



“ I AM SHAROL ” SELF PORTRAIT EXHIBITION

CURATED BY WEI-TING WANG

Tuesday- Sunday, September 5 -14, 2019 , 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

CHINATOWN SOUP NYC - 16B ORCHARD ST. NEW YORK NY 10002 www.chinatownsoup.nyc



OPENING: Thursday, September 5, 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

PROGRAM:

Live Body Painting by Elyse Rainbolt : Wednesday, September 4, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Invitation Only)

Artist+Curator Talk : Saturday, September 7, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

We are pleased to announce Taiwanese artist **Sharol Xiao**'s first exhibition in New York City. Her selected works are on view in New York City for the first time. The artist's first photography book, "I AM SHAROL," will also be released in New York City for the first time and is available in the exhibition.

In this exhibition, Sharol asserts that everything she does is untied by an exploration of herself which is a natural continuation of her previous work. Taking self-portraits – "straight selfies" – is the way she communicates with her inner self via unvarnished images captured on film. All her selfies are taken with a vintage camera, on 35mm film and using a 10-second timer function.

Sharol was born and raised in her hometown, Taichung, Taiwan, and moved to Taipei when she was 20. Some of her works contain subject matter, such as nudity and BDSM, that is considered inappropriate in conservative Asian culture. Sharol says, "I create my work without influence by society, absolutely pure. The inspirations of my work come straight from my true desires, learning about and discovering myself. My work is also making a statement about the humanity."

The exhibition includes Sharol's recent experimental works: photo prints that the artist painted on using her own blood. Sharol considers blood and photography to be connected. Both of them are the closest mediums to the identity of oneself.

Also in the exhibition, there is a 25 minute video documentation of the artist's KINBAKU (Japanese rope bondage) performance filmed in Kyoto, Japan in January 2019.

Sharol has four cats, she calls herself "a cat's slave." She has worked as a funeral director who helps family members in their grief. She also worked with an animal hospital for a few years. Sharol says, "Through experiencing life and death frequently in my work there, I see life in my own unique way." Sharol plans to donate profits from this exhibition to an animal saving organization.

For more photo, please visit: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1aS7M9kznj6vmkbFhdx2GFz15clU0Z_yV

[HEAD LINER TEXT]

Taiwanese artist, Sharol Xiao, takes her own portraits to express her emotions, and to communicate with and discover herself. September 5-14, 2019 at Chinatown Soup Gallery, 16B Orchard Street , NYC
<https://www.facebook.com/SharolXiao>

Sharol Xiao - Born 1994 in Taichung , Taiwan
2017 - Started modeling and taking selfie photo, using 35 mm film auto-focus vintage camera.
2018 - Joined Wonder Foto Day `18. Launched first photo book " I AM SHAROL " in September, sold to book shops in Taipei, Bangkok, Tokyo, Paris & Milan.
2019 - Joined Wonder Foto Day `19 , followed by solo exhibition at Guju Taipei and Chinatown Soup NYC .
Film screening " I AM SHAROL ," a documentary film at Pon Ding Taipei.

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Curated by Wei-Ting Wang
wtwang1214@gmail.com

Wei-Ting Wang - Born 1987 in Taipei, Taiwan
Curator, practicing artist, and researcher in art and culture. She received an M.A. in applied arts from National Chiao Tung University in Shinchu, Taiwan. She also earned an M.A. from the University of Tokyo in digital humanities. She is now pursuing another M.A. in Art Market Studies from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, USA.
Previously she was an assistant curator at GuJu gallery in Taipei, Taiwan. She participated in curating shows such as *Jung Lin's solo exhibition* (云云, 2018), *Oda Takashi's solo exhibition* (生命的痕迹, 2018) and *Shinichiro Uchikura solo exhibition* (2018) .She also assisted in Wonder Foto Day (2018).
Prior to joining the art industry, she worked in the technology industry as a product manager. She has written, drawn and designed comic zines since 2003.

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Live Body Painting by **Elyse Rainbolt & Sharol Xiao**
Wednesday, September 4, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Invitation Only)



Elyse Rainbolt is a multimedia artist living near New York City. Rainbolt's practice embraces multimedia installations that include slide projections, murals, tapestries & garments. She draws inspiration from 1960's counterculture, the female form and song lyrics. Rainbolt is a music enthusiast & visually creates what she is sonically inspired by. She is currently collaborating with Sharol Xiao & Yoichi Nakamuta in their I am Sharol exhibit.

For Further Information, please Visit
<https://www.elyserainbolt.com/>
@elyserainbolt on Instagram