

CLORIS DING

- *Jewelry Metal Arts* -

by Kai Newquist



Spring 2022

What does your thesis work investigate?

I started this project in the winter of 2019. The inspiration comes from my personal experience. I am a sensitive person and I found myself sighing a lot. Once when I sighed, I watched the white vapor coming out of my mouth and then disappearing into the freezing winter. I was a little disappointed as I watched its disappearance because there could be much more to a sigh, a story behind each unique sigh.

How has your thesis project evolved since its inception?

I extended this observation to people around me. Everybody sighs, and they sigh for different reasons. I did a series of surveys to learn more about the stories behind people's sighs. I wanted to collect each of them instead of letting them go. Thus, the very first challenge I gave to myself was transforming the sighs into something touchable, portable, and memorable. I researched more on the characteristics of sighing (sound, look, feel, and emotion), so I decided to visualize sighing as the first step. So I use Tyvek and polyacrylonitrile fiber to visualize the emotions depressing, forbearing, and vulnerable, the first impression of sighing. During the research, I found out that people were not only triggered by different emotions and stories to sigh but also require an individualized soothing method for comforting. So the second step for me was building up personalized objects



(1), (2), (3) Title: Sigh Year: 2021 Materials: tyvek; polyacrylonitrile fiber; black coated brass wire; thread Size: 170cm(length); 50cm(width); 95cm(height) Model: Cloris Yuchen Ding Phone credit to: Lei Cao

and offering them customized comfort. I was inspired by a friend's way of cheering himself up: eating sweets. Thus, I used the metaphor of candy as "comfort food" in this sighing project. I broke the candy into two parts. The inner part is contained in the mouth, signifying the thoughts they could not easily share with others. The outlook is external, indicating how they present themselves to others. In this way, each candy has its own story.

Another step I have taken for this project is to help people reconcile and transform their sighs into something meaningful and precious. In a way, the final stage of this project is also the foundation of this whole project. I researched the composition of our breath and found out carbon dioxide reacts with saturated clarified limewater and produces calcium carbonate. The color white corresponds with the vapor we see when we sigh and the chemical material is a major component of plaster. The chemical reaction equation is $\text{CO}_2 + \text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2 = \text{CaCO}_3 \downarrow + \text{H}_2\text{O}$. Using this reaction, I made a series of experiments on creating my plaster powder and plasterboards. The plasterboards further were attached with stories of why people sigh written on the surface. They are cherished in the box and will be commemorated.



Title: *Plaster boards* **From collection:** *Write it Down* **Year:** 2021 **Materials:** saturated and dried calcium carbonate powder; old newspaper; handmade distressed paper; ink **Size:** 7cm (length); 4cm (width); 0.3cm (height)

In your practice, is there a question you are trying to answer?

Sighing is normal. And so are negative emotions. Embrace yours and go on. What is your memory of sighing, and what was your story?

How do you wish your audiences to participate in your works?

Since all pieces from this “Sighing” project are based on research on my friends and general people, visitors are welcome to interact with all pieces during [the show](#). Audiences are welcome to take photos with the installation piece and to leave their thoughts and feelings on the mood board. The exhibition is an interactive and open one.

What is in the future for you?

As an artist, I will continue my art practice at my studio and may collaborate with other artists and projects in the future. And as a businesswoman in the jewelry industry, I am building up my wearable business jewelry pieces, collaborating with art projects, and offering customized designs to the customers. Please dm me on Instagram if you would like to know more about me, my artwork, and my designs.



Title: Candy no.1: pardon my French From collection: Your comfort candy Year: 2021 Materials: fresh flowers; thermoplastics; silver Size: 15cm(length); 10cm(width); 10cm(height) **Title: Candy no. 2: precious inside** From collection: Your comfort candy Year: 2019–2021 Materials: yarn; plastic beads; thread; silver Size: 19cm(length); 13cm(width); 11cm(height) **Title: Candy no. 3: this is my word** From collection: Your comfort candy Year: 2021 Materials: resin; paper; copper; silver Size: 9.5cm(length); 4cm(width); 4cm(height) **Title: Candy no. 4: it's not water, it's...** From collection: Your comfort candy Year: 2021 Materials: natural sponge; silver wire; water Size: 6.5cm(length); 5.5cm(width); 4.5cm(height) **Title: Candy no. 5: real candy** From collection: Your comfort candy Year: 2021 Materials: shitoutang candy; resin; fishing line Size: 11.5cm(length); 4cm(width); 4.5cm(height) **Title: Candy no. 6: toxic to death** From collection: Your comfort candy Year: 2021 Materials: all-steel needle; thermoplastic Size: 10cm(length); 4.5cm(width); 6.5cm(height)

Instagram - @cloris.ding/ @cloris.d.artist/ @cloris.d.jewelry
<https://clorisdining.wixsite.com/artist>

Cloris Yuchen Ding, based in Beijing and the Bay Area, is a fine artist, jewelry artist, jewelry designer, and curator. Her art practice varies from large installation and fine art pieces to delicate wearable high jewelry pieces.