

Artist Statement:

The name of this project is Cold Summer. The name comes from the possibility of a cold war between China and the United States, and I would like to call bad days Cold Summer and good days Autumn.

I started working on it in September 2020, the ninth month that the United States issued a travel ban to China, the sixth month that I returned to China because of COVID-19, and the first month of the start of the SVA fall semester online course in New York. During that time, everything was going downhill, like a gradual summer. I began to think about what my life would be like if this cold war really happened. Maybe I would never be able to go back to school. I would be a salty fish hanging in a white European-style decorated room or a twisted black braid blowing in the wind over my hometown. The way forward was imprisoned by an elegant frame, as in my photo, even if the arrow points to the cage. The flight distance of 16 hours has now become more than 400 days, which is long enough to celebrate the online courses' anniversary. According to Chinese funeral and burial traditions, we burn paper money for the dead relatives so they can live in another world without worries. Maybe I should also burn some paper money for my lost life and the world. Then everything will start to get better.

This project is not to hide or beautify the problems that have occurred but to face those that have not yet occurred. We will always prepare for the worst. We are not afraid of those bad things happening; we will always be ready to face and solve problems.



