

# Sticky Gum Flat

On view March 29 through May 1, 2025  
**Opening reception Saturday, March 29, 2025, 5–7pm**  
1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009



Jung Won Lee. *Morning Comfort*, 2023.

**Washington, DC:** Hamiltonian Artists is pleased to present *Sticky Gum Flat*, a group exhibition featuring the work of artists Ian Ha, Jung Won Lee, Alexis Mabry, Farah Mohammad, Paz Sher, and Lulu White, curated by artist Ali Kaeini. Kaeini's curatorial debut, as the culmination of his Hamiltonian Artists Fellowship, presents an array of paintings, sculptures, installation, and mixed media works that reflect and respond to the notion of street life.

Here, the gallery functions as a space of transition, protest, performance, and connection, each artwork drawing viewers into a passing moment in time. As scenes unfold, the tensions that define the street as a stage and repository of human events are brought to the foreground—celebration and resistance, freedom and restriction. *Sticky Gum Flat* is inspired by Kaeini's childhood memories of the street as a site of possibility—removed from the order of life at home. Weaving together personal, cultural, and geographic threads, this exhibition seeks to explore the complex, layered ways in which we move through and bear witness to public commons.

White's works echo this impulse, revealing the unnoticed elements of the urban landscape. "I think of my sculptures as dotting tributes to neglected corners, unadorned municipal structures, and objects that are intended to function, not to be observed," she says. Ha's paintings, *Freed Shadow* (2025) and *Husk* (벗겨진 껍데기) (2025), emerge from his engagement with urban detritus—cracks in asphalt, discarded materials, and the residual traces of human presence in communal spaces. Lee's structural sculptures interrogate the silent authority of fences, handrails, and barriers, asking, "How do we embrace vulnerabilities often deemed failures? Can we return to the agreements embedded in these taken-for-granted systems?"

Sher's work reclaims and reconfigures objects of power—his deconstructed jacket and baton sculptures examine authority, violence, and the circulation of cynicism embedded in public spaces. Meanwhile, Mabry confronts perceptions of physical trauma through her exploration of women's injuries in subcultural sports, challenging the association of scars with victimhood. Engaging material traces of memory and erasure, *Sticky Gum Flat* resides in the in-between—a space of quiet defiance, of edges reconfigured and transformed.

To further contextualize the exhibition's theme, Kaeini shares, "Street life is a line of inquiry that has shaped much of my recent work, and I am excited to explore the way other artists engage this concept. The artists represented in this exhibition come from diverse backgrounds—Karachi, Jerusalem, Seoul, New York, Dallas, and Los Angeles. I believe their wide range of perspectives and lived experiences will highlight the universal yet unique qualities of the street, and its influence across different cultures."

**A curator-led exhibition tour will be held on Saturday, April 12, 3–5pm; link to register [here](#). Additional programming to be announced.** Visit Hamiltonian Artists' [website](#) and follow [@hamiltonian\\_artists](#) on Instagram for more information about corresponding public programs.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Ian Ha** (b. 1997, Norfolk, Virginia) grew up in Yong-in, South Korea, and is currently based in New York. Ha works in painting and printmaking, mounted within non-traditional structures to stage multidimensional spatial illusions. He uses nested shapes such as the spherical wheel and the cutout book cover, and repurposed objects such as the piano hinge. Ian received the Peter Hort Emerging Artist Grant from Rema Hort Mann Foundation, Hosan Shin Yong-hee Award and the TAKIFUJI Art Award. Recent exhibitions include "Butterfly Dreams" (2024) at A-Lounge gallery, Seoul, "Shifts and Echoes" (2023) at Fragment Gallery, New York, and Thesis Show (2024) at the Lenfester Center for Arts, New York. He received his MFA '24 from Columbia University, New York, and his BFA '22 from Seoul National University, Korea.

**Jung Won Lee** (b. 1994, Seoul, Korea) is an artist living and working between Brooklyn, NY, and Seoul, Korea. Lee holds a BFA in General Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and a BA in Media Studies and Korean Language and Literature from Ewha Womans University. Her work has been exhibited at Subtitled NYC, NARS Main Gallery in Brooklyn, NY, as well as Current Space and Gateway Gallery in Baltimore, MD. She has participated in the NARS International Residency Program.

**Alexis Mabry** (b. 1985, Dallas, Texas) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work explores the intersection of personal narratives, subcultural archetypes, and their connection to broader societal and pop culture themes. Focusing on the social performances of subcultures like skateboarders, goths, punks, and metalheads, Mabry draws from personal experiences, social media, and found images.

Using paint, textiles, sculpture, and collage, her work blends vulnerability with disembodiment to address societal contradictions with humor and irony. Mabry's work has been shown nationally and internationally, with solo exhibitions in Portland, OR, Ft. Worth, TX, and Cincinnati, OH, as well as group shows in Los Angeles, New York City, and London.

**Farah Mohammad** (b. 1993, Karachi, Pakistan) received her BA from Bennington College and her MFA from Columbia University. Her exhibition highlights include a solo exhibition at Nyama Fine Art, New York, and group exhibitions at the Moss Art Center, Blacksburg, VA; Print Center New York (PCNY), Half Gallery, EFA's Blackburn 20|20 Gallery, The Jewish Museum, ChaShaMa, Field Projects, and Local Project Art Space, all in New York. She was the Artist in Residence at the Cornerstone Studios (2022-2023) the LMCC Arts Center Residency (2023), Keyholder Residency at LESP (2021-2022), and recipient of the EFA Blackburn Print Excellence Award (2021) and the NYSCA/NYFA Artist Printmaking Fellowship (2023). Most recently, Mohammad was awarded residencies at MacDowell, NH (2024), the Institute for Electronic Arts at Alfred University, and Yaddo, NY (Fall 2024). Mohammad's work is in the permanent collection at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

**Paz Sher** (b. 1988, Eindhoven, Netherlands) is an installation artist, sculptor, and educator based in Brooklyn, New York. Sher earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree cum laude (2017) from the Fine Art Department at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, Israel. After graduation, he was a fellowship artist at the New Gallery Artists' Studios in Jerusalem. He holds an Ed.S. degree in Art Education (2021) from Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology, and the Arts in Tel Aviv, Israel. In 2021, he moved to the United States to pursue his Master of Fine Arts (2024) in the Sculpture and Extended Media Department at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. Sher has exhibited his work widely in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and New York, including a collaborative dual show at Atelier Shemi Gallery and a major solo exhibition at Hamidrasha Gallery in Tel Aviv (2020). In April 2025, Sher will be artist in residence at Vermont Studio Center.

**Lulu White** (b. 1995, Los Angeles, CA) is an artist working in the mediums of sculpture, painting, and performance. Born in Los Angeles, White was raised by visual artists ingrained in the Hollywood entertainment industry. She earned her B.F.A. from Cooper Union in 2017, and has since established a studio practice in New York City, supplemented with a career in production and prop fabrication. She has been included in group and solo exhibitions nationwide, notably at Microscope Gallery, PAGEANT, Marvin Gardens, Eyes Never Sleep, and Punto Lairs. She has also staged temporary outdoor exhibitions in Brooklyn and Queens, emphasizing her interest in the role of unsanctioned public art. White opened her first solo show in April of 2024 at Quarters Gallery in Los Angeles.

### ABOUT THE CURATOR

Ali Kaeini (b. 1987, Iran) is an Iranian artist whose work explores themes of displacement and historical identity. His work delves into memories, forgetfulness, war, power, and solitude, drawing inspiration from Iranian history, art, and architecture. Ali creates intricate geometric structures intertwined with organic, spiral forms, departing from traditional techniques in a rebellious manner. His suspended paintings in space create a sense of barrier and wall, each painting acting as an independent landscape and a wall in front of another.

Ali earned his MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2023. In 2024, he received the MacDowell Fellowship and was also a recipient of the VMFA Professional Award. In 2023, he was awarded the Hamiltonian Fellowship and the VCCA Artist of Color Fellowship. He also attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2019. His work has been exhibited in solo and group shows across the U.S. and the Middle East, including at DDDD in New York, Delgosha Gallery in Tehran, and the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (VMOCA). He currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Ali is a 2023-2025 Hamiltonian Artists Fellow.

### ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to nurture community and increase access to space, opportunity, and resources for emerging artists, through impactful programs and exhibitions. The organization reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as an incubator for the professional development of emerging visual artists, serving as a hub for Washington, DC's, creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in the DC area. With its unique investment in emerging artists, Hamiltonian Artists provides resources to aid their development in important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career.

Through the fellowship program, exhibitions, studios, artist talks, public events, membership program for art collectors at all levels, and so much more, the organization contributes to the vitality of the area's arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

### HOW TO VISIT

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm

For more information visit [hamiltonianartists.org](https://hamiltonianartists.org).

### CONTACT

For press inquiries and additional info, contact Anisa Olufemi, director of programs and curator [anisa@hamiltonianartists.org](mailto:anisa@hamiltonianartists.org).

Images available [here](#).