



WAVE HILL SUNROOMPROJECTSPACE

September 10–October 23, 2022 **DEEP POOL** *In Bloom*

DEEP POOL

Born 1997, Ji'An, China
Raised in New York City
Lives in Queens, NY

In Bloom, 2022

Dye sublimation print on aluminum,
turntable, artist-made pedestal, laser
engraved plexiglass, key ring, lock and key,
ratchet strap, artist soundscape
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the artist

Informed by their upbringing as a transcontinental adoptee and their current gender transition, New York Community Trust Van Lier Fellow Deep Pool creates work that makes meaning in relation to their personal history and fluctuating sense of self. Further examining the potential of this unknown, Deep Pool disrupts and queers entrenched perceptions often associated with floral imagery and gender identity. Using photographs of flowering plants and horizon lines embedded in landscapes, as well as architectural interventions in the Sun Porch, Deep Pool reframes this clichéd imagery in unexpected ways. The result is ambiguity and open-endedness that speak to fluidity, self-determination and shifting notions of place and time.

During the 2022 Winter Workspace, Deep Pool explored the ways that emotions connect human beings with the natural world, using lens-based, photographic and other mediums to contemplate how we perceive natural, artificial and ethereal light. On a pedestal in the center of the Sun Porch space, is *Bloom*, a rotating, circular, monochromatic photograph depicting a section of a white rose injected with a syringe. *Hidden Pleasures* alludes to the process of hormone replacement therapy, and the psychological and physical changes—as well as the external and internal adaptations—that this therapy requires. Its dark color palette and composition render the imagery nuanced, abstracted and enigmatic. *Kiss*, a vibrantly colored photograph, is situated in a lightbox in a corner of the Sun Porch, cords protruding from both ends of the box. Against an electric reddish-orange background, a drop of clear liquid from a white rose is suspended in space, grazing the edge of a red anthurium blossom. A small pool of liquid has collected on the tip of one of the anthurium's petals. The work's imagery and title suggest notions of desire, of erotica and a longing to define femininity, while other pieces touch upon ideas of innocence and fragility.

Digital imaging, video stills, screen shots and analogue photography allow Deep Pool to experiment with various forms of display. As Deep Pool investigates the possibilities of photo-based media, they embark on a journey of their own self-discovery, one that calls for reckoning with past, present and future. The artist, who self-identifies as a “trans-disciplinary” artist, merges two “trans” experiences, in an effort to protect and preserve self.

“Deep Pool” is a self-given moniker that is based on an English translation of the Chinese name, Ji Tan, that the artist was given at birth. This is Deep Pool's first solo exhibition in New York. They have exhibited work in Hartford, CT; New Brunswick, NJ; Richmond, VA; and Berlin, Germany. Deep Pool earned a BFA in photography and film from Virginia Commonwealth University.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: SUN, OCT 15, 3 PM, *Meet the Artist*

Organized by former Senior Curator of Visual Arts Eileen Jeng Lynch, the Sunroom Project Space provides an opportunity for New York-area emerging artists to develop and exhibit a site-specific project as a solo show. The 2022 season features, consecutively, Kevin Quiles Bonilla, Anina Major, Krystal DiFronzo, Heidi Norton, Deep Pool and Amina Ross.

THE EDWARD AND SALLY VAN LIER ARTIST FELLOWSHIP IS SUPPORTED BY THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM IS PROVIDED BY THE LILY AUCHINCLOSS FOUNDATION; NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS; NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR AND THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE; POLLOCK-KRASNER FOUNDATION; AND BY THE CATHY AND STEPHEN WEINROTH COMMISSIONING FUND FOR THE ARTS.



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