

## Gabriela Vainsencher: Inheritance

Opens October 16th at New Media Artspace,  
Baruch College, CUNY



Gabriela Vainsencher, *Negative Capability*, video, 2016.  
Image courtesy of the artist.

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**NEW YORK, NY - October 10, 2023** – The New Media Artspace proudly presents *Gabriela Vainsencher: Inheritance*, a solo exhibition of single-channel videos alongside sculptural and photographic media. *Inheritance* brings together four video works that focus on relationships with maternal figures. The exhibition sets a frame for understanding Vainsencher's work over a span of several years, and that work in turn is enframed by her experiences being Jewish, Israeli, Argentine, trilingual, an immigrant—and no less, being a daughter and a mother.

The exhibition *Gabriela Vainsencher: Inheritance* will be on view from October 16 through December 1, 2023 at the New Media Artspace website, [bit.ly/nma\\_gabrielavainsencher](https://bit.ly/nma_gabrielavainsencher), and at the New Media Artspace gallery in Baruch's Library and Information Building, 151 E. 25th Street.

The Sandra Kahn Wasserman Jewish Studies Center and the New Media Artspace will host Gabriela Vainsencher for a public artist lecture on Wednesday, November 8 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Baruch Performing Arts Center's Engelman Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Please register [here](#) to attend.

The New Media Artspace will host casual discussions with the artist for Baruch students from 10:30–11:30 a.m. and

1:30–2:30 p.m. on November 1 and 10:30–11:30 a.m. on November 2 in the New Media Artspace and room 415 in the Library and Information Building. Members of the public who wish to attend may RSVP to [newmediaartspace@gmail.com](mailto:newmediaartspace@gmail.com).

Emerging from this intersectional inherited identity, Vainsencher's feminist artistic practice highlights learning as a non-hierarchical collective process. Vainsencher's creative process revolves around dialog, textual commentary, collaboration, learning from elders, and learning together, which Vainsencher attributes to Jewish traditions. In turn, this "revolving" is literalized in the forms of her videos and sculptures, which are continually circling around, looping, swerving, turning, and not quite returning. From speech comes stutters, from touch comes porosity, from openings come closures, from surfaces come circularity, from daughters come mothers. Vainsencher's works are always coming around again with layered meanings, which the artist holds open to make space for interpretation and transformation.

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Many works in *Inheritance* take the visual shape of a frame: from the hollow ceramic cylinders and circles in *Negative Capability*, to the panning semi-circle arcs gestured in *Duet*, to the bracketing device of entrances and exits that motivate *Leslie Across the Floor*, to the anticipation that holds attention in *Here It Comes*, to the curatorial decision to use the textures of the sculpture *Mom* as a border around video works. These enframing forms make reference to the Talmudic *Gamra* page, which inspires the design of the *Inheritance* exhibition. At the *Gamra* page center sits holy text, and enframing that text are other texts of commentary. In Vainsencher's work frames also function like a family—they encircle, enshrine, and protect something precious at the center.

In the online exhibition, each video is bordered by detail images from one of Vainsencher's ceramic works, *Mom*. The sculpture itself is a wall-scaled relief work showing a twisting looping many-limbed figure. Created after the birth of Vainsencher's first child, *Mom* shows the many roles she takes on as a daughter turned mother to a daughter. As though pulled in many directions, the clay surface bears the touch of a million clamoring fingerprints. The deeply textured surfaces recall the busy hands manipulating clay objects in *Negative Capability*.

Vainsencher is also inspired by the Jewish practice of learning together, *Be'Tzavta*, which she loosely translates as "as a team; together." Artist Ofri Cnaani introduced Vainsencher to *Be'Tzavta*, a practice of reading and discussing a text seated together in a circle. She consciously connects *Be'Tzavta* to the anti-hierarchical feminist approaches she applies throughout her work. At Baruch, she presents a special participatory performance of *Here It Comes* that literally embodies *Be'Tzavta* circular communal form. Additionally, she shares artifacts and process pieces that contribute to her work, inviting viewers into her process in an intimate learning community. In *Inheritance*, these forms revolve and enframe through the artist's reinventions, reincarnations, and inheritances.

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**Artist Bio:** Gabriela Vainsencher was born in Buenos Aires, raised in Tel Aviv, and currently lives in Montclair. She received her MFA from Hunter College in 2016. Past solo and two-person exhibitions include Asya Geisberg gallery (solo) CRUSH Curatorial gallery, NY, NY, A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, NY (solo), Hanina Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel; Musée d'Art Moderne André Malraux, Le Havre, France; Parker's Box Gallery, Brooklyn, NY and La Chambre Blanche, Québec City, Canada (solo).

Her work has been included in group exhibitions including Marisa Newman Projects, NY, NY, Bergamo Modern and Contemporary Art, Italy; Kunstforening, Tromsø, Norway; Pierogi gallery, Brooklyn, NY, The Freies Museum, Berlin and The National Gallery of Saskatchewan, Canada. Residencies include Yaddo, The Atlantic Center for the Arts, Byrdcliffe Artist Residency, Woodstock (USA), Triangle Arts Association (France), and La Chambre Blanche (Canada).

Vainsencher is the founder of the Morning Drawing Residency, has written about art for Hyperallergic, Title Magazine and Tohu magazine. She also teaches art occasionally at Williams College, in Williamstown, MA and at the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College, NY

**Gallery Location:** New Media Artspace at Baruch College, Library and Information Building, 151 E. 25th Street, New York, NY 10010

**Gallery Hours:** The New Media Artspace is open to the CUNY community during regular library hours. Members of the public may visit the virtual exhibition on the gallery website, [www.newmediartspace.info](http://www.newmediartspace.info), or contact [newmediaartspace@gmail.com](mailto:newmediaartspace@gmail.com) to arrange an in-person visit by appointment. For updated information, please check the gallery website or dial a docent at 646-312-1664.

The New Media Artspace is a teaching exhibition space in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Baruch College, CUNY. Housed in the Newman Library, the New Media Artspace showcases curated experimental media and interdisciplinary artworks by international artists, students, alumni, and faculty.

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**About Baruch College:** [Baruch College](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/) is a senior college in the [City University of New York \(CUNY\)](http://www.cuny.edu/) with a total enrollment of more than 17,000 students, who represent 160 countries and speak more than 100 languages. Ranked among the top 15% of U.S. colleges and the No. 4 public regional university, Baruch College is regularly recognized as among the most ethnically diverse colleges in the country. As a public institution with a tradition of academic excellence, Baruch College offers accessibility and opportunity for students from every corner of New York City and from around the world. For more about Baruch College, go to <http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/>.

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