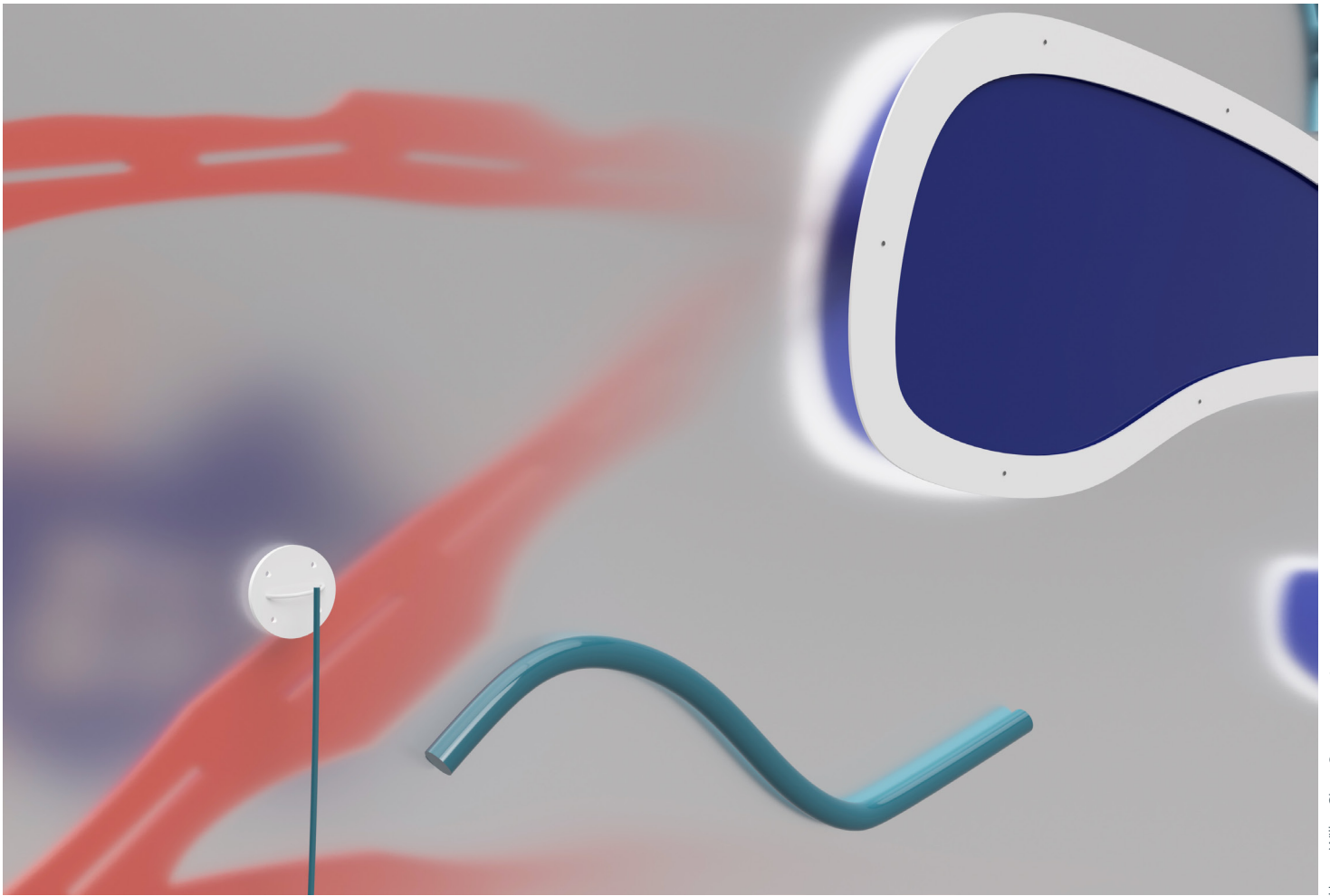


# VITRINE



Hanae Wilke, Close Quarters, rendered image, 2018. Courtesy of the artist.

## Press Release

### **Hanae Wilke** **Close Quarters**

13 April - 24 June 2018

Preview: Thursday 12 April 6-8pm

VITRINE, London

VITRINE London is delighted to present a new body of work by London based artist Hanae Wilke. Informed by her surroundings and starting with an observation, Wilke constructs sculptures and installations from industrial materials such as metal, pipes, brackets, fibreglass and resin. These works borrow qualities from existing and familiar objects, structures, forms, and systems that are often overlooked. Through material investigations, Wilke explores weight, tactility, texture, gesture and colour and the ways in which they act with and within space.

Drawing on the typography and language of narrowboats, Wilke examines alternative modes of living and habitable structures that could fit into speculative future narratives. These independent 'vessels' become the starting point to Wilke's new body of work that offer a new exploration of ideas and shifts in future living which, in turn, become a template into exploring how micro-architecture might be applied within the urban environment.

Interested in the autonomy of these independent vessels that represent freedom, resourcefulness and self-determination, canal boats offer the possibility of alternative living in a wider sense. Looking to ideas of architecture that maintain and optimize human interaction and social frameworks, narrowboats seem like a romanticised ideal - an independent, self contained, self sufficient vessel. Through this mode of living, how can one think more broadly about adaptability and alternative living?

Wilke has meticulously collected photographic material of narrowboats predominantly along the River Lea in East London, finding new sculptural forms within their own constructions and assemblages. Deck equipment such as the stern, anchors and rope along with domestic elements such as curtains, stickers and boat name designs build an aesthetic 'tool-box' for Wilke's sculptural interventions. Through drawing and 3D modeling software, Wilke explores scale, colour, height and weight within her sculptural forms. Whilst manipulating, editing and rotating these initial digital sculptures, the process becomes the foundation of her work, functioning as a physical materialisation of thinking.

Wilke disassembles and stitches together these fragments – removed from their origins, the works become abstracted. These facades populate the gallery space; elevated from the walls, dispersed across the floor and suspended from one another both leading and obstructing the viewer across the space. By taking the familiar and distorting them, Wilke presents a series of works that maintain a sense of the hand drawn and often allude to the presence and absence of the body.

Given the urgency of the housing crisis, which has become notoriously dysfunctional, the exhibition considers how one might in the face of these constraints and social inequalities, seek alternative ways of living and reclaim private space within the urban environment.

Curated by Chris Bayley, VITRINE Associate Curator.

### Artist Biography

Dutch artist Hanae Wilke (b. 1985 Tokyo) lives and works in London and The Hague. She graduated with an MA from the Royal College of Art, London in 2015 having gained a BA in Fine Art in 2013 and a BA in European Studies in 2009 both at The Hague, NL. Exhibitions include: Deep Hug, Ornis A. Amsterdam (2016); Conduit Slur, Kinman, London (2016); Patina Pause, Camden Art Centre, London (2015); /ege of Art, Udstillingsstedet Q, Copenhagen (2015); and Stranger, Stranger (I swallowed part of you), EXO, The Hague (2014).

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### Notes to Editor:

1. Installation views / press image selection will be released on 12 April.

2. VITRINE is focused on artistic experimentation and development; material-, process- and installation-led practice at its core. VITRINE encompasses two parts: gallery and projects. The gallery was founded by Alys Williams in London in 2012 (grown from a project space launched in 2010) and in Basel in April 2016. Establishing a strong reputation as a selector and nurturer of new talent, VITRINE invites and fosters the development and presentation of new work in spaces in London, UK, and Basel, Switzerland; at art fairs internationally; and through off-site projects in collaboration with partner organisations.

VITRINE nurtures a rigorous commitment to artist development and represents a growing number of international artists: Nadim Abbas, Edwin Burdis, Tim Etchells, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Clare Kenny, Wil Murray, Sam Porritt and Charlie Godet Thomas; alongside further exhibited and associated international artists. VITRINE's spaces promote a new model of exhibition-making, encouraging experimentation and installation. Whilst enclosed behind glass, the works extend beyond its boundaries into the surrounding public space. Exhibitions viewable 24/7; Internal viewing rooms open by appointment.