

# tutu gallery

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1028 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, NY

## **A Change of Struggle**

Curated by April Zhu

September 18 - October 23, 2021

Tutu Gallery is pleased to announce our new off-site exhibition, *A Change of Struggle*, at petty cash, 144 Forrest St, Bushwick, opening September 18th, 2021. This exhibition features 10 artists from different backgrounds who explore their experience with pain and transformation. Contrary to the common belief that struggle is the cause of personal growth, this collection of artworks illustrates situations where, amid the coexistence of pain and transformation, the self recedes. In these works, the human figure is erased and hidden, and the only change now is how the psyche interprets and morphs with its perceived negativity. Just like Leo Tolstoy wrote: "all happy families resemble one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way". In this way, misfortune symbolizes change, but the change is simply a change of struggle, a diversity of pain, and never a new chance for struggling souls.

**Christian Amaya** creates abstract paintings to embody his severe and irrational thoughts united with fears of failure and practical insanity. His ideas derive from a sentimental and destructive origin that involves imagining, hiding, and revealing entities or objects with paint. Using a childlike perspective of life, Christian aims to use his intuition to discover new ways of depicting experiences and translatable ideas.

In her work, **Helen Dolan** combines the image of the perfect, innocuous skinny girl with a disruptive slapstick set in a Twilight Zone episode. Utilizing video, sculpture, and sounds, her works create a pastel paradise with hazy undertones of societal critique, paranoia, and anxiety. Her work is informed by her ongoing research into inequity in the art world and art history texts.

**Maho Donowaki** is curious about the many ways mistreatment presents itself in intimate relationships. In her work she focuses on spaces where harm and care coexists. Maho creates narratives about interpersonal dysfunctions, and portrays these through multidisciplinary approaches, such as sculpture, installation, and video. She depicts acts of care and nurture along with gestures of force and harm.

**Juan Luna Avin's** practice focuses on mixed media paintings and drawings that reflect a fondness for abstraction, collage, and comics. In his ongoing series, he is exploring individual

and collective identities, personal memory, and fictional narrative. In his word, there is an emphasis on faces because portraits help us understand ourselves and the complexity of the human condition.

**Isabel Monti** is currently a first-year MFA student at Alfred University's Alfred Düsseldorf MFA Painting Program. Her practice is informed by her familial history and how that constructed her identity.

**Carol Paik** is a mixed media artist, focused on repurposing discarded materials and the detritus of our everyday lives. She most enjoys taking something that is overlooked, and looking at it closely. Or, taking something too frequently seen, and looking at it slightly differently. She is also interested in the emotions that we bring to the things we discard: nostalgia, guilt, desire, and loss.

**Jeannie Rhyu** paints dreams. These visions are saturated with rich colors, sprinkled with autobiographical details, and distorted with a touch of drama. Rhyu is inspired by nature, folklore, history, transcultural womanhood, and mythical creatures, as well as by the power of magical moments. She is especially fascinated with the mutable qualities of natural elements like light, fire, and water and how they find a place in ritual practice. Her paintings have been exhibited internationally in group and solo shows in New York, Vancouver, Seoul, Beijing, and London.

"Drawing a parallel between the plagues of pestilence and flood, the rising numbers of sick and dying filled me with the same dread and grief I felt during the rising tide of Hurricane Sandy. The storm drove me from my home, while the quarantine trapped me in it. This preoccupation with plagues made its way into my paintings, resulting in a collision of images and forms specific to my childhood in sea-level Rockaway and my new life near the Covid epicenter in Queens. *Pocket Full of Posies (Sign of the Apocalypse 2)* captures the claustrophobia of the two plagues I am very lucky to have survived." -- **Jen Angulo Salguero**

**Isabelle Schneider's** meditative, lens-based mixed media works are a surreal convergence of shadows and light or of reflections, evoking a sense of peace and neighborhood bliss, and often encapsulating a harmony of nature and modernity.

**Janice Sloane** works with themes of decay and impermanence that bring into question the nature of identity and that which identifies. The process of transformation is perpetual, both internally (the mystery of the unseen) and on the surface (what intermingles with the collective). How do the inner and outer processes reconcile one another? What is beautiful in both the ideal and the inherent? She journeys to the border of physical identity to gaze at the internal face, sometimes unrecognizable, sometimes hideous; but pregnant with power.

For inquiries, contact Instagram [@gallerytutu](https://www.instagram.com/gallerytutu)