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Claire Oliver Gallery Presents

Sami Tsang: Our Family Portrait May 24 - July 26, 2025, at Claire Oliver Gallery in Harlem



Sami Tsang Dark Waters, Luminescent Dreams stoneware, glaze, glass, lace, micro-beads embellishment, acrylic, lights bulb, socket, chain, thread, resin, faux fur, 2025 78 x 32 x 31 inches | 198 x 81 x 79cm

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO INVITE YOU TO EXPERIENCE AN IMERSIVE EXPERIENTIAL EXHIBITION OF NEW CERAMIC SCULPTURES AND PAINTINGS AT THE ARTIST'S AMERICAN GALLERY PREMIERE.

SAMI TSANG: *OUR FAMILY PORTRAIT* May 24 - July 26, 2025

Claire Oliver Gallery announces Our Family Portrait, the first U.S. solo exhibition by Chinese-Canadian artist Sami Tsang. The exhibition features new large-scale, richly layered figurative and allegorical works in ceramic sculpture, painting, and installation. Tsang's studio practice delves into the complexities of mythology, identity, cultural inheritance, family dynamics, and personal liberation.

Our Family Portrait will be on view May 24 - July 26, 2025, at Claire Oliver Gallery in Harlem.

Tsang's ceramic figures exist in a liminal space between tradition and rebellion, bearing the weight of cultural history while simultaneously breaking free from its constraints.



Sami Tsang When Heroes Were Real stoneware, glass, acrylic, resin, micro-beads embellishment, wire, 2025 61 x 24 x 33 inches | 155 x 61 x 84cm



Sami Tsang Nourishing On Pain stoneware, glaze, glass, acrylic, resin, faux fur, micro-beads embellishment, 2025 60 x 21 x 31 inches | 152 x 53 x 79cm

Our Family Portrait expands her exploration of the domestic sphere as both a site of comfort and constraint. Using humor and symbolism, her sculptural works reflect the psychological complexities of family life, evoking themes of transformation, resilience, and adaptation. Drawing from childhood memories, Chinese proverbs, and cultural symbols, Tsang challenges traditional roles and societal expectations, creating a deeply personal yet universally resonant narrative.

Raised in a traditional Chinese household as the youngest female child, Tsang navigates the tension between obedience, duty, and the pursuit of individuality, revealing the unspoken struggles of a bicultural identity. Her large-scale figures—bold, exaggerated, and emotionally charged—capture moments of repression, rebellion, and transformation. Through humor, distortion, and fantasy, her figures embody the negotiation between traditional Chinese values, rooted in filial piety, modesty, and family honor, and the desire for autonomy and self-expression.



Sami Tsang Grief's Landscape stoneware, glaze, glass, lace, micro-beads embellishment, acrylic, resin, 2025 47 x 38 x 25 inches | 119 x 97 x 64cm

Sami Tsang's work has gained international recognition, establishing her as a significant voice in contemporary ceramics and sculpture. She has participated in prestigious residencies, including the 7th International Artist Retreat and Residency in Anhui, China, and the Harbourfront Centre Residency in Toronto. Her work has been exhibited at leading art fairs such as Art Toronto and EXPO Chicago, reinforcing her presence in both North American and global art markets.



Sami Tsang I'm the Reflection Of You stoneware, glaze, glass, acrylic, resin, faux fur, nylon cord, chain, jade, micro-beads embellishment, 2025 42 x 27 x 19 inches | 107 x 69 x 48cm



Sami Tsang Burn it ceramic, glaze, engobe, glass, thread, 2022 37 x 18 x 14 inches | 94 x 46 x 36cm

PREVIEW THE WORKS OF SAMI TSANG CLICK HERE



Sami Tsang Bathtub Story stoneware, glaze, underglaze, resin, clay, plastic, 2020 32 x 32 x 19 inches | 81 x 81 x 48cm



Sami Tsang Rotten Roots stoneware, glaze, acrylic, thread, fabric, resin, faux fur, 2025 28 x 27 x 12 inches | 71 x 69 x 30cm



Sami Tsang Saying Hi Is That Hard stoneware, glaze, colour slip, poly China silk, 2023 25 x 12 x 16 inches | 64 x 29 x 39cm



Sami Tsang His Bad Days stoneware, engobe, glaze, resin, tissue paper, polymer clay, clay epoxy, metal hinge, acrylic, 2021 15 x 10 x 8 inches | 37 x 24 x 20cm

ABOUT CLAIRE OLIVER GALLERY

Claire Oliver Gallery is located in Central Harlem in a four-story brownstone. For 30 years, Claire Oliver Gallery has showcased and celebrated artwork, with a focus on work by women and people of color, which transcends and challenges the traditional art historical canon. Our forward-thinking program and exclusive commitment to the primary market allows for an intensive focus that has nurtured and grown the careers of our artists. Many of the gallery's artists have been included in The Venice Biennale, The Whitney Biennial, and biennales in Sydney, Pittsburgh, and Lyon and have exhibited works in major international museums including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, Center Georges Pompidou, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, and The Los Angeles County Museum of Art amongst others. Claire Oliver Gallery artists are included in the permanent collections of many important museums worldwide including The Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Tate Britain, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The State Hermitage Museum, MoMA, and the Museum of Arts and Design amongst many others. Claire Oliver Gallery held the first American exhibition for the Russian collaborative AES+F, whose work went on to twice represent Russia in the Russian pavilion of the Venice Biennale. Gallery artists have received prestigious fellowships including Fulbright, Guggenheim, USArtist, and National Endowment for the Arts.



Sami Tsang Ended on The 15th Year stoneware, engobe, glaze, resin, fabric, polymer clay, acrylic, 2020 14 x 12 x 12 inches | 36 x 30 x 30 cm

Claire Oliver Gallery

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