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Senior Projects Spring 2019

Bard Undergraduate Senior Projects

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Spring 2019

## In Between Intimacy

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*Bard College*

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# In Between Intimacy

Zijiao Li

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Footer Logo

## IN BETWEEN INTIMACY

ZIJIAO LI (LUCI)

It is a space in between private relations. Come in, people, you can feel it; come in first.

I set up a domestic space, starting from the outside to the inside, where the LED light framed “door” welcomes people in and the slowly changing sky with moving clouds embraces and greets my guests. Passing by a short hallway, seven paired up abstract paintings, and self-made tables wait quietly and loudly. Each pair suggests a specific room in a house, such as a living room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and a balcony. The placement of paintings and tables is distorted, plenty of spaces are left in between since I could not give more meaning to them: everywhere may seem ordinary but may have a unique meaning to certain individuals. I have personal links to all of them, but those are my secret feelings, and I don’t reveal them in my work. I hope everyone can find their own from here and keep them well. These non-direct and unspecific emotions are so vague and intimate, that makes them the most beautiful treasure of human sensation that illuminates the rooms with a humanistic glow. It feels even brighter than the LED strip light from the entrance door.

Many traces and clues thread through this show. The color green is ubiquitous - the LED lights, the stenciled title, borders of paintings, things on the tables, and the invitation card. It brings the vital breath of life and energy when the atmosphere of the exhibition may become too heavy. Likewise, the black line exists in every painting, in which it indicates a gestural expression and more importantly, resembles the style of Chinese calligraphy that speaks to my own culture.

The materials of tables and things placed on them are carefully chosen to indicate a cultural gap between the U.S. and China, that relates specifically to my experience of traveling between the two countries constantly in the past six years. The styrofoam sheets, suitcase, boxes, and plastic wraps symbolize a shipping process, physical and emotional transportation within two distinct cultures: the patterned-cushions (handmade by my grandmother), wash basins, and the food stand for the Chinese, and the Amazon box, Hannaford shopping bag, and also snacks represent the American culture. By mingling them together, I create this installation. This is *In Between Intimacy*. After my board meeting, I listened to some advice and changed the arrangement of the tables. By removing the table tops and putting things on the floor enable the space to become experimental and alive.





