

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

For Immediate Release

Aldrich Projects

WEN LIU: TAME TANGLE

January 9 to May 11, 2025

Wen Liu's first solo museum presentation on the East coast will feature a series of new wall sculptures that explore themes of loss and belonging

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to announce Wen Liu's first solo museum presentation on the East coast, *Tame Tangle*. Liu's installation is part of Aldrich Projects a quarterly series featuring one work or a focused body of work by a single artist on the Museum's campus. Liu debuts a series of new wall sculptures that explore themes of loss and belonging through material investigations that foreground the interplay between absence and presence. Aldrich Projects | *Wen Liu: Tame Tangle* will be on view January 9 to May 11, 2025.



Aldrich Projects | *Wen Liu: Tame Tangle* (installation view), The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, January 9 to May 11, 2025.
Photo: Jeffrey Jenkins Projects

Born and raised in Shanghai, Wen Liu immigrated to the US in 2024 to pursue a career in the visual arts. Her practice examines the complexities of abandonment and acceptance, particularly in relation to her experience building a sense of security in a foreign environment. Deeply inspired by the natural world, Liu's wall sculptures are created through a metaphorical multi-step mold-making process that she likens to the molting process, in which animals shed their old or worn-out bodily elements to make way for renewal, repair, and growth.

Her compositions are inspired by an experimental calligraphy practice, where she folds still-wet paper in half to create symmetrical, inkblot-like images. These abstract "sketches" inform the sculpture's design, bridging Eastern and Western modes of communication and interpretation. Her clay frameworks suggest organic and bodily forms such as vertebrae, pelvic bones, hop joints, braided hair, and sinuous tree roots—references symbolic of the temporal yet perpetual cycles of life.

The cavities between the skeletal structures are filled with resin and traditional Chinese herbal medicine, which Liu began integrating into her work after the loss of her father. Traditional herbal treatments are often formulated based on how effectively patients can communicate their symptoms and feelings. In this way, Liu draws a parallel between the frustration in the articulation of pain and the experience of speaking a second language, emphasizing how linguistic limitations can hinder connection and healing.

The presentation will be accompanied by a 'zine.

258 Main Street Ridgefield, CT 06877
203.438.4519
www.thealdrich.org



The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

For Immediate Release

Aldrich Projects | *Wen Liu: Tame Tangle* is curated by Curatorial and Publications Manager Caitlin Monachino.

Wen Liu was born in Shanghai, China, and is based in Brooklyn, NY. She is a RAiR Foundation Grantee for 2022; DCASE Individual Artists Program Grantee for 2018, 2019, and 2020, and received the Illinois Arts Council Agency 2020 Artist Fellowship Award. She attended residencies at RAiR Foundation, MASS MoCA, Vermont Studio Center, ACRE, and Hyde Park Art Center. Her work has been exhibited at Culture Center, Chicago; Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City; the National Grand Theater, Beijing; and Roswell Center, Roswell, NM.

For press inquiries, please contact:

Emily Devoe at 203.403.7371, or edevoe@thealdrich.org

Yasaman Khorsandi, Berlin Rosen, at 714.336.8843, or yasaman.khorsandi@berlinrosen.com

258 Main Street Ridgefield, CT 06877
203.438.4519
www.thealdrich.org

