

Interview with *The Here and There Collective*  
January 2024

Global non-profit organization committed to connecting and uplifting contemporary artists and other art practitioners from the Asian diaspora.

B I O



Anna Ting Möller (b. 1991, Hunan, China) is an artist living and working in New York City and Stockholm. Möller received an MFA from Columbia University, New York, NY and a BFA from Konstfack University, Stockholm, SE. Forthcoming solo exhibitions will be held at Galleri Dueer, Stockholm, Sweden, and Gallery Tutu, Brooklyn, NY. The artist has exhibited at Liljevalchs Art Gallery, Stockholm, SE; ArkDes, Stockholm, SE; Carl Eldh Ateljémuseum, Stockholm, SE; ICPNA La Molina, Lima, PE; Urban Glass, Alexander Bergguren, New York, NY; Titanik Gallery, FI; and more. They participated in the 45th Tendencies Biennale in Norway.

Q & A

**Can you tell us about your practice for those who are new to you?**

My work focuses on kombucha as a corporeal potential and follows a material logic. The sculptures are ephemeral and constantly morphing. Conceptually, it is important for me to work with one kombucha mother, creating a lineage of offspring based on a matrilineal 'family tree.' After growing the organism in a large vat, I subtract layers of 'skin' from the mother culture and use the flesh-resembling matter to create amorphous 'bodies.' Fermentation is a form of domestication, and a jar of kombucha culture provides a small

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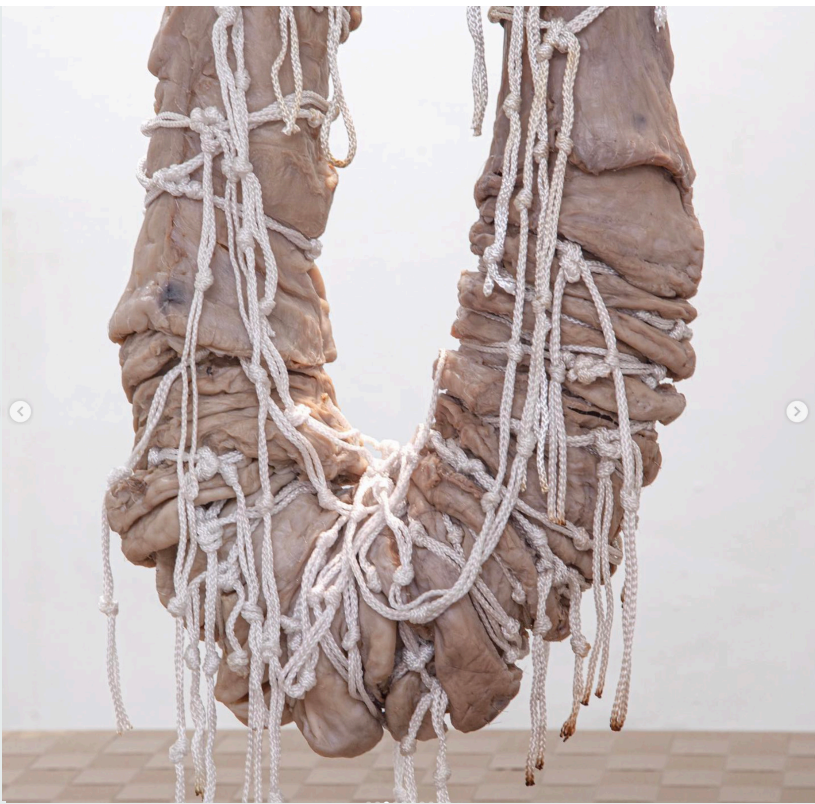
portal into the way life happens.

My sculptures are alive in a literal sense, and the appearance of the work changes over time. In theory, it is possible to return the 'body' to the culture, the mother. However, the risk of contamination is extremely high. The method expands on the relationship between mother and child, representing an intimidating collapse in meaning caused by the loss of the distinction between self and other.

I am interested in the sexualized and grotesque, and the work often depicts a hanging disposable body, where the 'skin' operates as the trope. The

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fetishized Other has emerged from the motivation to 'know' those who are unfamiliar and to subjectively understand the culture. Through transformative installations, I aim to control the gaze by creating scenarios in which I seek to control, contain, and master.



Q & A

**Your practice is expressed through a unique medium—kombucha. Could you share how you started using this as your primary medium?**

In 2015, I traveled to China in search of my birth mother. Ultimately, I did not find her. Instead, the woman I stayed with gifted me a kombucha mother, and a different kind of mother found me. Since then, I have been cultivating that same kombucha culture through a fermentation process involving tea and sugar—both materials rooted in fraught relationships with Northern European economies. I began exploring allegories linked to kombucha—as a mother, offspring, caregiver,

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contaminant, and even parasite—hinging on the necessity of continuous care.

