

ALYSSA DAVIS GALLERY
2 Cornelia St. New York, NY 10014

Alli Melanson, Ivan Cheng, Libby Rothfeld, sgp, and Vijay Masharani

This dialogue which happened to be present in all other dialogues

Curated by Jonas Albro, Liza Lacroix, and Sigourney Schultz

September 9, 2021–October 31, 2021

This dialogue which happened to be present in all other dialogues is an exhibition featuring works by Alli Melanson, Ivan Cheng, Libby Rothfeld, sgp, and Vijay Masharani presented at Alyssa Davis Gallery. Each of these works observes a threshold of transition. Typically such words in gallery settings are fraught with drama, and are erudite, non-alarmist ways of referencing rapid societal change. In this setting these transitions can be modest, or they can be unprecedented, but they are joined together through a sense of calm observation and dispassionate insight which prevails in these pieces. It is important to note that these are not judgements of the aesthetics of each work, which are varied and often decidedly not dispassionate or calm, but intimations of a frame of mind shared by the artists. These works perform, record, access, engage, document, and entrap, embalming the viewer within the gallery space. *This dialogue which happened to be present in all other dialogues* is a network into which the viewer enters and is caught in a space of tension and nostalgia.

Alli Melanson was born March 29th 1987 in what is currently called "Creston, BC, Canada", weighing 7 lbs 13 oz and measuring 49 cm. Her location, weight and length continue to change over time.

The performances of **Ivan Cheng** are incomplete, failing, desperate, and riddled with absence. They use his variously trained performing body, incanting texts that foreground subjectivity in monologues and dialogues. Identities of other interlocutors become embedded through rehearsal, dialogue, and entrustment. Without deluded presupposition of being for everyone, Cheng's practice is invested in questions around publics and accessibility. He holds an MFA in Critical Studies (Sandberg Instituut), having previously studied at the Royal Academy of Music and Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Past presentations of his texts have occurred at Les Urbaines (Lausanne), Volksbühne Roter Salon (Berlin), Oude Kerk (Amsterdam), Belvedere21 (Vienna), MuHKA (Antwerp), Nacionalinė dailės galerija (Vilnius), Unsound Festival (Krakow), Carriageworks (Sydney), Federation Square (Melbourne). He also works as a performer, clarinetist, dramaturg, and since 2017 has initiated project space bologna.cc in Amsterdam.

Libby Rothfeld (b. 1990, New Brunswick, New Jersey; lives and works in Queens, New York) received her BFA from New York University. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include: *Junker*, Bureau, New York, 2021; *Everybody Knows*, SpazioA, Pistoia, Italy, 2020; *Confidence in Motion*, Downstairs Projects, New York, 2018; *Noon and Afternoon*, Bureau, New York, 2017; *1999*, Antoine Renard & Libby Rothfeld, curated by Siliqoon, Marsèlleria, Milan, 2017; *A Dumb Sound, A Sweet Bell*, Anne Libby & Libby Rothfeld, 315 Gallery, Brooklyn, 2017; *AAa: Quien*, Erica Baum & Libby Rothfeld, Bureau, New York, 2017; Libby Rothfeld, First Continent, Baltimore, 2015; and *Good To Think With, Good To Think Against*, Kimberly-Klark, New York, 2015. Group exhibitions include *Beauty Can Be the Opposite of a Number*, Bureau, New York, 2020; *Homestead*, Carl Louie, London, Ontario, 2017; *Daydream from 2013*, curated by Matthew Flaherty, Canada, New York, 2016; *Boil the Ocean*, Bodega, New York, 2016.

sgp is an anti disciplinary artist living in New York. Currently, sgp is working on a piece about (student) debt and public/private partnerships by enrolling in Hunter's MFA program. This is their final year of the ongoing project, forthcoming 2022.

Vijay Masharani (b. 1995, Bay Area, CA) is an artist based in New York. Select solo and two person exhibitions include: *Triage* at Clima, Milan (2021); *#38: Gas, Honey* with Raza Kazmi at Museum Gallery, New York (2019); *It Might Be Warm But It's Not Clean* with Trisha Cheeney at High-Tide, Philadelphia (2017). Select group exhibitions include: *Kas in Knight* at Helena Anrather, New York (2021); *FREE FALL* at Shoot the Lobster LA (2021); *Still Life at Drawer NYC* (2020), *Bangalore Flat* at Home Sweet Home, Bangalore (2019); *Pig Latin In Quicksand* at Clima, Milan (2019). His writing has appeared in Artforum, X—TRA Magazine, ARTnews, The Brooklyn Rail, and elsewhere. He received his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2017 and is currently an MA Candidate in Race, Ethnicity, and Postcolonial Studies at University College London. He is represented by Clima in Milan.

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For press inquiries, email contact@alysadavis.gallery or call +1 (401) 263-4093

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