

Glurp, Glurp, Glurp

A Thesis by Zihe Gong

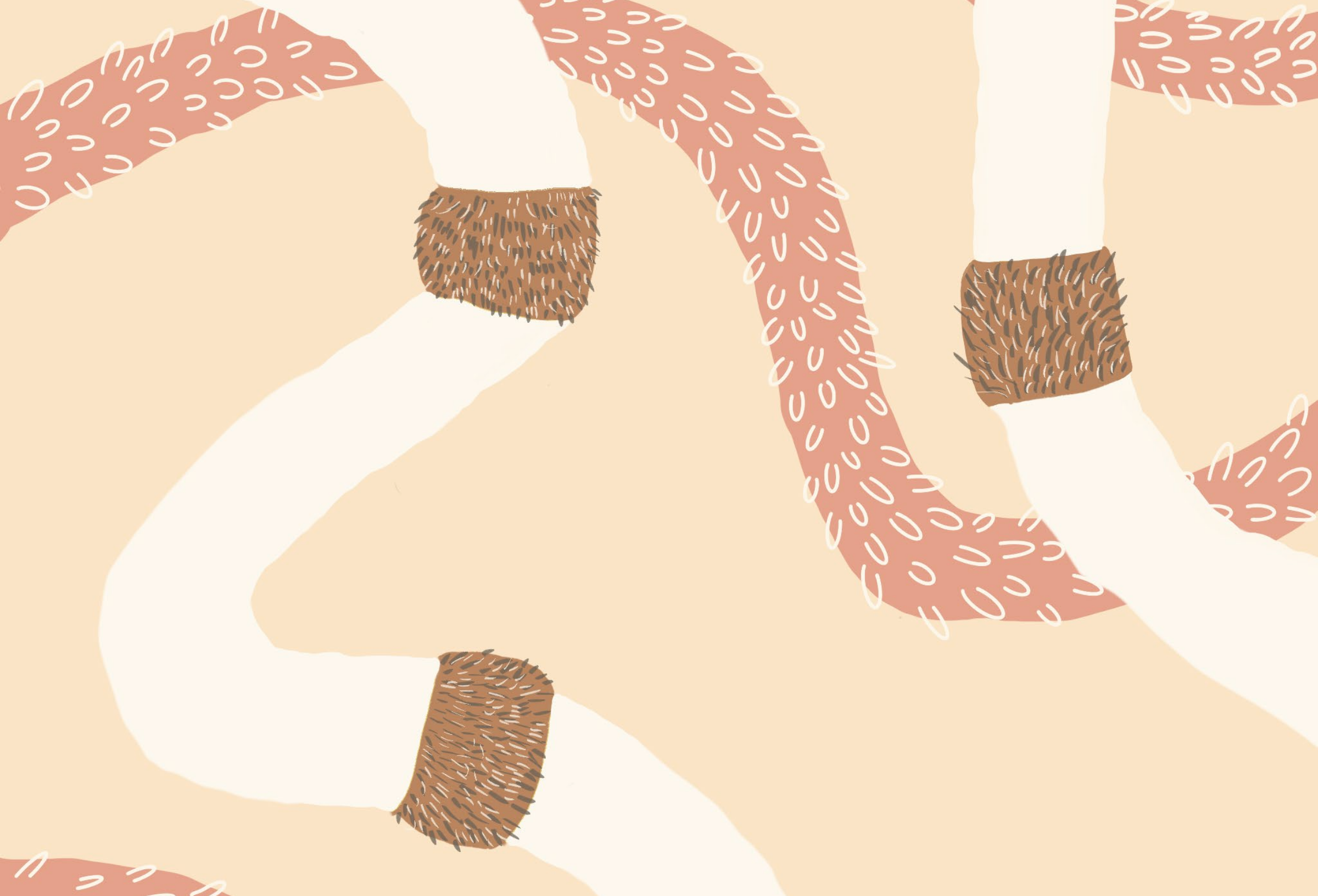


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Contact: zihegongstudio@outlook.com for more information

zihegong.com







Intro

While the stench of pig's feet may cause sudden discomfort to some, in many cultures this particular animal part can be the most sought-after dish at a family gathering, whether it be on a home dining table or at a fancy restaurant.

Sushi restaurants are without a doubt some of the most expensive and luxurious dining experiences a city can offer. The delicate presentation, the taste of fresh sea straight to your palette... yet, wait a second. Have you noticed this message at the bottom of every menu: "Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illnesses?" It's just like a "smoking kills" sign you see when you purchase a pack of Marlboro.

So I suggest next time you visit a fancy sushi place or hear people commenting on eating pig feet, try swapping the two in your brain.



Abstract

My thesis is an accumulation of many different things. It contains a body of work that consists of furniture, objects, sketches, illustrations, and spontaneous thoughts, as well as improvised writings and images of a variety of things that have largely influenced my own making. For me, design is a discipline that does not come into being through a linear direction. Similarly, I believe that a thesis does not comprise just one single narrative, culminating from one starting point. The process of designing and making is more like the way one prepares a meal - all of the ideas and research and writing are the ingredients, and this book is the pot of stew that simmers them together.

My work starts in the kitchen, as I draw my inspirations from cooking and eating. I not only appreciate the forms of food and plants, but also the spirits embedded in them. I infuse a friendly, tangible, and a quirky sense into my work, and I hope people feel cozy and joyful to be around them.

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“吃”
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学
Philosophy
of
Food



It is widely said in China that food is the most important thing that we have. I see cooking as profound knowledge. While cooking a dish, everything that you do, even the smallest thing, can affect the final result. The ingredients, cooking method, seasoning, cooking time all come into play. The process of how the ingredients transform into a complete dish is similar to how we become who we are, in a way. Every decision we make could influence the “taste” of our life. Everyone has his/her own way of cooking. Even if given the same recipe, our approaches would result in varying outcomes - all different, even in discreet ways. Whatsmore, there are no fixed rules relating to which outcome is superior or inferior. In addition, if the same dish was served to several people, they could all feel very differently about it. Our preferences relating to cooking and eating represent our personality, attitudes, and values. Cooking food is cooking life; tasting food is tasting life. In sum, cuisines create emotions and sensations but also reflect philosophical perspectives and larger ideals. It is widely

For those time spent in the kitchen

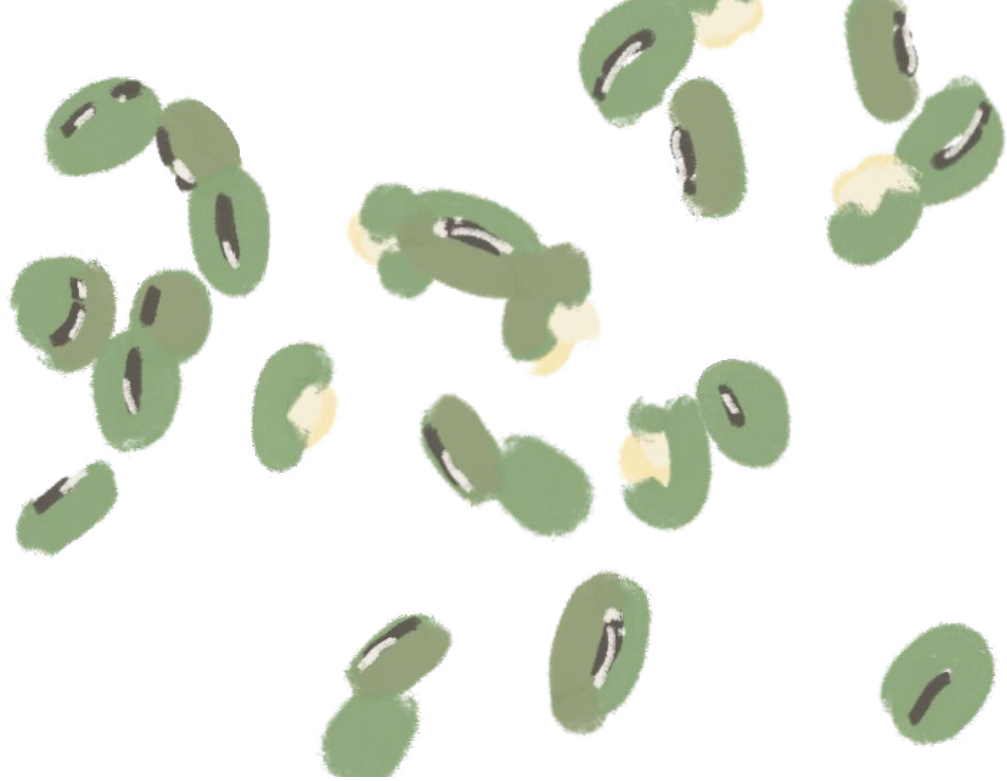




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Culinary Concerto

I find that watching food being prepared gives me so much happiness. Since I started to live alone, I gradually discovered the joy of cooking: handling raw ingredients, combining them in different ways, using different methods to process them... , I particularly enjoy the sounds of cooking: the tap-tap-tap sounds when chopping mounds of fresh vegetables; the rhythmic beat when beating eggs; the glurp-glurp-glurp sounds when simmering a pork-bone stew; the sizzling sounds when cooking a medium-rare steak. Some sounds are louder than others, and some have more cadence than others. All the sounds work together resulting in a culinary concerto. Other people I am cooking for only get to enjoy the delicious food on their plate, whilst I can exclusively enjoy the music played in the kitchen.



Mung bean soup is a very common type of soup in China. The recipe is very simple - Simply boil them with water, then add sugar if desired.

I never realize how beautiful the sound they make while boiling them in water. The beans constantly make cute popping sounds. Slowly, the beans pop from the middle like popcorn.

It is the sound of vitality

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Sounds of Vitality



The pop of a bottle of wine being opened

The crack of eggs tapped on the edge of a ceramic bowl

The shatter of ice when orange juice hits it

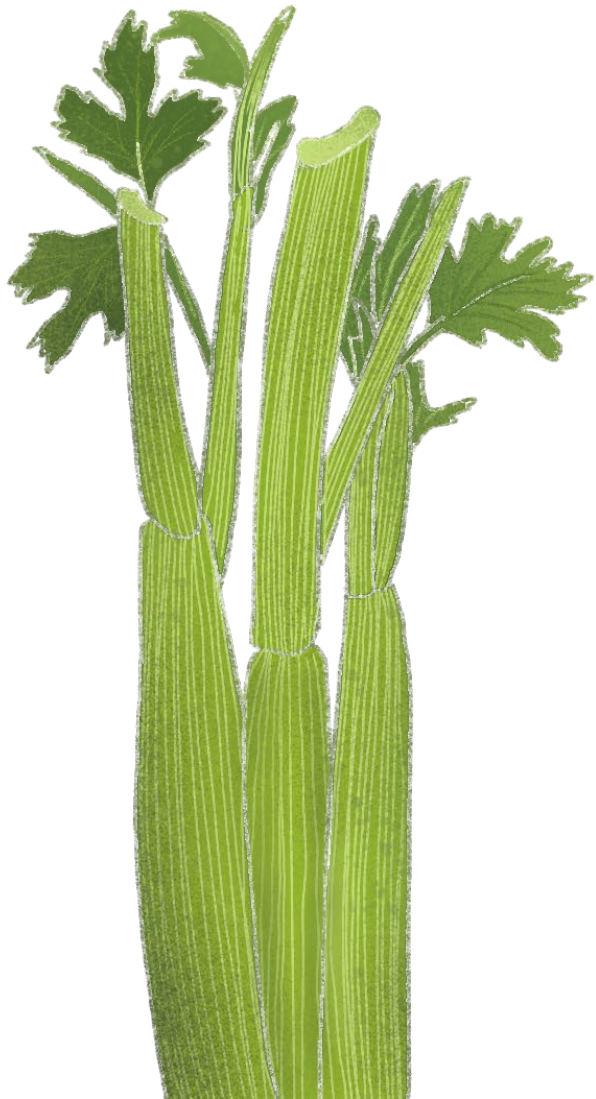
The crunchy snap of a apple being bitten

The sizzle of beef butty hitting a hot grill

and ...

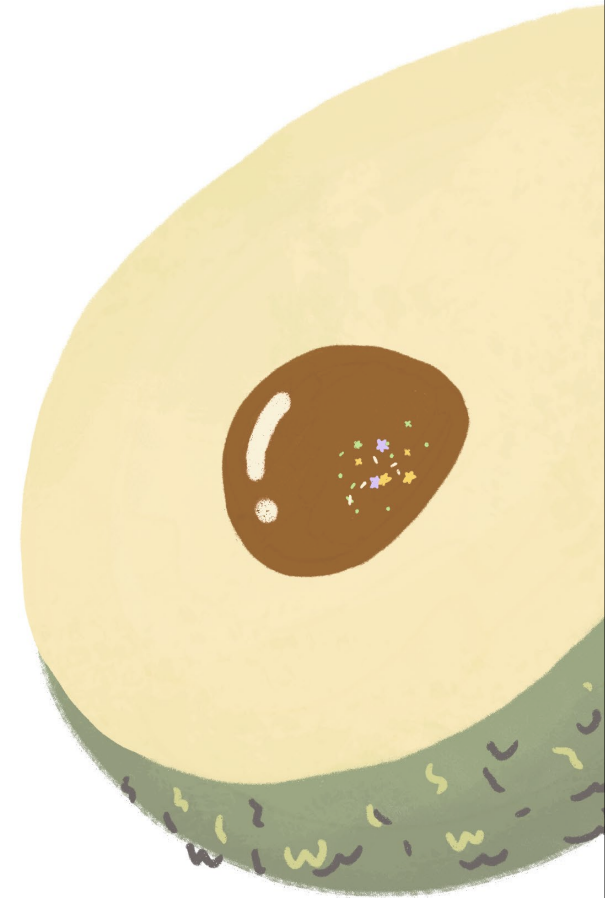
The bite of a fresh grape

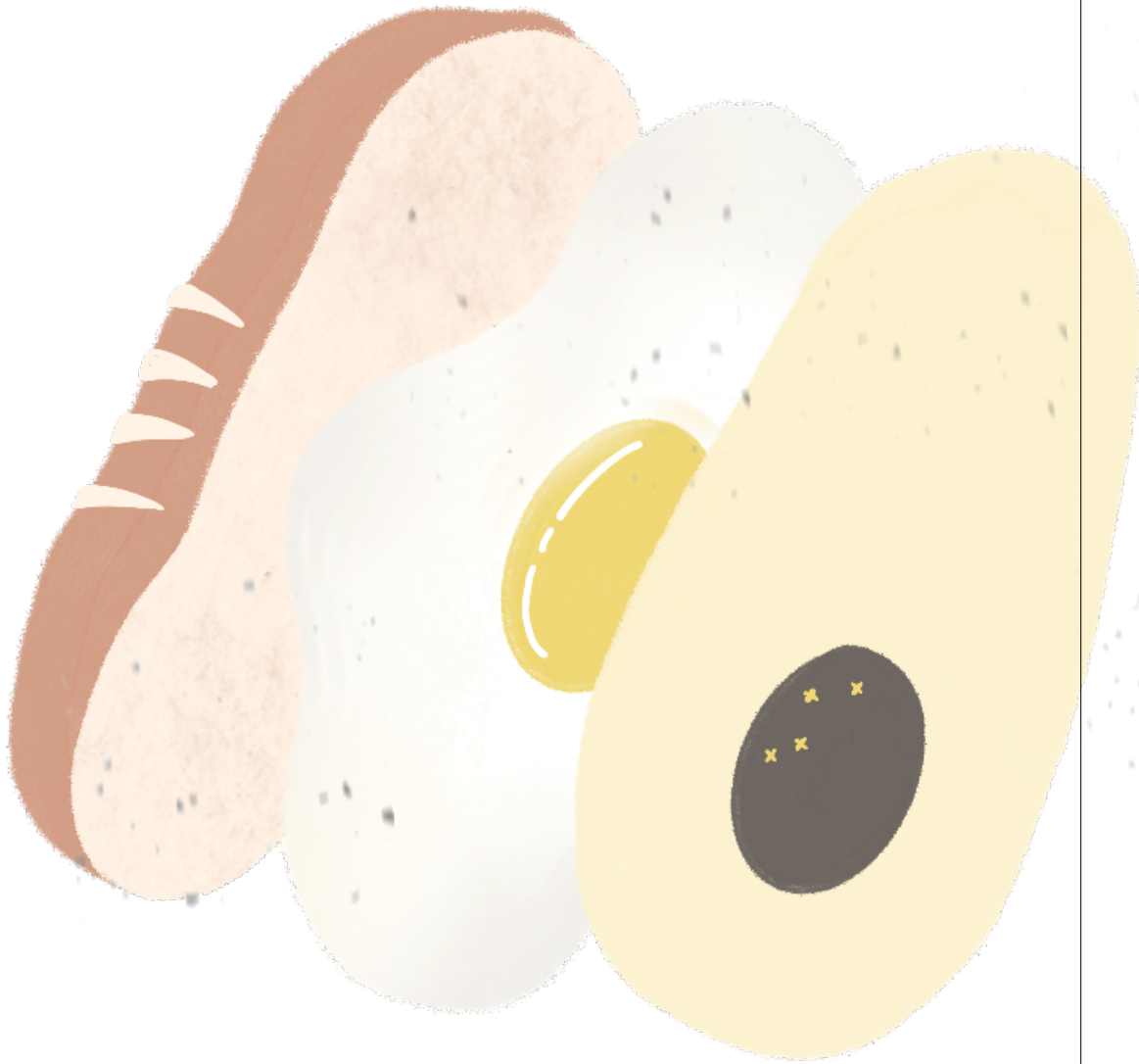




The crisp sound when chopping fresh celery

The clinking sound when making guacamole in a glass bowl.

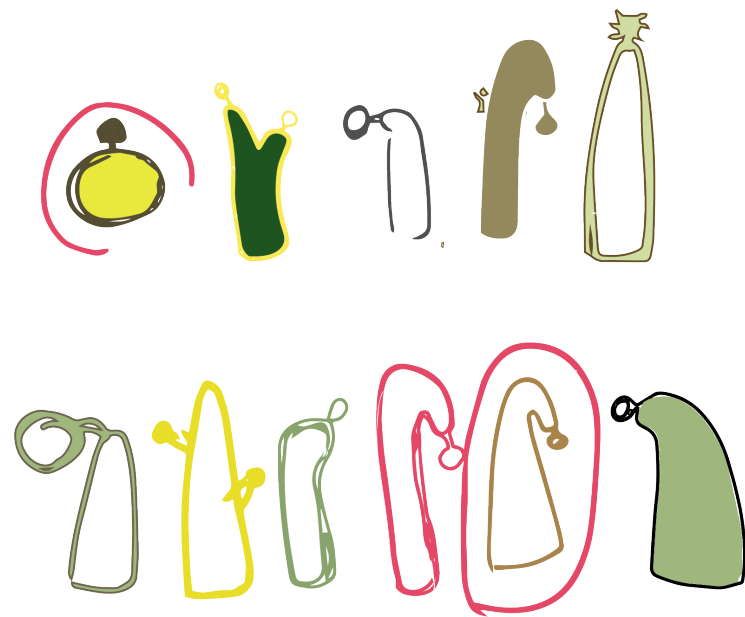




是牛油还是果

Oh!
Avocado

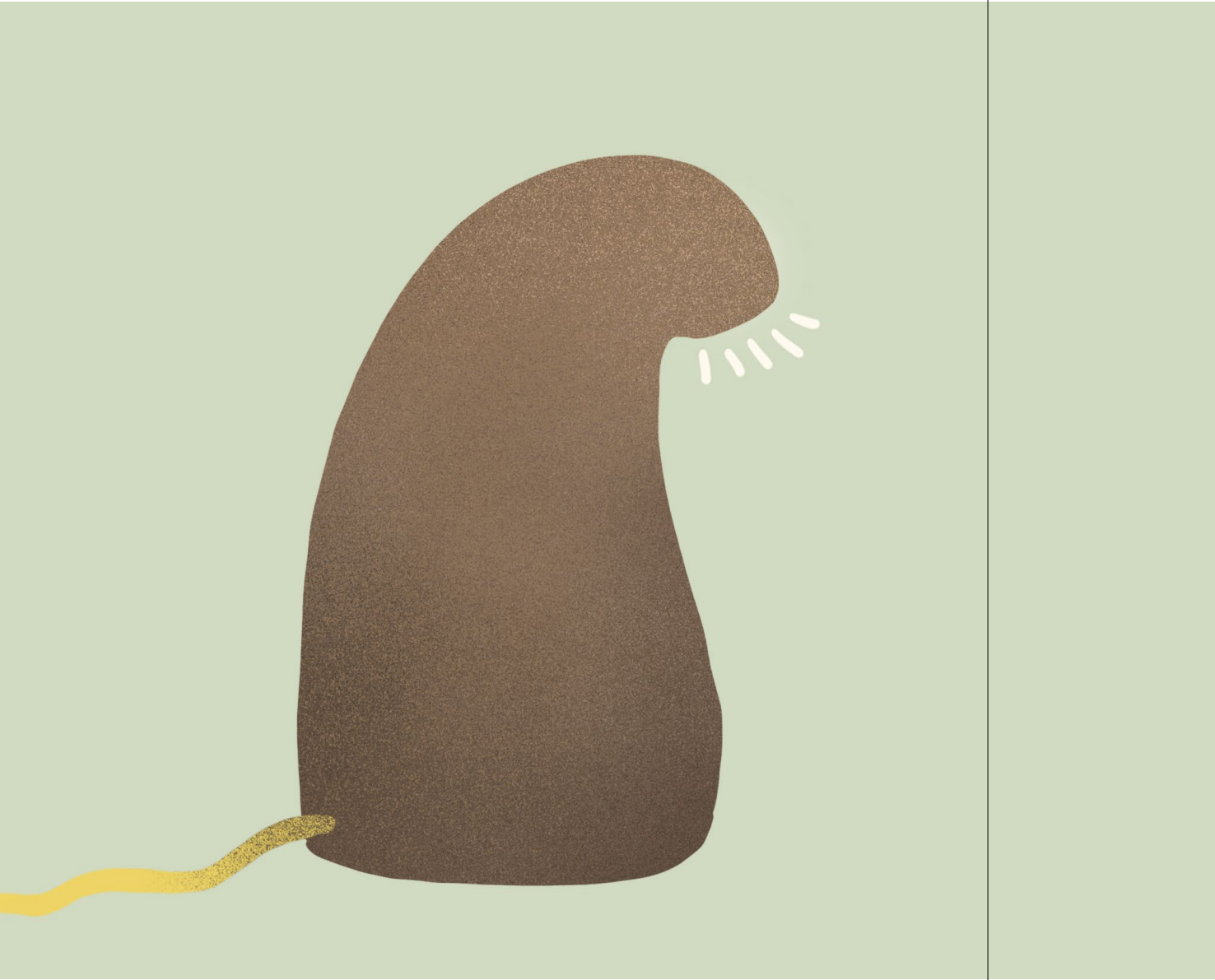
I have to give the avocado my apologies, for having had a prejudice against it for many years. In Chinese, avocado means “beef tallow fruit,” because it tastes like butter. I was immediately put off the first time I heard that description, therefore I believed that I would not be able to like avocado. This was before I actually saw it. I tried avocado for the first time at the age of 13. I was on a trip to Australia with my family and some family friends.



One day a friend of my dad's went to a supermarket and bought me two avocados as a gift. After I tried it, I realized how wrong I had been. It tasted delicious.

Although its appearance made it look like it was as hard as a rock, it was actually very squishy and soft inside. I thought it would taste like raw animal fat, but it was surprisingly creamy with a joyful fragrance, not to mention the plump stone it has at its core. It was probably the biggest seed I have ever seen.

Everything about the avocado I tried overturned my previously-held opinions. It also taught me a lesson: there are so many things in this world, particularly food, that get culturally misunderstood. I was treating avocado in a certain way because I jumped to a conclusion without any first-hand experience to confirm my thoughts. I think that we should all give the things that we think we don't like another try - what we experience and what we believe are two separate things.

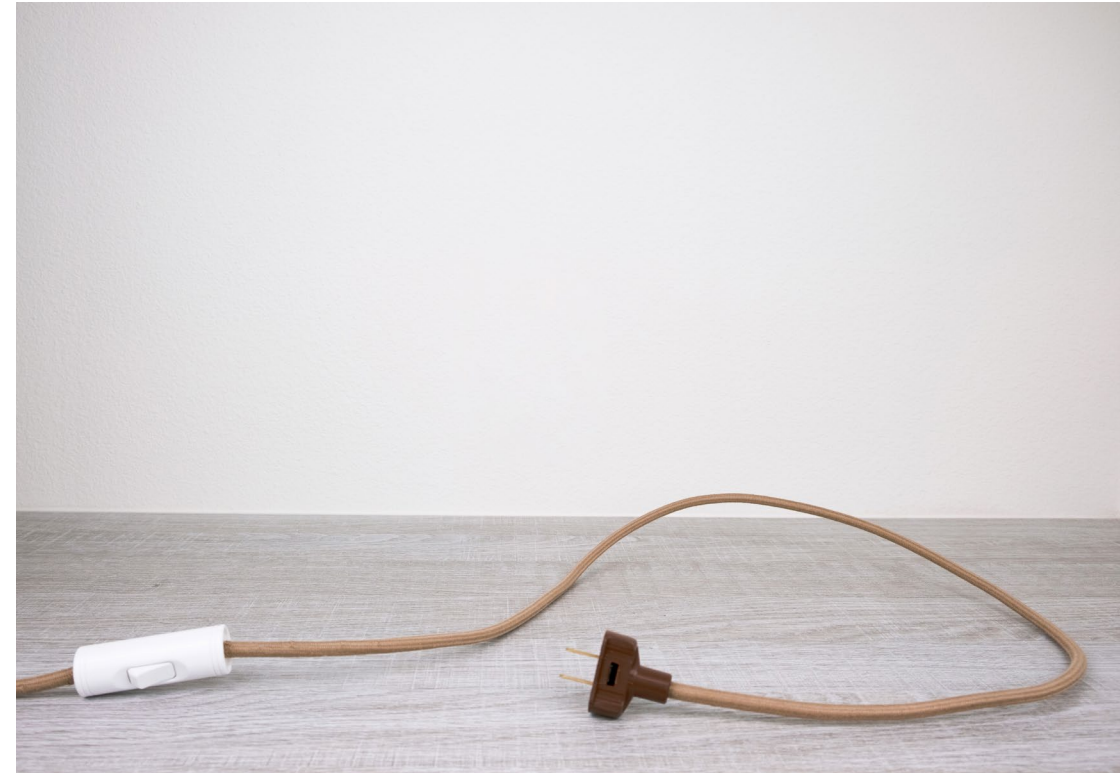




Pip Table Lamp

Inspired by the charm of an avocado pip, *Pip Table Lamp* is a hand made table lamp with a low wattage LED light bulb.

epoxy clay, PVC cord, 2020

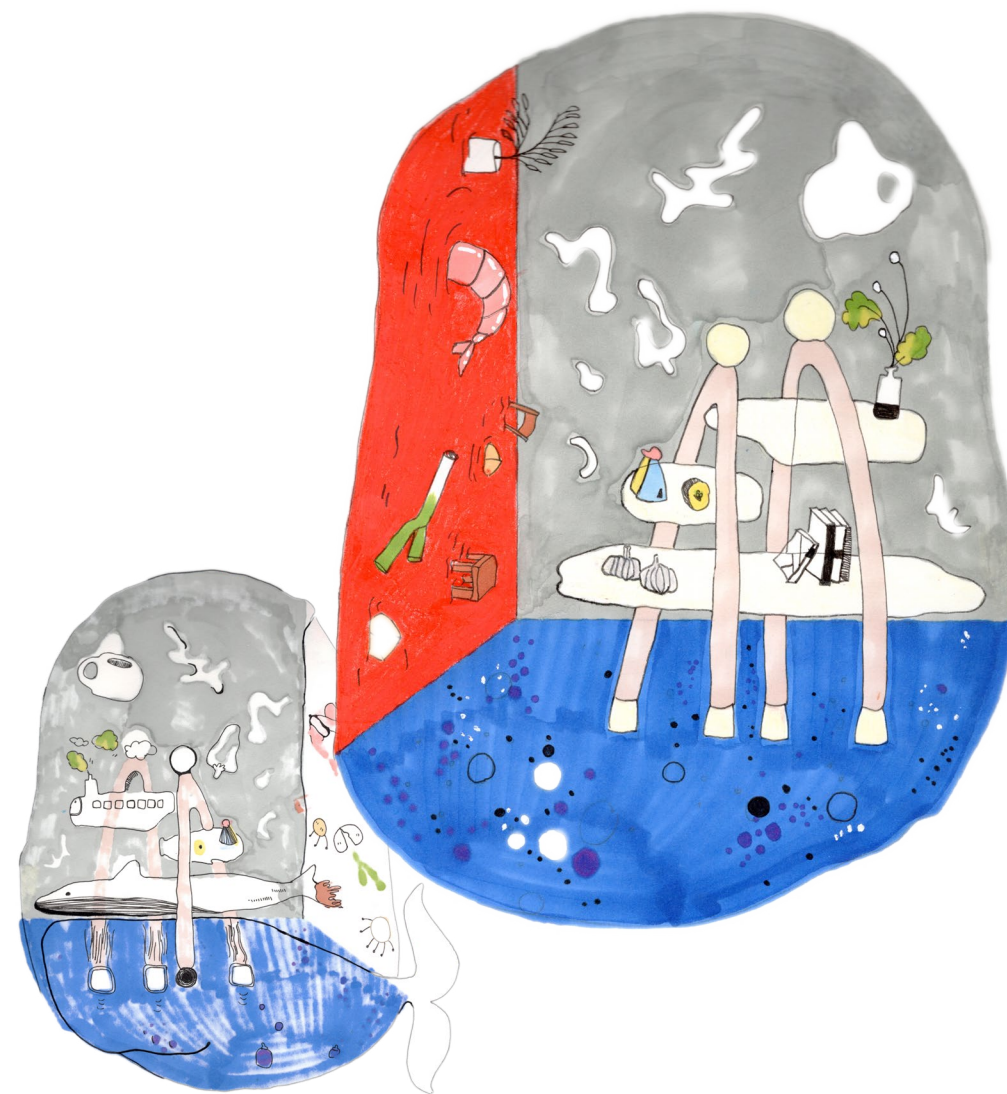




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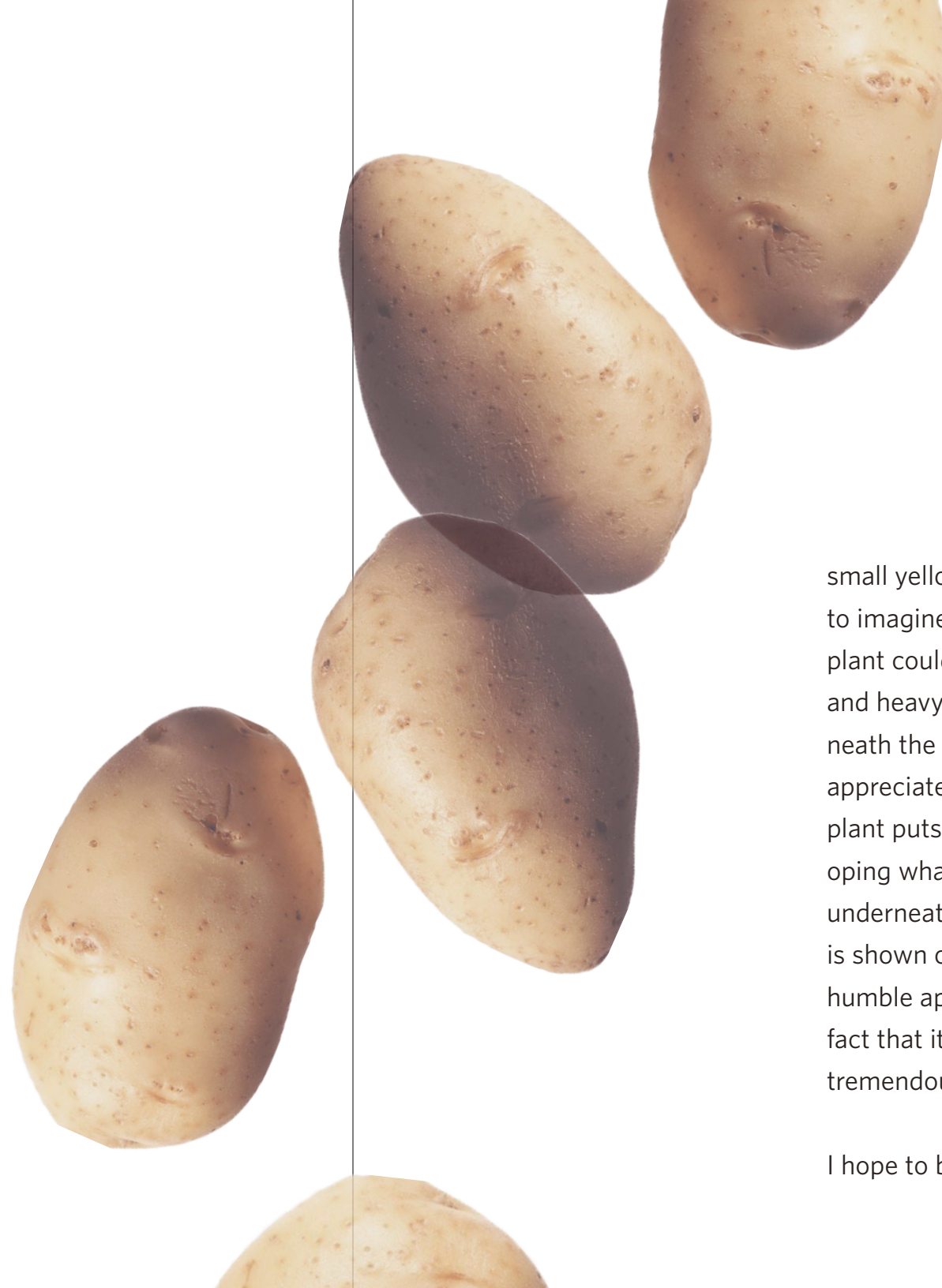
Be
Like
a
Potato

To me, potatoes represent the taste of home. They are probably the most popular vegetable in my hometown city, used in multiple ways in multiple dishes. After I came to the United States, I had to keep a bag of potatoes in my fridge. Having them in my home made me feel secure. Living alone in a foreign country, going on for seven years now, they comfort me every time I feel lonely and homesick. At least I have my potatoes at home!



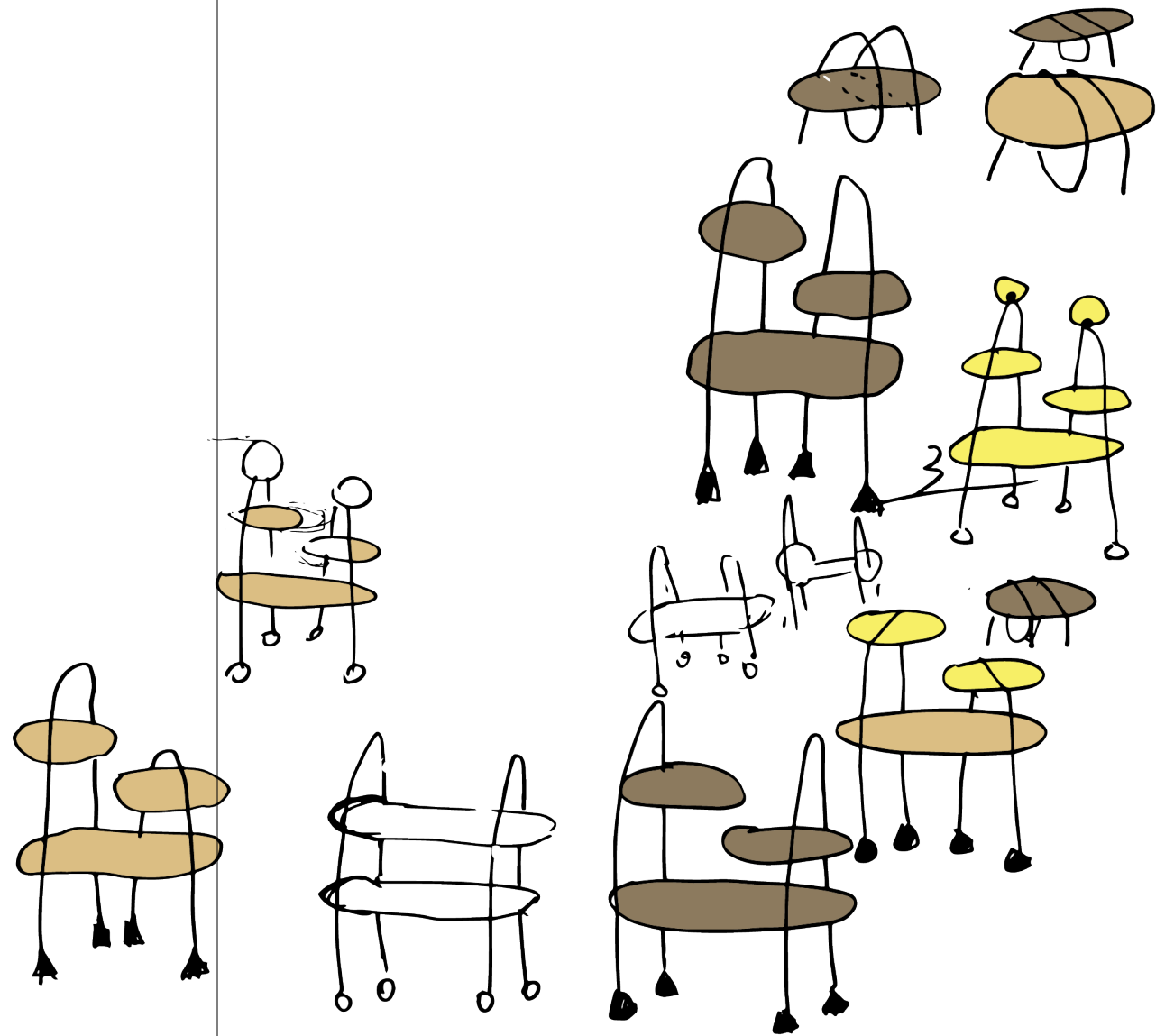
I use them to make stews. I fry them and roast them. I boil them. Anything is possible. I am amazed by how popular they are. Every country loves potatoes. I am sure that their popularity relates to them being so modest and simple. They are a welcome addition to every kitchen.

Like peanuts and other kinds of root-vegetables, potatoes grow underneath the earth. When you look at a potato plant, you probably find it to be rather inconspicuous. It doesn't have an eye-catching leaf shape as a monstera plant does, nor striking flowers like roses have. Potato plants are common, almost bland, plants with tear-drop-shaped leaves and



small yellow flowers. It is hard to imagine that such a small plant could produce such big and heavy potatoes underneath the earth. I especially appreciate the way that the plant puts full effort into developing what's inside - or underneath - rather than what is shown on the outside. Its humble appearance hides the fact that it is filled with tremendous potential.

I hope to be like a potato.



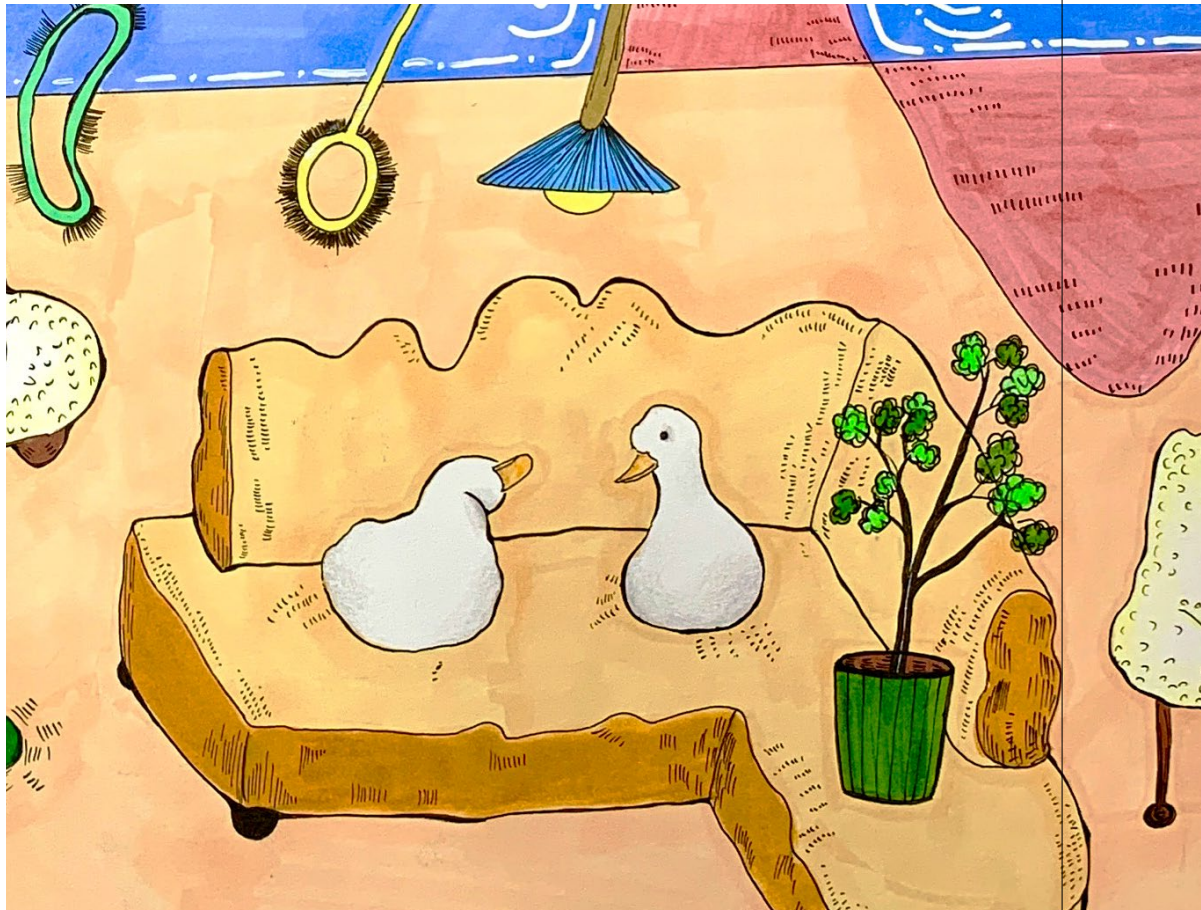


Little Poop Stool

Developed from very personal observations and experience, *Little Poop Stool* is designed and made to help individuals to have more delightful defecation during intimate bathroom time.

walnut wood, poplar wood, flocking, 2020





One day,

I had a dream of two ducks eating fish on a potato couch.

Two Ducks on Couch
mixed media on paper, 2019





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Drawing, the Visual Language

I find drawing to be the most powerful way in which to express myself. Having drawn and painted for more than twenty years, it has become a habit to take a sketchbook with me wherever I go. I make drawings by hand to record those little pleasant moments: what I see; what I smell; what I taste... A rock on the sidewalk might have the most provocative form; a drawing of an unexpected tea stain suddenly becomes one of my most creative expressions; trying to capture a certain smell by making a small drawing by hand could become a real moment of surprise. By accumulating such drawing of bits of life, this becomes a backbone to my creative process, supporting me as I jump into my three-dimensional making.

Routine

drawing on paper, 2019



Hardcore garlic lover



Eat it raw



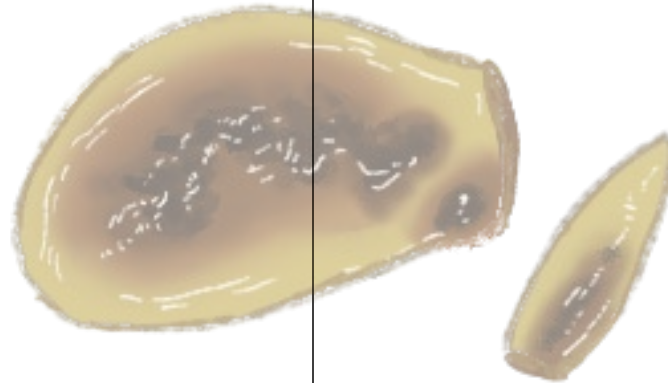
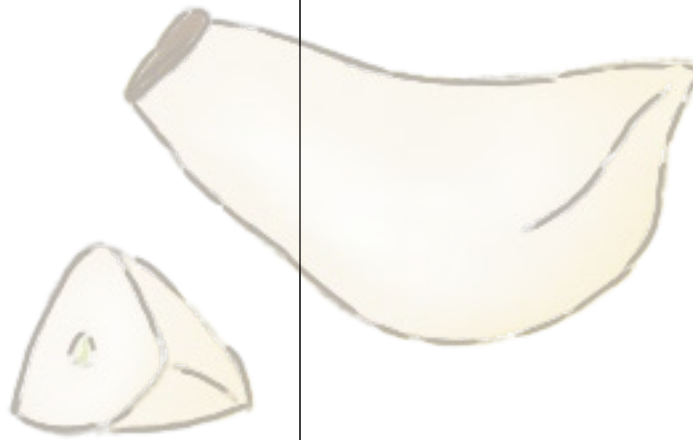
Eat it roasted



Eat it fried

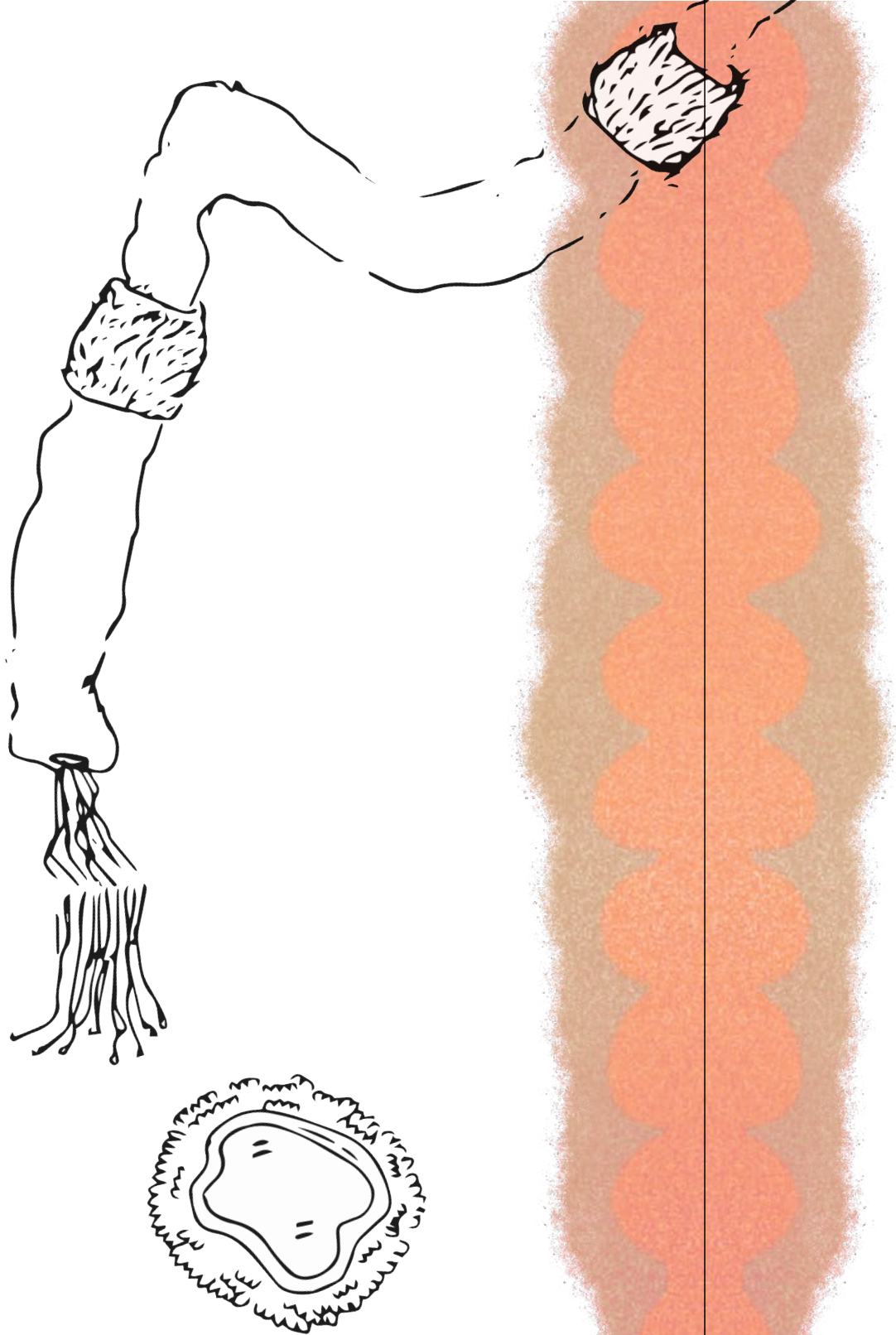


Why not eat it marinated?



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I was lucky to have Good Fortune Supermarket - a Chinese grocery in Providence. It has food and other products that can be commonly found in supermarkets in China. The existence of this market has allowed me to take good care of my appetite and emotional needs. Specifically, at the supermarket, I can buy all of the MISC products that I love.

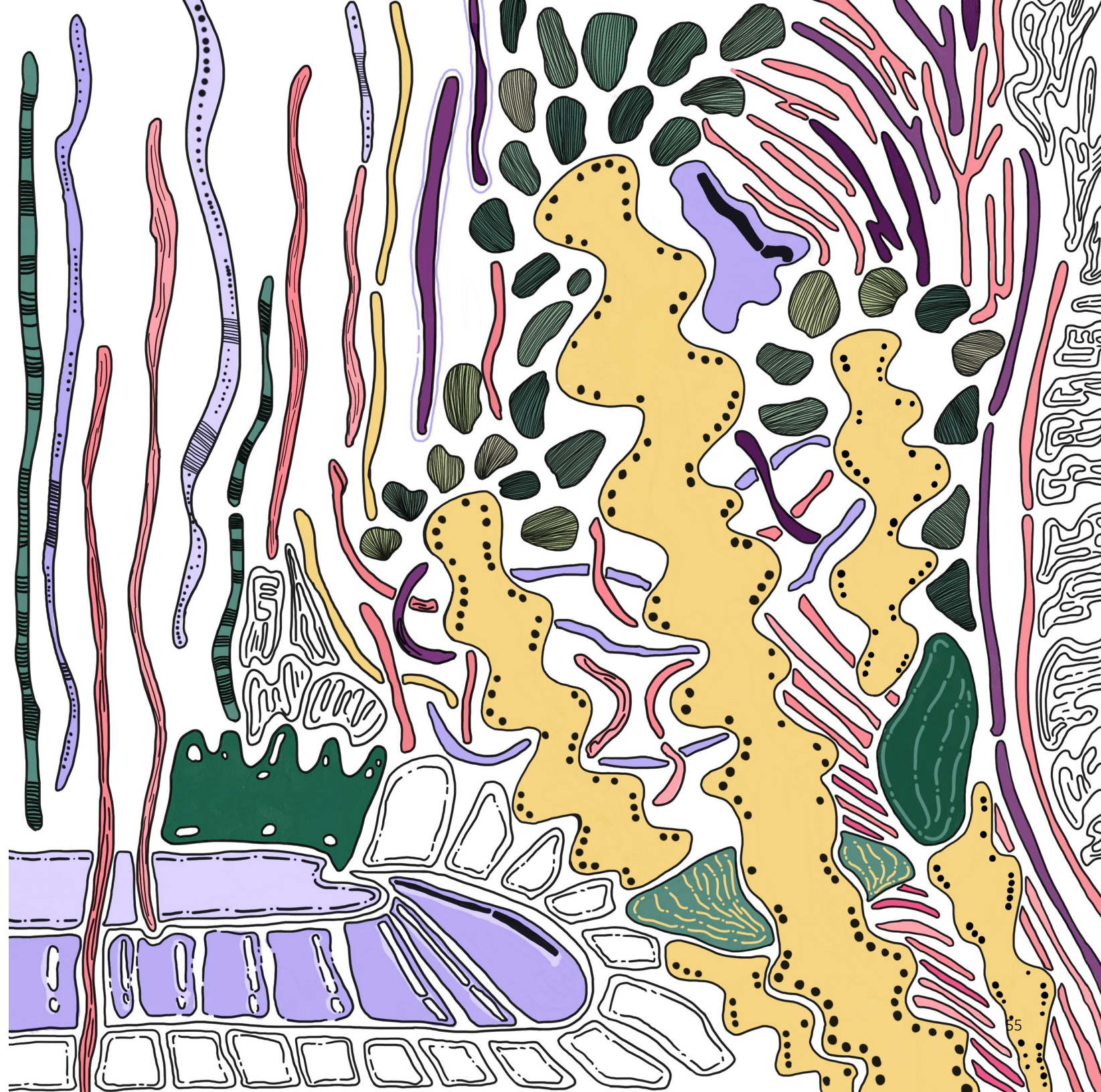
In most grocery stores, like Whole Foods or Stop and Shop, one can probably find pork products such as loin and belly, or sometimes even legs. Other than those, one can probably find all of the other parts of the pig at Good Fortune Supermarket. Feet, tongues, stomachs, and livers are labeled "MISC," and they sell for under 10 dollars. I particularly enjoy the MISC products, especially tongues and livers. Many people find MISC parts disgusting or don't believe that they are actually edible. There is a long history of eating "MISC" parts in my culture. They not only have their unique tastes, but a lot of scientific research has shown that they have rich nutritional value

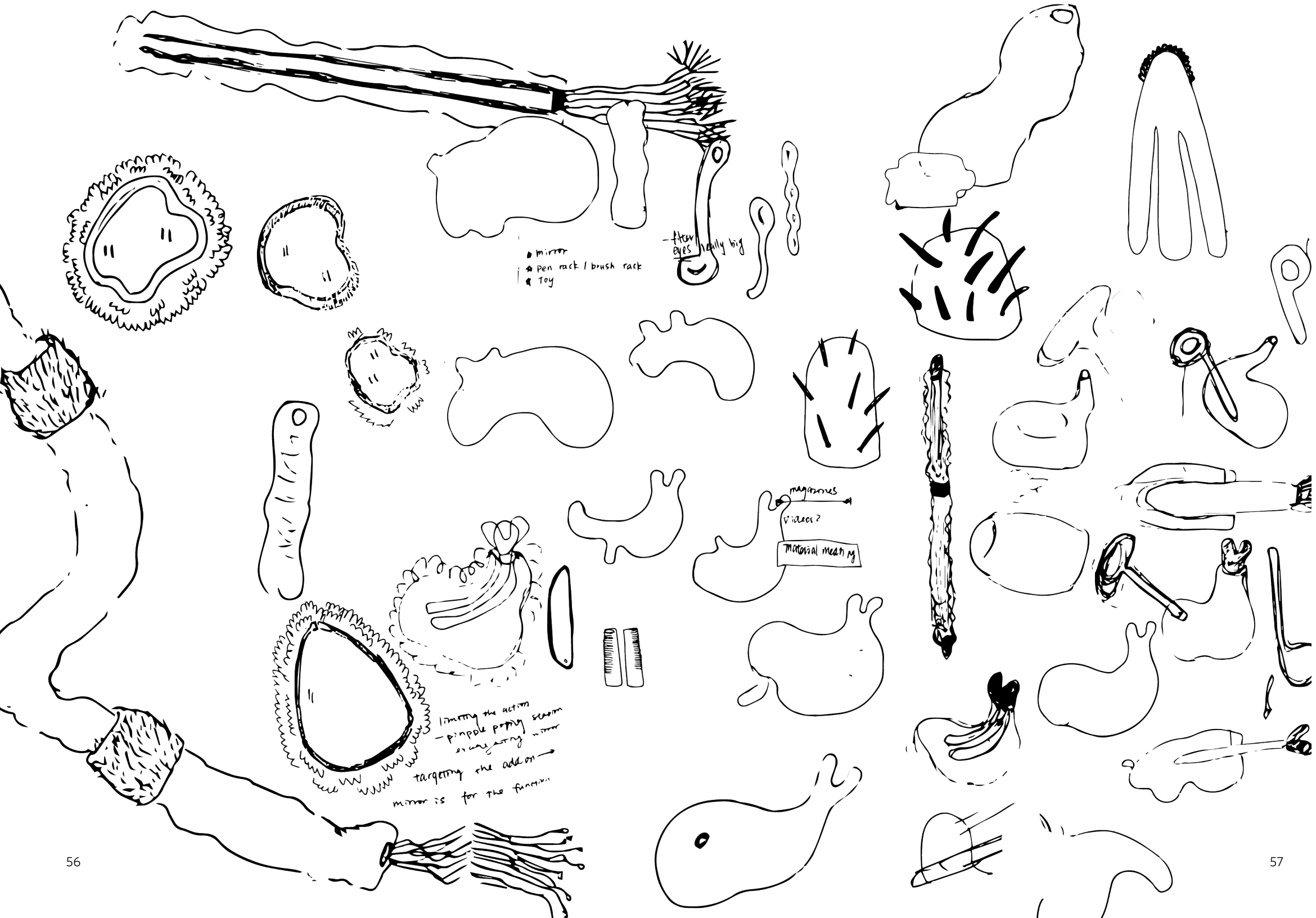


When I was a kid, my mother always cooked pork livers for me because eating livers is good for eye health, preventing myopia. Since I started eating liver from a young age, I have been able to appreciate and adapt to its unique taste and texture. I have fallen in love with it.

Things like pork livers or tongues often get culturally misunderstood. MISC products are sold for very low prices because people here in Providence find them unacceptable. Even though they are safe for humans to eat, as much as pork belly or rib, a lot of people refuse to see this part of the animal as proper food. It is totally fine, of course, that people have different preferences regarding food. However, when hearing about or seeing certain kinds of food that you don't necessarily find desirable, it is not necessary to show your (negative) feelings. Instead, maybe try to understand that there are reasons for them to exist - there are people who really enjoy consuming these items. Seeing these "undesirables" using an alternate perspective might offer more possibilities for yourself.

Untitled
markers on paper, 2019





- Mirror
- Pen rack / brush rack
- Toy

- heavy eyes really big

magazines
 videos?
 material meeting

limiting the action
 - pinhole peep show
 staying mirror
 targeting the action
 mirror is for the function

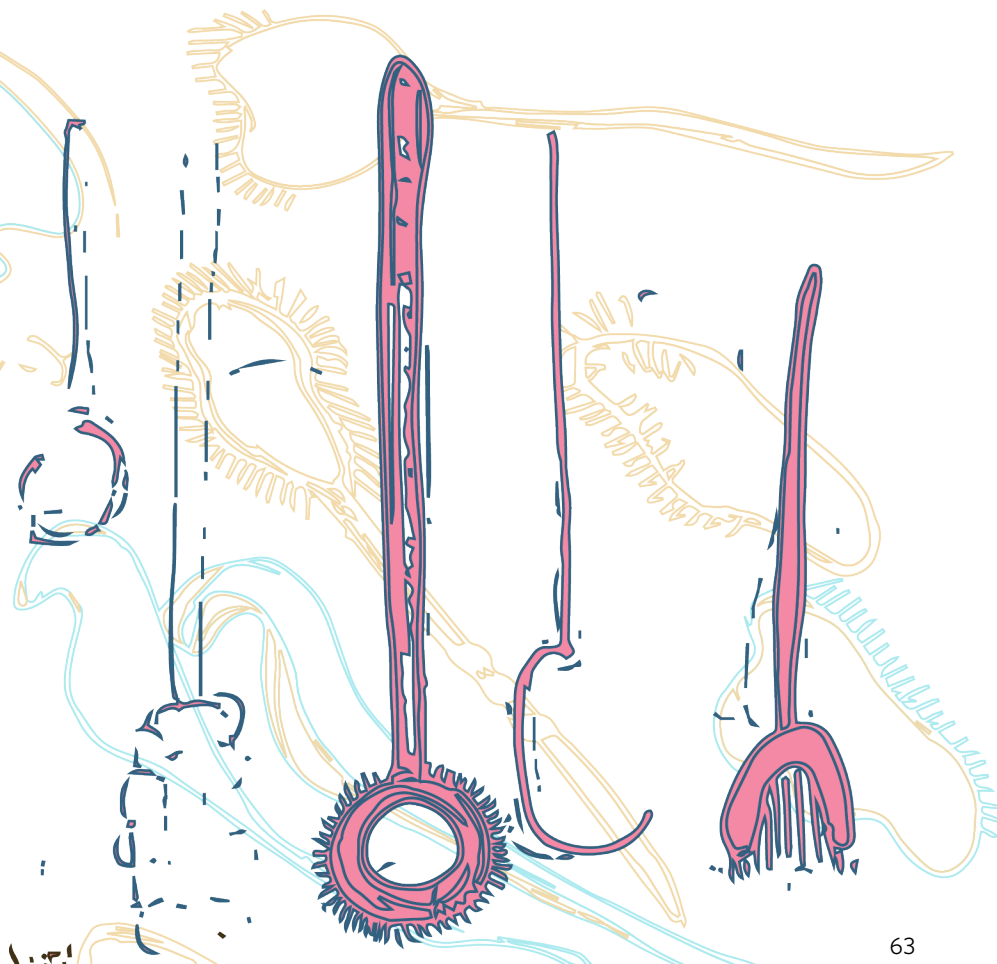
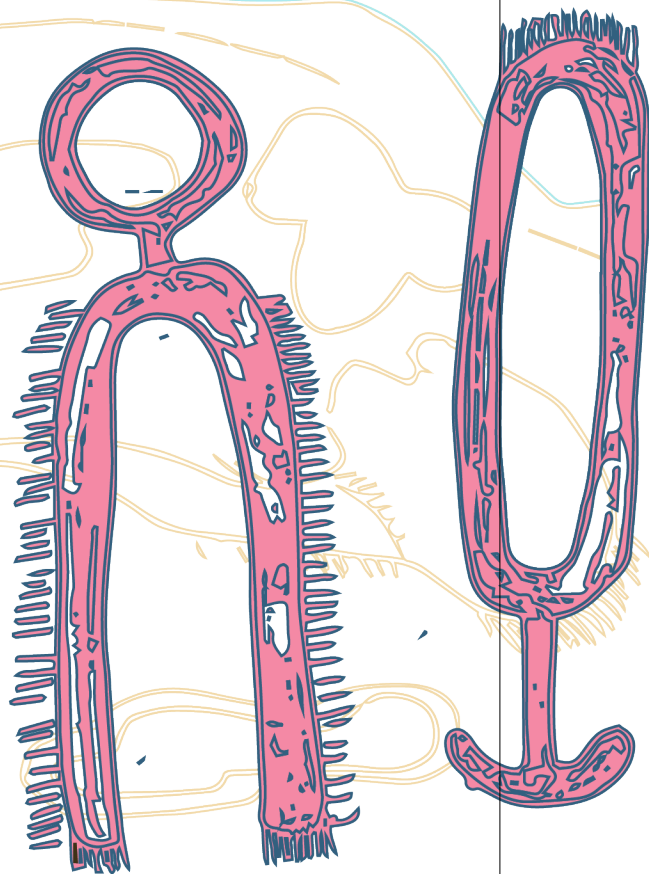
Intestine Cushion

The form of this soft cushion is a hybrid combination of pork intestine and tongue, two of the maker's favorite kinds of food. Its linear and soft body shape allows it to be formed into multiple gestures.

Fabric with Polyfill Stuffing, 2020







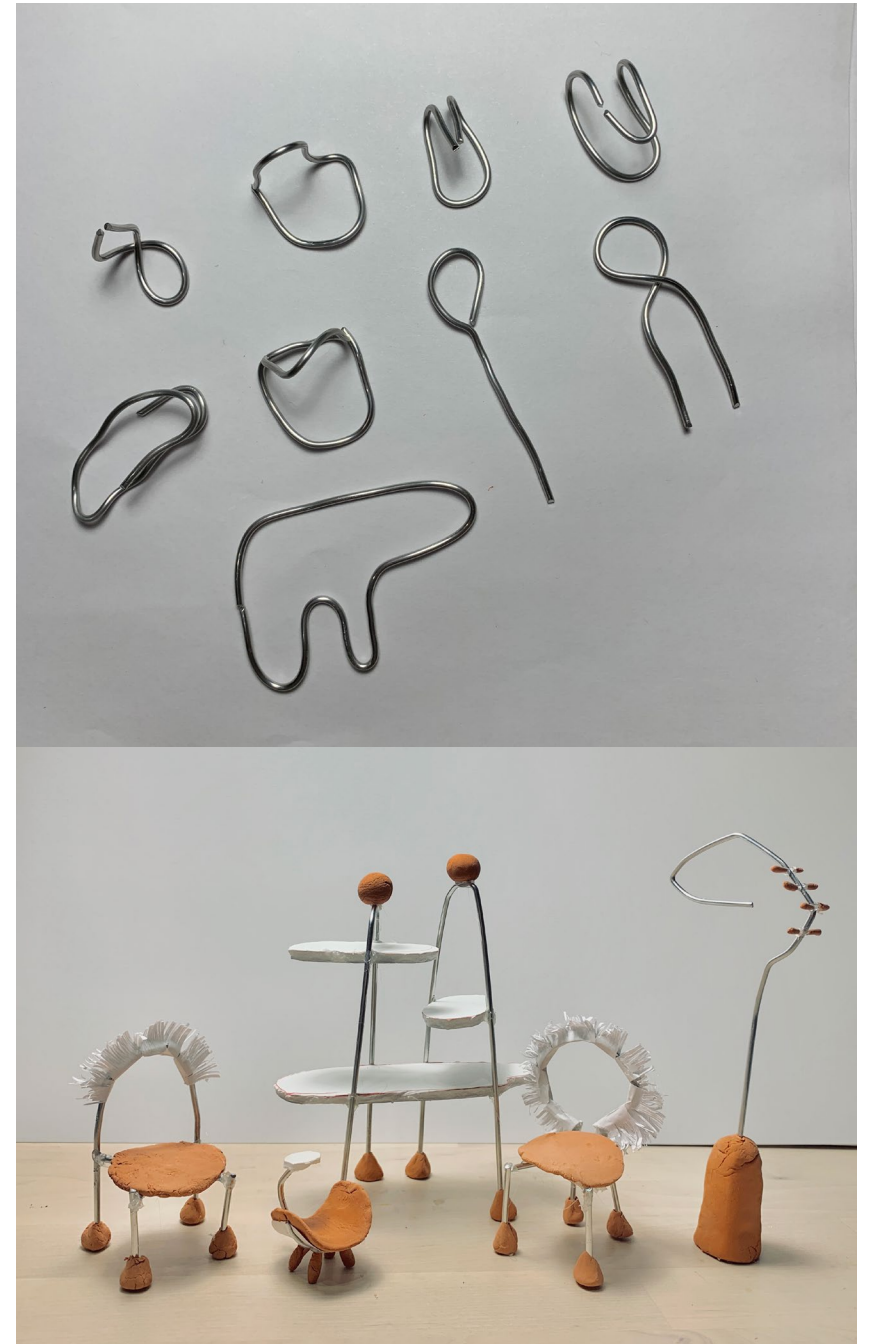
Sweep! Sweep!

This collection of brooms explores the ways of interaction between objects and the human body. They invite the human hands to use with them in their desired motion. By using epoxy clay as the main material, the form remains the making marks of the artist's hands, which stimulates the conversation between the user and the artist.

epoxy clay, horse hair, 2019











Bicky Chair

With the epoxy clay frame and the fuzzy flocked seat surface and feet, *Bicky Chair* explores the tactility of a seating object while remaining a simple structure.

steel frame, epoxy clay, wood with flocking, 2019

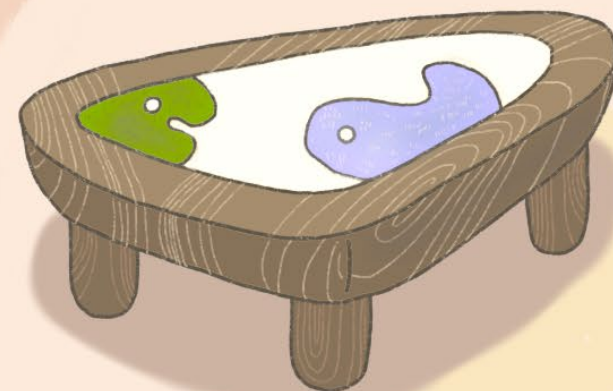
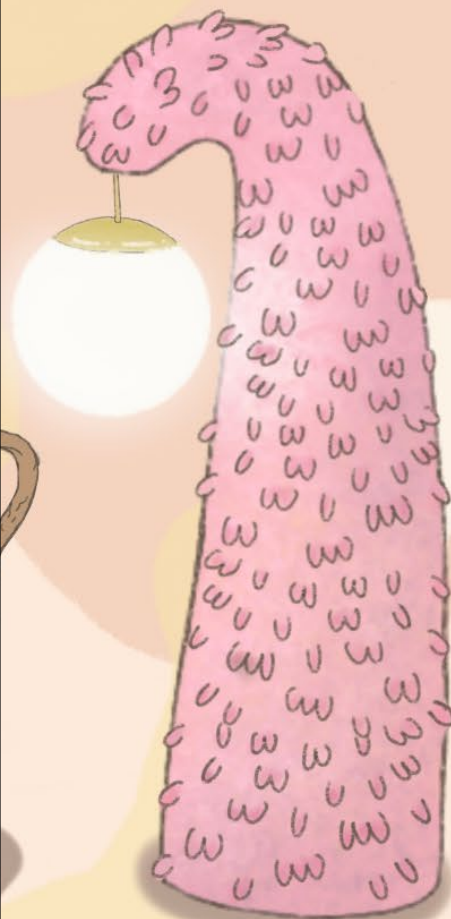
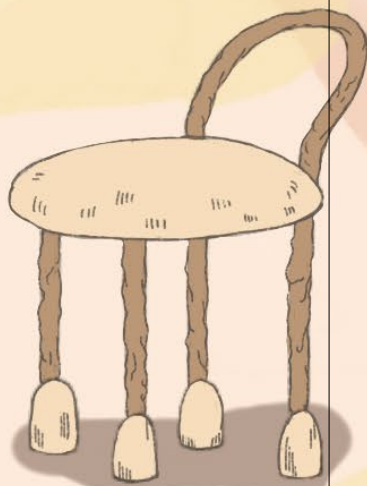
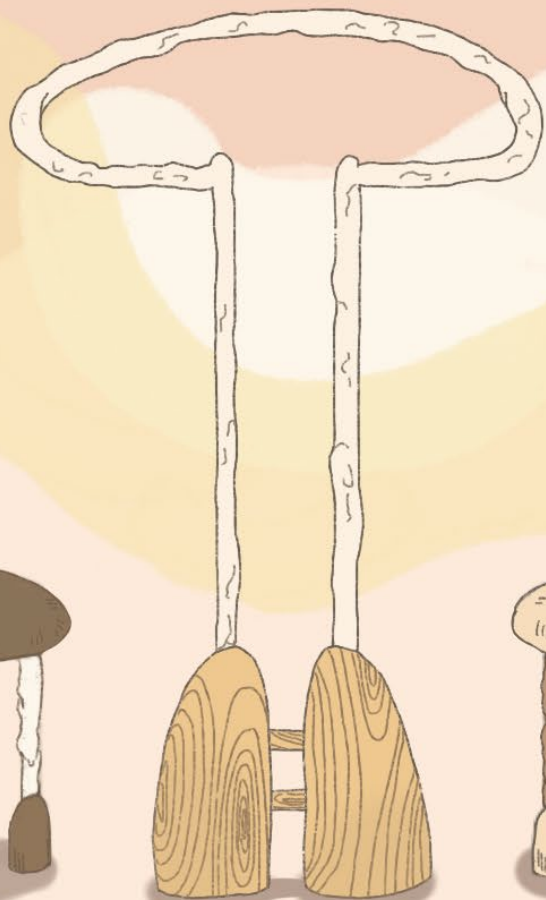




Lanky Coat Hanger

Compared to the common coat hangers, *Lanky Coat Hanger* has a very linear body with a pair of massively giant feet, The epoxy clay on his structure retains the making marks of the artist's hands. It might seem clumsy in appearance, however, it is also honest and will consciously guard your garments.

steel frame, epoxy clay, ash wood, 2019



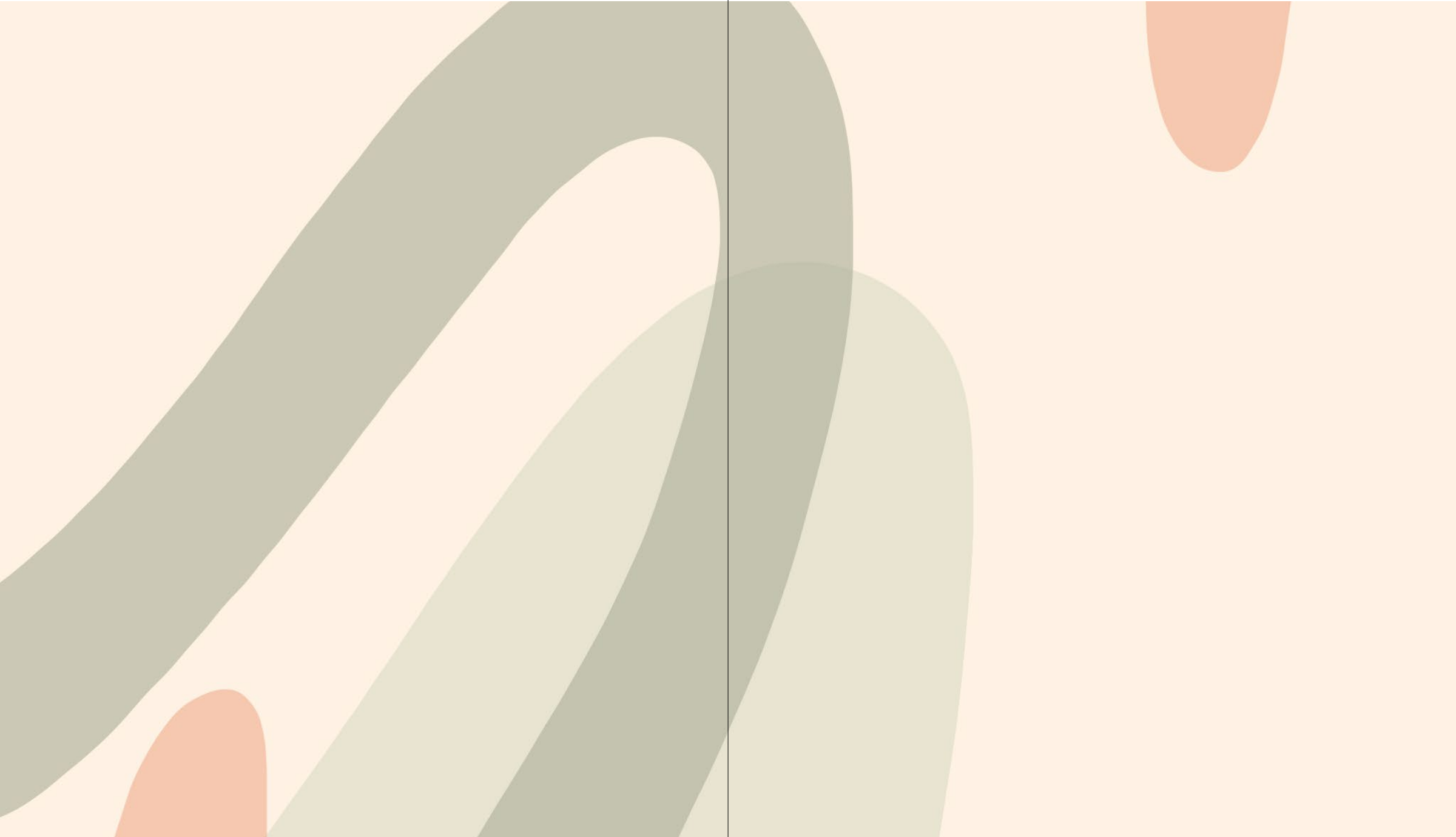


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Please
Allow
Me
to
Zone
Out

I zoned out at an awkward party that I found socially awkward. I watched people talking a lot, and my mind escaped to somewhere else. I could have been thinking about the food that is on the table, which might then led me to think about people's different appetites, their different personalities. The connection between personalities and appetites could have triggered me to think about different ways of cooking, different kinds of ingredients, the universal earth that supports all of us...

I couldn't remember when I started to zone out. Zoning out is a personal way of thinking. It appears to be a quiet moment, but indeed it is like a carnival of souls. Zoning out allows our souls to take journeys, without being interrupted by the body. Sometimes our body can be isolated, our soul can always stay connected with the world. Zoning out allows souls to think quietly, to see the world - the world that cannot be physically seen by human eyes.



辣椒酱

A Day that Starts with Making Chili Sauce



My grandma passed away last week. It broke my heart. I feel really sorry that I couldn't be there with her. I have been thinking about her all day lately. It is difficult for me to deal with such an abrupt loss of someone I love. I regret not spending that much time with her. Now she is gone forever. I wasn't there when she got sick. However, my dad tells me that it is better for me that way, because I didn't have to see her suffering in pain. Indeed, in my memory, Grandma was still that optimistic lady who laughed very loudly, and who always told me to eat more food. She had a special recipe for chili sauce. Every year, before going back to the States for school, Grandma would pack a small box of her chili sauce for me. Right now, being thousands of miles away from where she is, me and my family are making the chili sauce again, as a way of honoring her.



Memories are creations made by humans of their past experiences. They are the art of yesterday. Memory does this magical trick - it links a certain thing in the real world with our emotions. Just as a smell can bring back a specific moment in your life, and can activate your senses, and transform into a feeling inside of your body. Memory is one of my biggest inspirations, and a lot of my work is made in relation to the recurrence of old memories.

Slug Bean Bag Family is a small collection of bean bags I made in memory of the years I spent living alone as an international student in the United States. They are a family of puffy slugs, and each individual has its own name: Sassy, Lucy, Uni, and Gigi. I love creatures that are like soft textured objects, or furniture that has a relatable scale, similar to the size of my body, for instance. My very first toy was a stuffed animal pig that was the same size as me, whom I called Piggy. She was a soft orange chubby furry pig with very short legs. She was a baby-safe toy that did not have any hard components. When I held her, I felt safe, calm and cozy. She was the most important companion I had besides my mother. My parents often compared me to Piggy, because they thought we looked alike, since we both had similarly puffy cheeks. If I wasn't eating my meal, they would say that Piggy was a good kid who had already finished her's. I needed to hurry up with eating in order to play with her. In my mind, me and Piggy were siblings, and also best friends. Even after I grew up, I often thought about her. I miss that feeling of security, and also the intimate dialogs we shared.

Slug Family

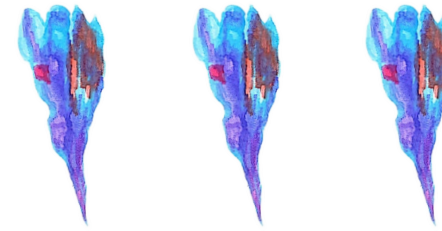
This is a small collection of bean bags that explores the possibility of what an "ideal chair" could mean. Slug bean bags are made in a simple, and playful manner. They can easily fit into many different human activities. They are friendly and invite you to play with them.

vinyl, bean bag flling, 2019





Memory is personal, and that also makes it malleable. It can be what you want it to be. Memory often blurs the line between reality and imagination, and that makes it even more fascinating. Piggy was just a stuffed animal that my parents bought me in a local market. However, having spent so much joyful time with her, Piggy had become an important 'person' in my life - she was far more than just a stuffed animal toy. I seek to create the same sensations in my work, transporting certain emotions to three-dimensional work that allows me to explore time and memory. Embracing memory makes me feel blessed and fills me with joy. The process of making work from memories will soon become another memory in itself, which later on will continue to encourage new dialogs. In a way, the process of life is the process of creating memories.



Speaking of process, I feel like the process of getting to know a person is like doing a puzzle. Every experience you have with that person is a little piece of a bigger puzzle. Some pieces make you angry and exhausted when they do not fit, and some make you feel good when they fit in the right place. After a while, you have collected quite a few pieces. You start to get an idea of how the whole puzzle looks, whether you like it or not.

The world is a complex accumulation of information. People pick out pieces that they like and put them together. Those pieces form the way people communicate with each other in the world.



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Past,
Now,
and
Future



It may be that there are too many things being designed for the future - things that are embracing the future, indicating how our lives could be better. It seems like we are always on our way to pursue something even better. There are too many things that we can hope or expect to attain - the next fancy car, or the next most luxurious chair... I agree that pursuing the future is important. However, if we think about the time that we have spent just seeking the next stages of the future, that surely is a loss. Life is not necessarily about how much you have accomplished, but about how much you have remembered.



Sweet Table Manners

A set of tablewares that focus on the process of and dining rather than the presentation of food. By using sugar as the material, they remain structural for a certain amount of time, and they will be biodegraded by nature after the dining experience is over. It is an experiment that investigates the new possibilities in tablewares, and the process of making this collection is also a record of the deep conversation between the maker and the material.

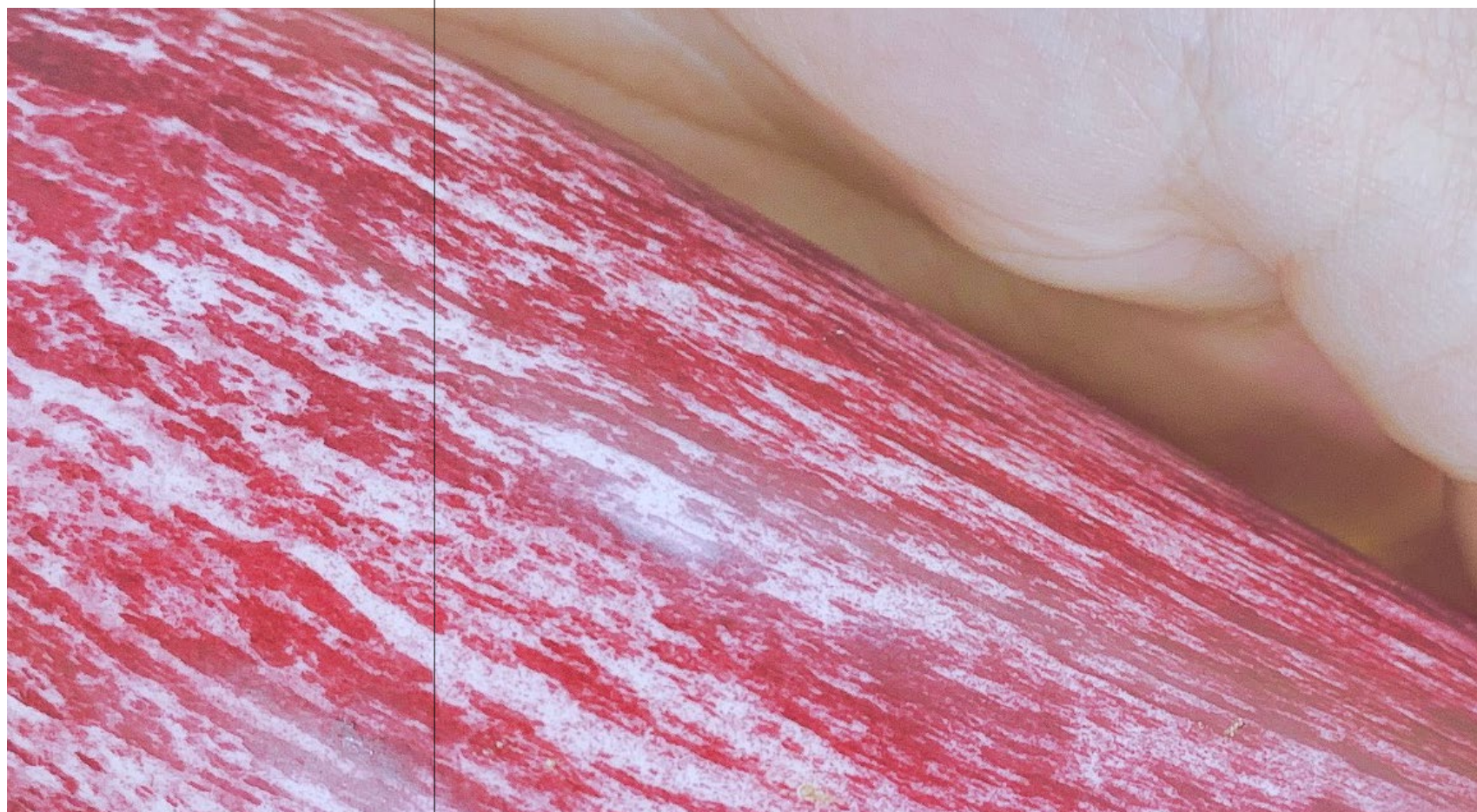
sugar, food dye, paper, 2019

Dancing with Sugar









The skin of an eggplant

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2 Looking

3 Out

7 the

窗 Window

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想 Wash

237



It's Wednesday, the Seminar day. The class starts in the morning, so I need to get up a little earlier than usual. After parking my car, I walked into PW 237, the classroom for the lecture. I picked the seat by the window, as usual. I like to stay under sunlight, and also to look out from the window. A window is the portal that connects the indoor and outdoor worlds. After six months of winter, spring is so precious in Providence. The city is desperate for some colors. It is such a nice day today. The grass seems to be greener than usual, and the flowers seem to be more vibrant.



Grid Table

Inspired by the traditional Chinese style of windows and doors, the table is designed and made to showcase the appreciation of the style, and also to allow the user to interact with it in a more dual way, by converting the two-dimensional visual elements into three-dimensional functional forms.

beech wood, 2018

When I design things, I often take inspiration from flowers. I didn't realize until recently that I am so into flowers. Whenever I start to sketch ideas, I often unintentionally start to or end up doodling plants, or flowers or trees.

Humans have been appreciating flowers for a very long time. The earliest known recognizable images of plants were created thousands of years ago. It is said that drawing and painting flowers is one of our first instincts when we are very young. Whether it's their color, their shape, or our in-built understanding of their transience, there is something about plants that tempts us to try and replicate them on paper, almost as soon as we can pick up a crayon or brush. Flowers are always seen as an aesthetic object.



People love appreciating the beauty of flowers in every culture. It was such a pleasant experience when I went to the Blackstone neighborhood in Providence, Rhode Island, a year ago to see the early spring blossom. Adults, children, and pets alike were enjoying the peaceful and relaxing view of bloomed flowers. In certain cultures like Japan, there is even a specific word "Hanami," to describe such flower-viewing activities.

However, my fascination with flowers is not only based on how they look on the outside but more so because of the characteristics that they have symbolized for millennia. My hometown is a modern and industrialized city - not an ideal place for flowers to grow. Also, unfortunately, and strangely, neither my mother or father appreciates flowers, which meant that flowers or plants were rarely seen in or around the household. So rather than observing and appreciating them by their physical qualities, the first emotional connection I established relating to the appreciation of flowers was in fact based on ancient



Chinese literature that was first taught to me at school. The way in which Chinese people have used ancient languages to write about flowers is extremely poetic and beautiful; those works have largely influenced my understanding of them.

I believe flowers, like everything else in nature, are the same as humans in that they also have emotions, thoughts and personalities, and people need to be mindful of their feelings and take care of them accordingly. Chinese aesthetics relate the concept of man and objects - they are united as one. People should appreciate flowers the same way they appreciate other humans. In other words, flowers are humans and humans are flowers. Being surrounded by flowers makes me feel like I am surrounded by close friends, where I can pleasantly communicate or even get inspired from them.

Flower Holders

Made by using plaster and hand bent brass tubes, this set of flower holders work with a delicate balance of geometric and linear forms.

dyed plaster, brass tube, 2019





Light-Up Box

This wooden box is designed to not only meet the functional requirement of a storage box but also made to pursue craftsmanship and aesthetic value. Inspired by the exaggerated way of presenting a bento box in Japanese cartoons, the box is inlaid with a led light strip and a magnetic switch, which makes it lights up when someone opens it.

walnut wood, poplar wood, LED lighting, 2018



Although my recognition of anthropomorphized flowers is largely influenced by Chinese literature, the idea of “plants as people” seems to be universal. In Greek mythologies, the daffodil is also known as narcissus. Narcissus was a hunter who died and became a flower - named after him. He was a beautiful young man, but he only loved himself and treated other people with disdain and contempt. Because of his behavior, he received the punishment of falling in love with his own reflection which he saw in the water, which resulted in him committing suicide. I remember reading about this short story when I was little and I felt very sad that this bright yellow flower could be connected to narcissism and egotism.

In Chinese culture, people often see flowers as a medium to advocate positive mindset. Flowers rarely depict the negative sides of humanity. The daffodil flower has very opposite meanings in Chinese culture - it symbolizes purity or innocence. I appreciate this attitude of always thinking about the positive side of things. I think it is important for a person to have the ability to appreciate the uniqueness and merits of others and, even more, to be motivated by those around us to become a better person.



Despite the differences between cultures, in terms of the values and symbolism they attach to flowers, there is usually a moral element - or association - of some kind. Considering this notion, I started to think about the relationship between human morals and aestheticism.

I believe that things in the world do not contain any aesthetic value until humans build a system of appreciation. This system is a moral system that humans need to build in order to respond to nature. The life cycles of nature inspire humans. However, the actual objective of these systems is to discover the beauty of humanity rather than the beauty of nature.

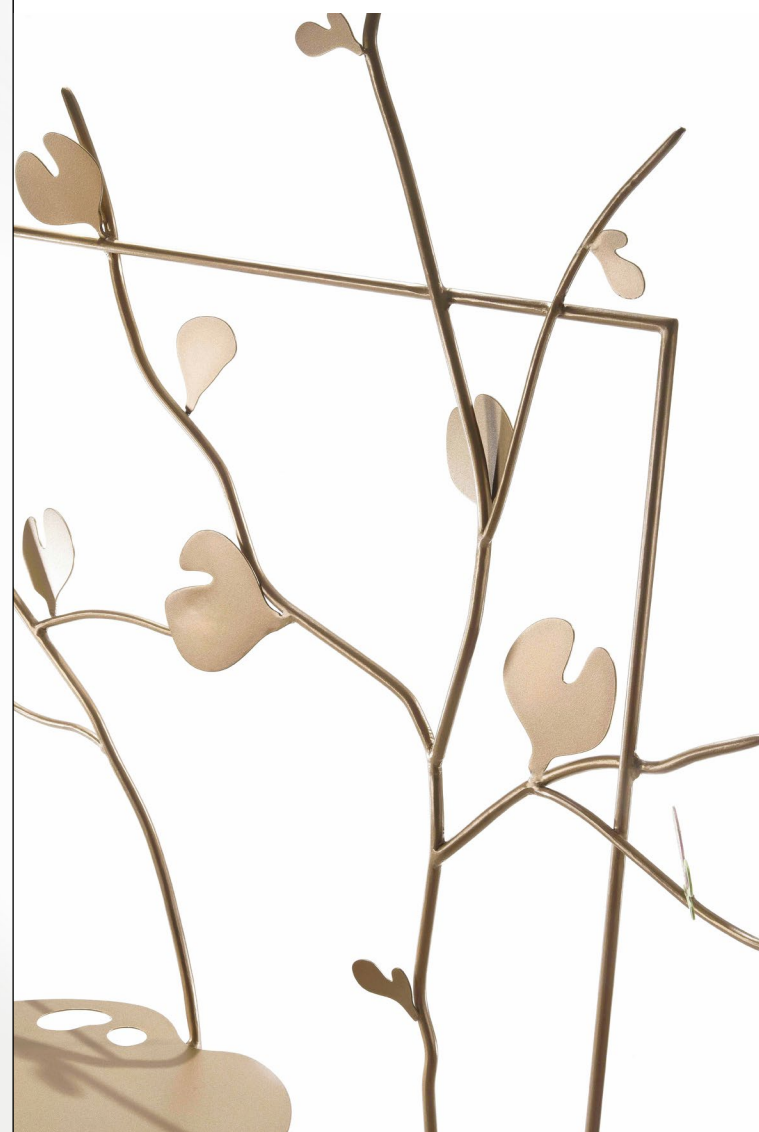
Humans and objects within nature are two elements that interact with each other. Before humans established a moral system, it was nature that inspired humans to create a sense of morality. Following this, humans assigned such moral standards to the appreciation of nature and then received enlightenment from nature which consequently elevated their moral standards. This process repeats in an endless cycle.



Floral Chair

Inspired by the spirit of Chinese landscape paintings, this chair is made to welcome the seater into the canvas, and to become one with the painting.

powder coated steel, 2019







这 旅 程 热 气 腾 腾

Hot
Pot,
Hot
Tub

I went to visit a college friend in Salt Lake City last Christmas. It was my first time in Utah, and she had just relocated there so didn't know much more than me about the area. We had a phone call together one night to discuss my stay, and it didn't take too long for us to find out that we were both very excited about Mystic Hot Springs in nearby Monroe



The Neglected Ones

A lot of products are sold with plastic packagings. Once the product gets used or removed, the packaging becomes a piece of trash. *The Neglected Ones* are a group of plaster objects cast from a variety of commercial packaging wastes. They reveal the true wasted forms for the packaging that was used.

dyed plaster, 2019



I had a wonderful two-day experience. The hot spring was a place filled with surprises. Domestic ceramic hot tubs were placed in open areas, where natural hot springs existed. A playground was built in a swimming pool; restrooms used shower curtain lines as doors to divide each stall... Also, we drove our vehicle for three hours to live in another vehicle. It was Mia's idea. We lived in a room that was built inside of a bus. From outside, the bus looks just like one of those abandoned buses that you find in a horror movie. However, the inside was pretty cozy and residential. All the vehicle's interior parts were removed. Instead, it had wood floorings, a dining area set for two, a king bed, and a bench where you can put your pieces of luggage. A bus, a means of transportation that is designed to serve a group of people, was transformed into a domestic setting for two, with a spring snap hook as the key.

Unintentionally, Mia, and I also coincidentally embraced this type of "unexpectedness." We knew that it could get cold at night and there was no air conditioning on the bus, so we prepared hot pot for our meal. This was not only because hot pot is our favorite, but also because the dish could serve as





a heater for us! However, because we were a little ill-prepared, we shortly realized that we were in lack of many tools after we started to prepare for the hot pot, and we had to use alternative ways to solve those problems. The first challenge we had was washing vegetables. The only place that allowed us to wash vegetables was a hand water pump located next to the washroom, and of course, there was no sink attached underneath. We poked a bunch of holes in a plastic bag, and that was our version of a colander bowl. Finally, we got to rinse and wash our food. After that, we returned to our bus and started to prepare for other food. I had to use the lid of the spam can to cut the spam because we forgot to bring a knife. At first, we tried to use our hair to cut the spam, like how one uses a wire clay cutter to cut clay, but our hair was too weak. The only thing we found that had a sharp edge was the lid of the spam can, and we were glad it worked. We had that hot pot two days in a row. When we were reboiling that the next morning, the smell must be so good that we even got a cute cat and dog to visit our bus! Everything at Mystic Hot Springs seemed like they didn't correspond with each other, but at the same time, they worked together perfectly. They radiate with glamour and charm in a very unique way, and I am fascinated by them.





—
张 Shuffle
张 That
, Deck
— of
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In continuation of the index card project we carried out in the first year of graduate school, I have constructed this 'deck of cards' of work that has largely influenced my own making. There are objects, furniture, and some other work made by different artists and designers that resonate with me.



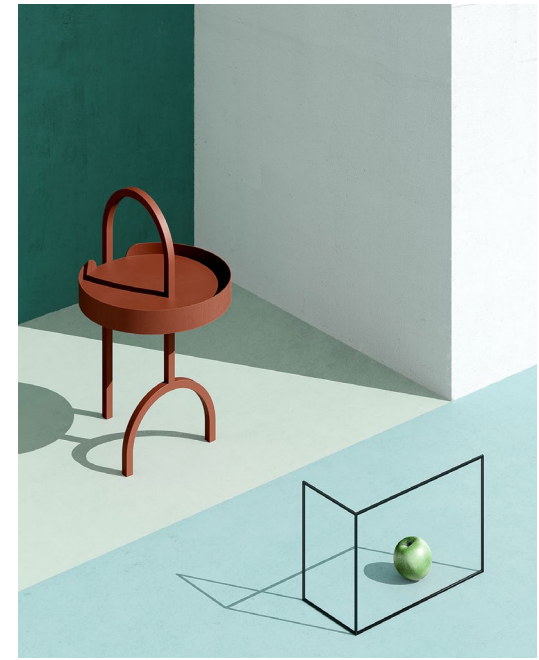
Ariele Alasko



Anne Breton



Jean Arp



Christina Lello



Olga Engel



Pierre Yovanovitch



Faye Toogood



Alexander Clader



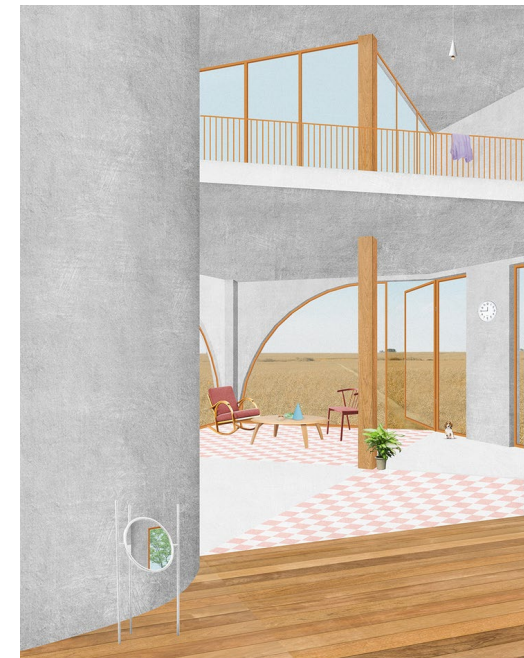
Anna Varendroff



Sigve Knutson



Studio Formafantasma



Juan Benavides



Ciszak Dalmas



Eny Lee Parker



Natalie Weinberger & Ana Kraš



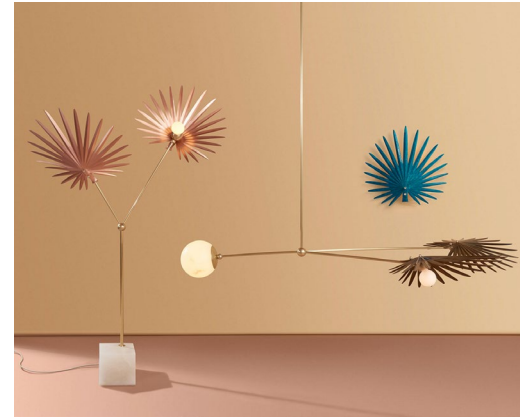
Gaetano Pecce



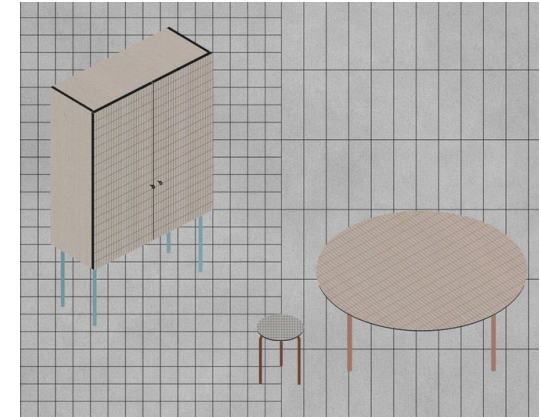
Matthew Ronay



Rebecca Louise



Rosie Li



Elisa Ossino



Loïc Bard



ZP Studio



Yayoi Kusama

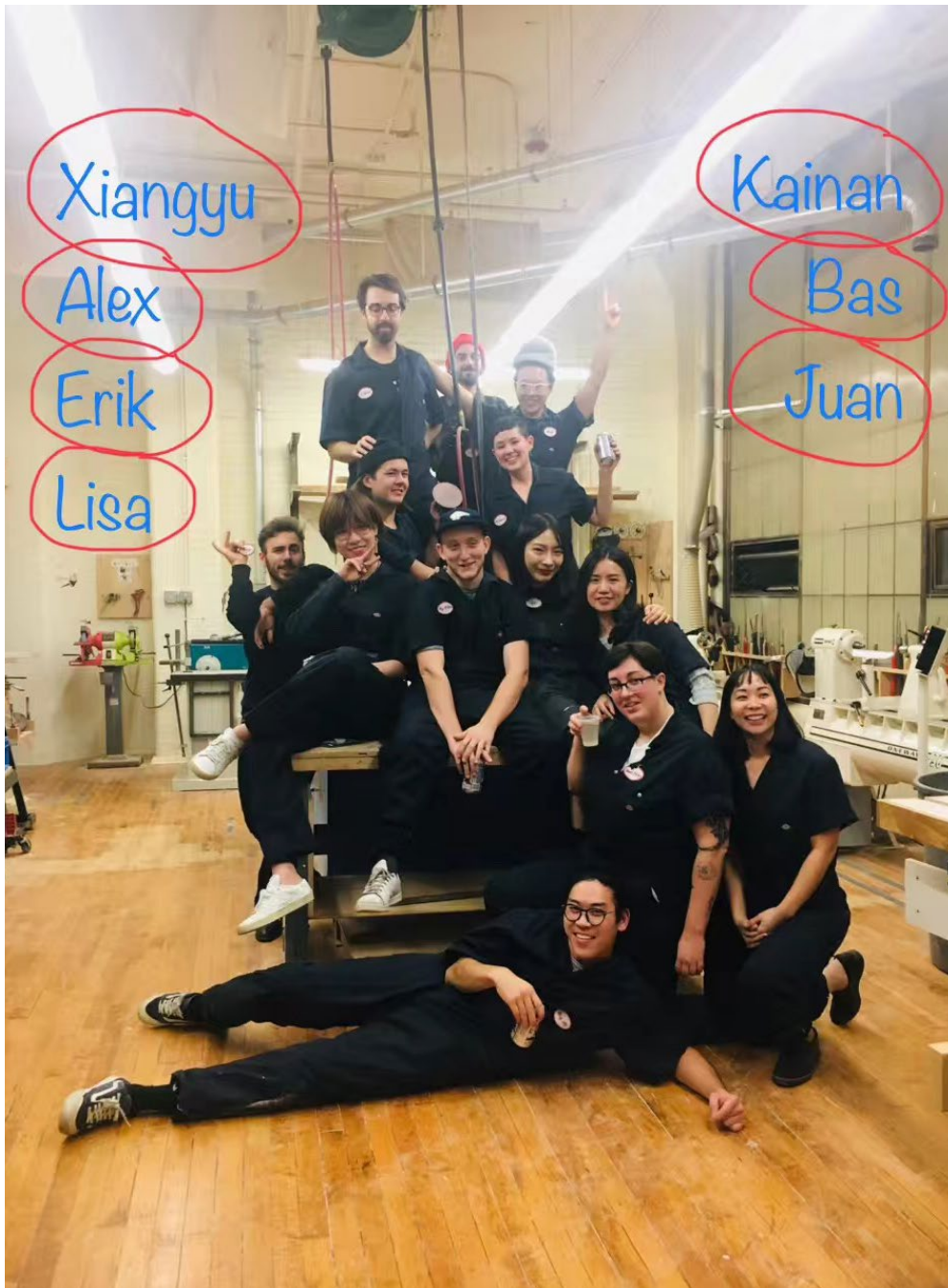


Ronan Bouroullec



写在最后
Last
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Least

This moment is a special moment. As I approach the end of my MFA program, I am also summing up my Study Abroad experience in the United States after seven years. I have met so many beautiful souls and went through countless amazing events. These wonderful adventures contain the most sincere joy and have supported me through many challenges.



To Ayumi, Xiangyu, Joy, Kainan, Will, Winslow, Emma, and Erik: Thank you for being the best team at RISD. I miss all the nights we pulled together and all the pizza we had in the woodshop.

To all the teachers and techs: Thank you for always making yourselves the most available to us. I appreciate all of your inputs and time spent helping and encouraging my own making. I learned so much from all of you.

Last but not least, to Alex, Sharon, Youtian, and every other beautiful person I met at RISD: I am grateful to be able to share part of this journey with you, and I am so honored to call you my friends.

This three-year period will certainly become one of my most precious experiences. After this adventure, we will all head towards different places. It will be difficult to meet again, and it's such a shame we couldn't say goodbye to each other in person. This is a tough time for all of us as human beings. We are all facing different challenges. We struggle, and we fight. Perhaps there is still a long way ahead of us, I sincerely hope we can all stay strong and the future is still waiting to be tasted.



A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree Master of Fine Arts in the Department of
Furniture Design of the Rhode Island School of Design,
Providence, Rhode Island

Zihe Gong

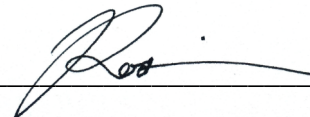
May 15, 2020

Approved by Master's Examination Committee:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BB', written over a horizontal line.

Ben Blanc, Critic, Department of Furniture Design, Chair

Emily Cornell Du Houx, Lecturer, Department of Furniture Design, Thesis Advisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rosie', written over a horizontal line.

Rosie Li, Artist/Designer, Thesis Advisor



Zihe Gong



www.zihegong.com

zihegongstudio@outlook.com

