

# MAKE ROOM



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***The Theater of Metamorphoses***

#### **Xin Liu Solo Presentation at Frieze Los Angeles 2025**

20 February – 23 February 2025

Booth F04, Santa Monica Airport

Make Room is proud to return to Frieze LA with a solo presentation at Focus LA: *The Theater of Metamorphoses*, an immersive installation by multidisciplinary artist Xin Liu. Featuring a new series of mixed-media sculptures and wallworks, the exhibition expands upon Liu's ongoing explorations of vitality, mutation, and the human quest for immortality through the lens of technological intervention.

Xin Liu transforms the booth into a metaphorical sacrificial ceremony, reflecting humanity's enduring beliefs in reincarnation and the drive to transcend the natural limitations of life. At its core, *The Theater of Metamorphoses* examines how technological interventions—such as cryogenics, egg freezing, and biomedical advancements—disrupt and reshape natural life cycles, offering speculative possibilities for extending existence beyond the human condition.

The centerpiece of the presentation is the triptych *The Theater of Metamorphoses*, a monumental work that captures the fragile tension between life's resilience and its impermanence. Inspired by the intricate anatomy of bones and spine-like dragon motifs, the semi-transparent triptych houses a bronze cast of the artist's mouth in its center. A sophisticated cooling mechanism embedded in the work produces a delicate

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frost on the mouth's surfaces, evoking subglacial environments like Antarctica's buried lakes and the ice-covered oceans of Jupiter and Saturn's moons. This element serves as both a metaphor for humanity's search for ancient, enigmatic life forms beyond Earth and a reflection of Liu's exploration of the "aesthetics of failure"—acknowledging the fragility and imperfection inherent in technological attempts to preserve life.

Also featured is a collection of mixed-media wall sculptures that examine humanity's ongoing manipulation of natural processes. *Primula Flowers, 2024* draws from Charles Darwin's studies on plant reproduction, illustrating the genetic mechanisms that determine the morphology of *Primula* species. Encased in an industrial aluminum frame, the work integrates silicone, bronze, and a customized cooling system, mirroring the interplay between organic evolution and engineered transformation. Alongside other works inspired by cutting-edge research in biology and medicine, these sculptures underscore our innate desire to sustain and manipulate life, exploring the parallels between natural adaptation and technological intervention.

Through this presentation, Xin Liu immerses viewers in a narrative that questions our relationship with life, death, and the speculative futures that technology—and our cosmic aspirations—make possible. *The Theater of Metamorphoses* offers a deeply poetic meditation on the tension between preservation and transformation, inviting us to reconsider the limits of our existence in an ever-evolving world.

## About Artist

**Xin Liu** (b.1991, Xinjiang, China) is an artist and engineer. She creates experiences/experiments to take measurements in our personal, social, and technological spaces in a post-metaphysical world: between gravity and homeland, sorrow and the composition of tears, gene sequencing, and astrology. Her work resides in between the measurable and ineffable, seeking tensions and reconciliations at macro- and micro-scales that are beyond our daily experiences. Her recent research and interest center around the verticality of space, extraterrestrial explorations, and cosmic metabolism: the metabolism of our planet and how it is affected by technological infrastructures in the past few decades.

Xin graduated from MIT Media Lab with a master's degree in Media Arts and Sciences after her M.F.A from Rhode Island School of Design and B.E from Tsinghua University in Beijing (Measurement, Control Technology, and Instrument). She is the Arts Curator in the Space Exploration Initiative in MIT Media Lab, a member of the inaugural ONX studio program founded by New Museum and Onassis NY and Silver Arts Project in the World Trade Center. She is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies, including Porches Chinese Young Artist of the Year 2021, Forbes 30 under 30 Asia, X Museum Triennial Award, the Van Lier Fellowship from Museum of Arts and Design, Sundance New Frontier Story Lab, inaugural Europe ARTificial Intelligence Lab residency with Ars Electronica, SXSW Interactive Innovation Award, Core 77 Interaction Design Award, Fast Company Innovation by Design Award, Huayu Youth Award Finalist and Creative Capital On Our Radar. She has been commissioned and included in by permanent public collections and institutions including M+ Museum (Hong Kong), Ars Electronica (Austria), Rhizome (USA), Media Art Xploration Festival (USA), Onassis Foundation (US & Europe) and Abandon Normal Devices Festival (UK). Her works are currently on view at Benton Museum of Art, CA USA; Hammer Museum, CA USA.

Xin Liu's works are held in prominent permanent collections around the world, including the Kadist Foundation, Paris, France and San Francisco, USA; the Onassis Foundation, Athens, Greece; Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria; M+ Museum, Hong Kong, China; X Museum, Beijing, China; Zhi Art Museum, Chengdu, China; He Art Museum, and Shunde, China. Recently, she has won the inaugural K11 Artist Prize

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(2024). Liu has a forthcoming solo exhibition at Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, in the Winter of 2025 with a satellite project at Venice during the Venice Biennale 2026.

## **About Make Room Los Angeles**

Established in 2018, Make Room is a contemporary art gallery owned and directed by Emilia Yin. The newly relocated 4,500-square-foot gallery is situated in the heart of Hollywood and includes multiple exhibition spaces, an outdoor courtyard, and a garden. The gallery's dynamic program champions emerging artists, many of them female, with a particular emphasis on artists of the Asian diasporas. In both its physical gallery – which features solo and group exhibitions – and its ambitious off-site projects with international collaborators, Make Room supports its artists' visionary projects and the development of new bodies of work. Since its opening, Make Room and its programming has been featured extensively in leading arts and news publications, including Artforum, Artnet News, Hyperallergic, Juxtapoz, the Los Angeles Times, Office Magazine, Ocula Magazine, the Observer, Purple Diary, and the Financial Times, among others. In 2022, Emilia Yin was named one of Forbes' 30 Under 30, highlighted as a new force in the contemporary art world.

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