they/them) is a queer, second generation Han Chinese American from Queens, NY. They identify as an artist, designer, cultural worker, and 古箏 (gu zheng) musician working on land that is unceded territory of the Lenni Lenape. Lu believes in the power of arts and grassroots activism to create spaces for conversation, reflection, and action.

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Lu has performed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; MoMA PS1; Elsewhere; Brooklyn Museum; Movement Research; Symphony Space; and Abrons Art Center. They have shown work at The W.O.W. Project, Wook + Lattuada Gallery, and the Honolulu Museum of Art. Their residency at ISCP is sponsored by The New York Community Trust's Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund.

Kathy Cho (they/she) is a New York-based curator who produces exhibitions, events, images, and writing to collectively archive loose narratives of lived experiences. Ongoing research areas include the visual and dialogic lexicon of (Asian) diaspora artists, and the physical and digital architectures of affect. They received an MFA in Curating from Goldsmiths, University of London, and were a 2020-21 Curatorial Fellow at The Kitchen.

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About ISCP:

Founded in 1994, ISCP is the fourth-largest visual arts residency program in the world and a global leader in the field of visual arts residency programs. ISCP supports the creative development of artists and curators, and promotes exchange through residencies and public programs. Housed in a former factory in Brooklyn, with 35 light-filled work studios and two galleries, ISCP organizes exhibitions, events and offsite projects, which are free and open to all, sustaining a vibrant community of contemporary art practitioners and diverse audiences. Over 1,800 artists and curators from more than 90 countries, including the United States have undertaken residencies at ISCP.

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