A space

Dolls Don't Cry

January 9 - January 17, 2026
13 Grattan St, #402, Brooklyn, New York

Artist

Chloe Abidi
Shashi Arnold
Lucia Gallipoli
Zhaoyue(Cindy) Chen
Qingyuan Liang
Jobelle Quijano
Meiting Song
Jianye Zou

Curator

Key Ling
Sumi Zhang

Jumping Rope Piggy Girl, 2024, 14x12x26 in, Stoneware with underglaze and glaze, Cindy Zhaoyue Chen

Opening Reception: January 9th, 5-7pm

New York, NY — A Space Gallery is pleased to present *Dolls Don't Cry,* a group exhibition featuring Chloe Abidi, Shashi Arnold, Zhaoyue (Cindy) Chen, Lucia Gallipoli, Qingyuan Liang, Jobelle Quijano, Meiting Song, and Jianye Zou. Spanning painting, textiles, sculpture, installation, illustration, video, and digital media, the exhibition examines how emotional objects move beyond bedrooms and shelves to become companions in daily life, shaping intimacy, care, projection, and control.

Dolls do not cry, but sometimes we do. These objects sit with us through everyday moments, travel alongside us, and quietly absorb stress, fatigue, and emotions we do not always know how to name. *Dolls Don't Cry* considers how emotional objects circulate through contemporary life not only as private comforts, but as presences embedded in routines, relationships, and shared spaces. The exhibition reflects on intimacy and distance, care and control, and the subtle ways objects help us navigate the emotional pressures of modern living.

Chloe Abidi presents *Dream Ballet*, a video installation housed within a castle-shaped wooden structure. A looping projection shows a performer attempting to align her body with abstract shapes cast onto her form, reflecting on discipline, performance, and the tension between digital systems and embodied experience. Shashi Arnold contributes *Innocence* and *Bird Song*, fragile and poetic works that draw from childhood imagination and existential inquiry, exploring tenderness, loss, and instability.

Lucia Gallipoli presents *Sorry, You Look Like Someone I Only See at Night*, a diptych resembling a wallpapered wall with empty picture frames and a window opening onto a glittering void. Inspired by moments of mistaken recognition and emotional projection, the work reflects on loneliness, desire, and the search for intimacy in public space.

Jobelle Quijano's *Bringing My Dolls to Heaven With Me* draws from childhood death anxiety and Catholic imagination, reflecting on impermanence and the fear of losing sentimental objects. *Don't Tell Me This Isn't True* explores dolls as vessels of femininity, fantasy, and self-projection, allowing for play, devotion, and spiritual attachment beyond the male gaze.

Jianye Zou's *Inly* repositions dolls as protective forms wrapped around the body, transforming softness into emotional armor through care. Meiting Song's *The Best Girlfriend of 2025* and *The Second Worst Girlfriend of 2025* take the form of trophy-like sculptures that critique romantic performance, reward systems, and emotional labor. Her work *Girls* extends this inquiry through small avatar-like figures that carry fragments of self-identity, emotion, and contradiction, using cuteness, accessories, and stillness as soft armor within an overwhelming urban environment. Zhaoyue (Cindy) Chen's ceramic sculpture *Jumping Rope Piggy Girl* revisits a childhood toy to reflect on memory, globalization, and emotional well-being, while Qingyuan Liang's *Travels in Switzerland* offers a quiet, illustrative meditation on solitude, tenderness, and imagined belonging.

Together, the artists in *Dolls Don't Cry* consider how emotional objects quietly accompany contemporary life, absorbing feeling, holding memory, and revealing the delicate balance between vulnerability and control. The exhibition invites viewers to reflect on what we give to these objects, what they return to us, and how they shape the emotional landscapes of everyday living.

A Space, founded in 2024, is a pioneering incubator dedicated to discovering and supporting emerging artists in the contemporary art world. As a forward-thinking platform, we provide young talents with the space and opportunities to experiment, grow, and connect with a wider audience. Through collaborations with visionary artists and brands, we curate cutting-edge exhibitions, immersive art events, and dynamic cultural experiences that push the boundaries of artistic expression. More than just a gallery, A Space Gallery is a hub for creativity, dialogue, and innovation, shaping the future of contemporary art.

Shashi Arnold
What I Listen To
2023
Clay, acrylic, wire, paper
3x2x2 in

$600

Shashi Arnold
innocence
2023
Paper, stuffing, thread
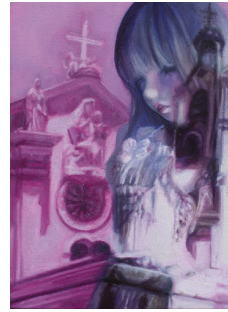23ft x 1.5ft x 2in

$500

Jianye Zou
Inly
2025
water color and digital
20x16 in

$320

Cindy Zhaoyue Chen
Jumping Rope Piggy Girl
2024
Stoneware with underglaze
and glaze
14x12x26 in

$2800

Lucia Gallipoli
*Sorry, You Look Like Someone I
Only See at Night*
2024
Cradled wooden panels,
polyester quilting batting, cotton
fabric, secondhand curtains,
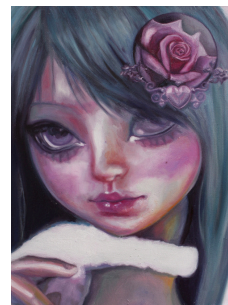vintage picture frames, thread.
48x36x4 in

$1000

Jobelle Quijano
*Bringing My Dolls to
Heaven With Me*
2025
Oil on canvas
12x9 in

$500

Jobelle Quijano
*Don't Tell Me This Isn't
True*
2025
Oil on canvas
24x18 in

$800

Chloe Abidi
Dream Ballet
2025
wood, 7" monitor, video
23.5 x 23.5 x 2 in

$3000

Meiting Song
*The Best Girlfriend 0f
2025*
2025
PLA 3D printing, spray
paint
10in

$650

Meiting Song
*The Second-Worst
Girlfriend 0f 2025*
2025
PLA 3D printing, spray
paint
10in

$650

Meiting Song
G*irls*
2024
Pla 3d printed + acrylic
20cm tall

$400

Meiting Song
G*irls*
2024
Pla 3d printed + acrylic
20cm tall

$400

Meiting Song
G*irls*
2024
Pla 3d printed + acrylic
20cm tall

$400

Qingyuan Liang
Travels in Switzerland
2023
16x12 in x3

NFS