

# FORT GANSEVOORT

*Didal Mag*

## TOUCH AND GO:

Artists Yvonne Wells, Liam Lee, and Misha Japanwala talk bodies, homes, and how to get out of your own head

Heather Samples - Spring | Summer 2025



Photo by Braylen Dion  
FULL LOOK Yvonne's Own

Yvonne Wells is a former schoolteacher, quilter, and folk artist based in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Born and raised in New York, Liam Lee is an artist and furniture designer who works primarily in merino wool. Pakistani fashion designer and artist Misha Japanwala molds the body to create casts worn as sculptural garments. We brought them together to chat about the overlaps in their work, from craft and technique to a shared reach for radical connection.

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**HEATHER SAMPLES:** I thought we'd start by talking about touch. The work each of you makes really begs to be touched. I'm wondering what you hope will happen when someone touches it.

**YVONNE WELLS:** When it's touched, you will know, to me, what it means. If I pick up a piece of broadcloth or a cornmeal sack, that to me means harshness, or being without. They touch it and they feel it and they say, "I can identify with this quilt because of how it feels." It's talking to them just like it was talking to me when I made it.

**HS:** One step further in that connection between you and the viewer would be using the art object. What do you think would be lost if people never used your work?

**YW:** I think the whole art piece itself would be lost. If they never used my quilts, they would never get a chance to see what I was thinking, what I was using, what my idea was. If you don't ever get a chance to use my work or any artist's work, what good is it to do? Only self-satisfaction, probably.



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Braylen Dion  
FULL LOOK Yvonne's Own

Photo by Braylen Photo by

**HS: Looking at your work, I find myself thinking about home—a place to be nude, to be under a quilt. A place for soft furniture that cannot survive outside. But you're all also troubling the idea of home as private. You're encouraging us to think about home as something that can only exist within a relationship to the world outside. What does home mean to each of you?**

YW: Home means a place of solitude, a place of doing what you want to without outside voices. Home is a place that you and you alone know. But home is also a place where people can come see the person who owns this place, and get something that will take *them* into the world. ❤️

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