

# HOSTLER BURROWS



AMY KAO (Taiwanese-American, b. 1974)

*Borealis*, 2018

vinyl

As installed: 35' L, Heights vary: 11' - 16'

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## **Amy Kao**

Born in Taiwan in 1974, Kao currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. With a background in continental philosophy, Amy Kao's work speaks to the perceptual experience and experiences of nature as markers of history and culture. Her work has been exhibited at institutions, as such MoMA PS1, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York Public Library and Busan Biennial, South Korea. Most recently, Kao completed a site specific commission at the headquarters of Facebook, Inc. in New York and collaborated with fashion designer Jil Sander on a full season collection, along with large scale public commissions at Brookfield Place and the World Financial Center in New York.

Solo exhibitions include Michael Steinberg Fine Art, NY and Venetia Kapernekas Gallery, NY. Kao is a recipient of residency fellowships at Yaddo, NY; MacDowell Colony, NH; Art Omi, NY and the Lower East Side Printshop, NY. Reviews of her work have appeared in publications such as the New York Times, the Financial Times and Art News.

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AMY KAO: ARTIST STATEMENT, 2018

"My work speaks to the perceptual experience of nature and explores nature as markers of history and culture. Each of my densely elaborate work depicts a distinct landscape composed of hybrid motifs, which are created by dissecting and overlapping fragments of vegetal and geometric forms. They convey a world absent of gravity in which bearers of naturally, socially and environmentally suggestive motifs cluster in non-human communities.

Often recalling visual journeys in classical scroll paintings, the vinyl wall installations and ink drawings are immersive dreamscapes of swelling contours and ridge-line recessions. Inspired by the notion of topography of absence in Chinese paintings where negative space presides, they exist in a liminal space that bears neither foreground nor background. They are portals into mannered gardens of exotic fungi, oceanic invertebrates, single-celled organisms, interstellar debris and geometric formations. Interwoven pictorial fragments further heighten the sense of oscillation between perceived imageries and fleeting associations and between representation and abstraction.

The rubber relief installations are interwoven arabesque of exponentially multiplying ribbon-like scrawls. Together, the hybridity of imageries, achieved through intersecting and overlapping motifs, produces an intricate and rhythmic sequence of interlaced contours. The musical sense of theme and variation is transformed into a dynamic visual cacophony. It activates the interplay between light and shadow, motion and stillness. My process is inherently based on patterning and alterations. The hybrid imageries are achieved through a play on permutation and variation by overlapping, dissecting, negating, doubling and repeating.

Similarity, the suite of densely marked ink drawings explores the notion of emergence through negation. The blackened field of intricately and compact cumulative hair line marks can be taken as a topographical field or a microscopic view. It is situated in the threshold that is barely perceptible and voraciously present."

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## **AMY KAO**

**Taiwanese, b. 1974**

Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

## **EDUCATION**

1996 BA, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND ARTIST PROJECTS**

- 2014 Jil Sander: Spring/ Summer 2014 Men's Collection
- 2013 World Financial Center, New York, NY: Field Guide to a Metropolis
- 2010 Michael Steinberg Fine Art, New York, NY: Plates and Fault Lines
- 2008 Venetia Kapernekas Gallery, New York, NY: Dwellings of Immortals on a Cloudy River
- 2007 Toronto International Art Fair, Toronto, Canada: Open Spaces (featured solo artist projects): Snow Globe  
Michael Steinberg Fine Art, New York, NY: Heavenly Tedious  
Lower East Side Printshop, New York, NY: Liminal 2001 Apexart, New York, NY: Amy Kao

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2012 Lesley Heller Workspace, New York, NY: Shift, curated by Tom Kotik  
One New York Plaza, New York, NY: Tales, curated by Tom Kotik 2011 FiveMyles,  
Brooklyn, NY: Asia Unspecified, curated by Lilly Wei  
New York Public Library, New York, NY: Recent Acquisitions: Prints and Photographs  
John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, WI: Composite Voices  
Plumbo/Anderssen Modern, New York, NY, curated by Michael Steinberg
- 2010 Editions|Artists' Book Fair, New York, NY 2009 Editions|Artists' Book Fair,  
New York, NY  
Carl Solway Gallery, Cincinnati, OH: Walls, Floors and Ceilings  
James Cohan Gallery, New York, NY/ Shanghai, China: Trees  
Tina Kim Gallery, New York, NY: The House Was Quiet and the World Was Calm,  
curated by Christopher Lew The Armory Show, New York, NY
- 2008 Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, VA: Almost Famous  
Contrasts Gallery, Shanghai, China: Mei Guo (The Beau Monde), curated by Lilly Wei  
Editions|Artists' Book Fair, New York, NY
- 2007 Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, VA: Art Ideas for New Collectors  
MoMA PSI, New York, NY: Emergency Room

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Lower East Side Printshop, New York, NY: Spring '07, curated by Bruce Pearson

- 2006 Georgia Scherman Projects, Toronto, Canada: (Un)Natural Selections  
Busan Biennale, Busan, South Korea  
Aljira Contemporary Art Center, Newark, NJ: E7, curated by Franklin Sirmans and Jennifer Moon  
Michael Steinberg Fine Art, New York, NY: Every Day Is Different  
Carl Solway Gallery, Cincinnati, OH: 3D  
Silas Marder Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY: The Big Show
- 2005 Asian American Arts Centre, New York, NY: Blues  
Carl Solway Gallery, Cincinnati, OH: Thirty Ways to Make a Painting
- 2004 Asian American Arts Centre, New York, NY: The Topography of Absence  
Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY: Open House: Working in Brooklyn Plane Space,  
New York, NY: Drawings  
Eyewash Gallery, Brooklyn, NY: Size Does Matter
- 2003 Dieu Donn e, New York, NY: Takeout  
MoMA PSI, New York, NY: After Matisse and Picasso  
Eyewash Gallery, Brooklyn, NY: 4-Square
- 2001 Galerie 5 me  tage, Paris: Opening
- 2000 Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy, NY: Showroom, curated by Ian Berry

## RESIDENCIES

- 2008 Yaddo Residency Fellowship, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2006 Lower East Side Printshop Special Editions Fellowship, New York, NY
- 2005 MacDowell Colony Residency Fellowship, Peterborough, NH  
Aljira Contemporary Art Center Emerge Program (a Creative Capital program),  
Newark, NJ  
Art Omi International Artists Residency, Ghent, NY  
Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) Swing Space finalist, New York, NY

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## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2014 Northcross, Wayne. "Fashion collectible," *New York Observer*, April 14, 2014.
- 2012 Young, Stephanie. *Vellum Magazine*, Issue #10, August 2012.
- 2009 Movius, Lisa. "Mei Guo," *Art News*, January 2009.
- 2008 Ferguson, Langdon. "Mei Guo (The Beau Monde), an Asian American Group Show," *ArtZineChina*, August 14, 2008.
- Sunshine, Becky. "Beautiful scrunity," *Financial Times*, July 26, 2008.
- Fichtner, Brian. "Mei Guo at Contrasts Gallery," *Cool Hunting*, July 21, 2008.
- "Mei Guo exhibition at Contrasts Gallery," *Designboom*, July 2008.
- "Contrasts Gallery, Shanghai, hosts Asian and Asian American artists," *Antiques and the Arts Weekly*, July 18, 2008.
- Cushing, Iris Marble. "Amy Kao in New York," *Artinfo.com*, July 10, 2008.
- 2007 Carson, Andrea. "Art that will please a crowd," *The Globe and Mail*, October 20, 2007.
- Figura, Starr. "Editions '07," *New York, NY: Lower East Side Printshop*.
- 2006 Kim Jyeong-Yeon, Minato Chihiro, Victoria Lu. "Life in Art: 2006 Busan Biennale," *Busan, Korea: Busan Biennale*.
- Cotter, Holland. "Aljira Emerge E7," *The New York Times*, September 15, 2006. Bischoff, Dan. "Artists on the Rise," *The Star-Ledger*, July 30, 2006.
- Durrell, Jane. "Sensuous Forms," *Cincinnati CityBeat*, July 6, 2006.
- 2005 Knafo, Robert. "Art Omi," *SV*, September, 2005.
- 2004 Levin, Kim. "The Topography of Absence," *The Village Voice*, December 10-16, 2004.
- "Current: The Topography of Absence," *Tsing Tao Daily*, November 22, 2004.
- Maine, Stephen. "Dateline Brooklyn," *Artnet Magazine*, May 25, 2004.
- Kotik, Charlotta and Mosaka, T umelo. "Open House," *Brooklyn, NY: Brooklyn Museum of Art*.
- Faust, Lily. "Review: Size Does Matter," *M*, May 2004.
- 2003 "Art News," *Artnet Magazine*, December 18, 2003.
- Cotter, Holland. "4-Square," *The New York Times*, February 7, 2003.
- 2001 Herron, Annie. "222," *New York, NY: Apex Art Curatorial Program*.
- 2000 Berry, Ian. "Showroom," *Troy, NY: Arts Center of the Capital Region*.

## LECTURES

- 2009 Guest lecturer, Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, OR
- 2007 Visiting artist, Tyler School of Art at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 2005 Guest lecturer, New York Studio Program, New York, NY
- Visiting artist, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY