

D. D. D. D.

179 Canal St, Ste 3B/4D  
New York, NY 10013

Tess Wei

*dirty snow*

Opening Friday September 8, 6–8 pm

September 8–October 15 2023

Press Release

D. D. D. D. is pleased to present Tess Wei's debut New York solo exhibition, *dirty snow*, opening September 8 from 6–8 pm.

The paintings and graphite works in the exhibition project intensity through a slow process of looking—where they reconsider the conventional values of the dark, gritty, and dented. What is at first inscrutable is revealed through subtle shifts in hues, tones, textures, and mass. Resulting in images that are poetic and often achingly evocative.

Wei's works occupy a unique place in the contemporary field, where they defy the screen, a powerful channel and merchandiser of images. By existing within a field of deep blacks, the works consciously evade capture and miniaturization. Their images all but disappear within the small, slick flatness of the digital.

By positioning their practice against the current quickness of image consumption, Wei refuses and rethinks the rules of image-making that have been de rigueur. If bright images are like the violent, short-lived heat of a photographer's flash, Wei's works burn slowly like embers instead. They reveal their intense, sustaining warmth only when approached. This intensity takes the form of complex microcosms and macrocosms of color, shape, and line that emerge through intimate engagement. They reward closeness—and closeness is rewarded with quiet revelations.

## Artist Biography

Tess Wei (b. 1995) is an artist, curator, and writer born and based in Philadelphia. They are interested in the importance of rest, and how slowness, duration, and (day)dreams inform larger topics of labor and ecology.

A solo exhibition of their paintings was held at Larry Becker Contemporary Art, Philadelphia in 2022. Their work has been included in group exhibitions at Larry Becker Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia; Atelier FAS, Philadelphia; AUTOMAT, Philadelphia; and virtually with Anna Zorina Gallery, NYC; and Field Projects, NYC.

Wei is the Exhibitions Manager and Assistant Curator at the List Gallery, Swarthmore College, where they taught as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Art from spring 2021–spring 2022. They received their BA from Swarthmore College in 2017 and MFA from PAFA in 2020.

For more information, please e-mail [dante@ddd.pictures](mailto:dante@ddd.pictures)