



XIN LIU BRINGS NOAA-15 SATELLITE DOWN TO EARTH ON THE HIGH LINE JUNE 23-25 2026

Liu's New Performance, Commissioned by High Line Art and Co-Produced With Onassis ONX, Explores Themes of Home and Duty Through the Lens of Space Research



Xin Liu, *NOAA: A Fall Towards Home*, 2025. Courtesy of Xin Liu Studio LTD and Hyundai ArtLab.

NEW YORK, NY (May 28, 2026) — The High Line today announced that artist Xin Liu will present *NOAA: A Fall Towards Home*, commissioned by High Line Art and co-produced with Onassis ONX, at the amphitheater of the Sunken Overlook on the park at 17th Street at 7:30pm on June 23, 24, and 25, 2026.

Drawing on her research as a MIT-trained engineer and building on recurring motifs throughout her artistic practice, Liu's performance for the High Line takes the audience through the life cycle of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellite. Reimagined as a sentient being, the satellite comes to life via intimate diary-like entries, narrating its journey as a permanent celestial migrant.

NOAA: A Fall Towards Home's real-world counterpart—NOAA-15—was launched in 1998 as part of a long-term mission of mapping global climate change. In Liu's work,

performers embody the machine's journey from launch to degradation and eventual retirement. Behind them, LED screens display original text and video told from the satellite's perspective, alongside fragments from the history of orbital photography, tracing the evolving gaze through which Earth first came to see itself from above.

"I began chasing the NOAA satellites in 2020, at the start of the pandemic that overturned daily life," said artist Xin Liu. "Confined in our Brooklyn apartment, my partner and I began receiving weather images from the decommissioned NOAA satellites using a DIY broomstick antenna. The noise and glitches in the images reveal a distant view of the world, both familiar and alien to my sense of home and place. There is a sense of connection, almost as if I were locating myself on Earth."

"This project arrives at a critical crossroads for environmental science. By giving the NOAA-15 satellite a voice and a human form, Xin Liu invites the public to confront the precarity of our planet and the vital importance of the systems we use to protect it," said Taylor Zakarin, associate curator of High Line Art and curator of *A Fall Towards Home*. "To host this performance on the High Line—a site that itself was once abandoned and then reclaimed—creates a powerful resonance."

NOAA: A Fall Towards Home explores the depth of despair and hope inherent in exile and disconnection. While outer space is often imagined as an escape or the new frontier, the satellite in *A Fall Towards Home* grapples with profoundly human concerns: *Where is home? Who am I? Where do I belong?* By transforming this overlooked, earth-born machine into a character, Liu invites us to empathize and reconsider our own ideas of duty, estrangement, and connection.

On June 16, 2025, NOAA officially ceased data delivery from NOAA-15 and its model series. This decision comes at a precarious moment for environmental science and research. In recent months, the current administration has proposed eliminating entirely the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and the next generation of satellite programs have seen their contracts cancelled. Ultimately, *NOAA: A Fall Towards Home* invites us to see ourselves more clearly, and serves as a soulful reminder: Earth is what allows us to be human.

Xin Liu fuses art and science in her sculptures, installations, videos, virtual-reality experiences, and publications. Through her artistic practice, Liu considers the personal implications of our technological advancements, constructing narratives that provide space to imagine ourselves in a world of rapidly expanding possibilities. As an engineer and researcher, Liu has led and successfully launched two payloads to the International Space Station and one suborbital payload onboard Blue Origin's New Shepard system, and has flown three parabolic research flights.

The performance is free and open to the public; advance registration is encouraged. Free registration will be available on thehighline.org in the coming weeks. In the event of inclement weather on June 23, 24, or 25, the performance will take place at 7:30 pm on June 26.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Xin Liu (b. 1991, Xinjiang, China) lives and works in London, United Kingdom. Institutional solo exhibitions include Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Italy (2026); Hyundai ArtLab (2025); Pioneer Works, New York, New York (2023); Aranya Art Center, Qinhuangdao, China (2023); M+ Museum, Hong Kong (2021); and Museum of Arts and Design, New York, New York (2020). She is the recipient of the Henry Moore Foundation Artist Award (2025), K11 Artist Prize (2024), Porsche Chinese Young Artist of the Year (2021), and the X Museum Triennial Award (2020). Liu presented in the Uzbekistan National Pavilion at the 2026 Venice Biennale.

ABOUT ONASSIS ONX

Onassis ONX is the Onassis Foundation's global platform for art and advanced technologies. As a catalyst for digital cultures, Onassis ONX empowers creatives who build transformative works, elevating their practice across ideation, development, presentation, and distribution through studios in Athens and New York. Such a holistic engagement throughout an artistic process enables world building at the frontiers of AI, immersive, spatial computing, gaming, and other emergent time-based media. Onassis ONX then cultivates and engages with a network of institutions and industries ready to respond to these new forms of creative expression and meaningfully engage with audiences around the world.

ABOUT HIGH LINE ART

Founded in 2009, High Line Art commissions and produces a wide array of artworks on the High Line, including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Led by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art, and presented by the High Line, the art program invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the unique architecture, history, and design of the park, and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

For more information on High Line Art, please visit thehighline.org/art.

ABOUT THE HIGH LINE

The High Line is a public park on the West Side of Manhattan operated, maintained, and funded by the nonprofit conservancy Friends of the High Line. Through our work with communities on and off the High Line, Friends of the High Line is devoted to reimagining public spaces to create connected, healthy neighborhoods and cities.

Built on a historic, elevated rail line, the High Line was always intended to be more than a park. You can walk through the gardens, view art, experience a performance, enjoy food or beverage, or connect with friends and neighbors—all while enjoying a unique perspective of New York City.

Nearly 100% of our annual operating budget comes through donations. The High Line is owned by the City of New York, and we operate the park under a license agreement with NYC Parks.

For more information, visit thehighline.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), and [Tiktok](#).

SUPPORT

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