

Backstage Pass with Lia Chang

May 1-30: Eating Cultures, A Multidisciplinary Art Exhibition at SOMArts Cultural Center, Features Christine Toy Johnson, Cathy Lu, Genevieve Erin O'Brien, Kate Hers Rhee and More



Christine Toy Johnson Photo by Bruce Alan Johnson

Three short plays by Christine Toy Johnson, *Do These Genes Make Me Look Fat*, *Ever See a Fat Chinese* and *Halo Halo Birthday*, along with "Hawaii is the Place for You and Me", a song she wrote with David A. Shenton, will be featured in a multidisciplinary art exhibition *Eating Cultures* at SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street in San Francisco, May 1, 2014 through May 30, 2014.

Featuring over thirty emerging and established Asian Pacific American artists from around the country, *Eating Cultures* is a deliciously provocative multi-disciplinary arts exhibition of artworks inspired by Asian American food and foodways. Using food as a lens, artists share stories of global migration, adaptation, entrepreneurship, and the central importance of food in Asian communities around the world. *Eating Cultures*, co-sponsored by Asian American Women Artist Association (AAWAA) and Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC), is part of the annual "United States of Asian America" festival.



In addition to over fifty art, film, and literary works, *Eating Cultures* will feature Asian American oral histories provided by Southern Foodways Alliance via Guide by Cell, dynamic programming co-presented by Asia Society and the Culinary Historians of Northern California, a pop-up shop, and a recipe wall for audiences to share their favorite family recipes.

Eating Cultures is curated by lead curator Michelle A. Lee and co-curators Linda Inson Choy and Cynthia Tom, featuring APA artists of all genders selected by esteemed juror University of Connecticut Art History & Asian American Studies Professor Margo L. Machida. Invited artists include Chinese-American San Francisco-based painter and sculptor **Cathy Lu**, Vietnamese-Irish American Los Angeles-based artist **Genevieve Erin O'Brien**, and Korean-American Berlin-based artist **Kate Hers Rhee**.

Participating Artists: Susan Almazol, Sigi Arnejo, Jung Ran Bae, Mitsuko Brooks, Ka Yan Cheung, Karen Chew, Flora Choi, Melissa Chow, Samantha Chundur, Kay Cuajunco, Alison Ho, Grace Jahng Lee, Zilka Joseph, Juliana Kang Robinson, Larry Lee & Jason Dunda, Theresa Loong, Alana Lowe, Cathy Lu, Mieko Meguro, Michiko Murakami, Chee Wang Ng, Genevieve Erin O'Brien with Aaron Henderson & Grace Umali, Jessica Redmond, Margaret Rhee, kate hers RHEE, Yoshie Sakai, Shizue Seigel, Pallavi Sharma, Jessica Tang, Cynthia Tom, Christine Toy Johnson, Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, Michael Watson, Maggie Wong, Leslie Zeitler, Sara Zin

What: Eating Cultures

When: Exhibition May 1–May 30, 2014. Opening event Thursday, May 1, 6–9pm. Gallery hours: Tues–Fri, 12–7pm and Sat, 12–5pm.

Where: 934 Brannan St. (between 8th & 9th)

How Much: Free admission

Related Events:

Opening Reception

May 1, 2014, 6–9pm

Featuring food catered by La Cocina Incubator Kitchen

[Click here for more information](#)

Eating Asian America Panel Discussion

May 10, 2014, 2–4pm

Co-presented by the Culinary Historians of Northern California

[Click here for more information](#)

Literary Sriracha: A Spicy Mix of Poetry, Mini-Memoirs, and Flash Fiction

May 17, 2014, 2–4pm

Co-presented by Asia Society

[Click here for more information](#)

Closing Reception, Community Potluck, and “Sausage Homage” performance by Genevieve Erin O’Brien

May 30, 2014 6–9pm

Co-hosted by Community Health for Asian Americans

[Click here for more information](#)

The Asian American Women Artists Association (AAWAA) is a national non-profit arts organization dedicated to ensuring the visibility and documentation of Asian American women in the arts. Since 1989, AAWAA has been a resource for the arts and academic communities, working to further the recognition of Asian American women artists. Through exhibitions, literary readings, speakers’ bureau, publications, and educational programs, AAWAA offers thought-provoking perspectives that challenge societal assumptions and promote dialogue across cultures and generations. For more information on AAWAA and its mission and programs, please visit www.aawaa.net. Contact AAWAA at 1890 Bryant Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94110, (415) 252-7996, info@aawaa.net.

Co-presented by: Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center

The Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center’s (APICC) mission is to support and produce multi-disciplinary art reflective of the unique experiences of Asian Pacific Islanders living in the United States. Since 1998, the Center has promoted the artistic and organizational growth of the City’s Asian/Pacific arts community by organizing and presenting the annual United States of Asian America Festival. For more information on APICC and its mission and programs, please visit <http://www.apiculturalcenter.org>. Contact APICC at 934 Brannan Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, (415) 829-9467, info@apiculturalcenter.org.

The exhibition is funded in part by the California Arts Council, the San Francisco Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, APICC, the Robert J. Louie Memorial Fund, and Zellerbach Family Foundation, and is presented at SOMArts through participation in the Affordable Space Program, which provides below-market rental space, production and publicity assistance to nonprofit organizations. For more information visit our [rentals page](#).

Location: SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. San Francisco CA 94103, www.somarts.org

Lia Chang is an actor, a performance and fine art botanical photographer, and an award-winning multi-platform journalist. Lia recently starred as Carole Barbara in Lorey Hayes' Power Play at the 2013 National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., with Pauletta Pearson Washington, Roscoe Orman, Lorey Hayes, Marcus Naylor and Phynjuar, and made her jazz vocalist debut in Rome Neal's Banana Puddin' Jazz "LADY" at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York. She is profiled in Jade Magazine.

Other articles by Lia Chang:

May 22: Transcending- The Wat Misaka Story to Screen in South Pasadena Public Library Community Room

Photos: André Braugher, Ami Brabson, Christine Toy Johnson, Antoinette LaVecchia, Richard Topol, Victor Williams, Nikkole Salter, Elizabeth Van Dyke at Oni Faida Lampley's Tough Titty at the Paradise Factory

Photos: Harriet Harris, John Tartaglia, Christine Toy Johnson, Alan Muraoka, James Saito and More celebrate Ann Harada's Debut at Lincoln Center in the American Songbook Series

Lucille Lortel Awards for Here Lies Love, Fun Home, The Open House, Good Person of Szechwan

Apr. 29-May 17: Gordana Rashovich, Mia Dillon and Brian Murray Lead Cast of Westport Country Playhouse's A SONG AT TWILIGHT

May 19: The Orphan of Zhao's BD Wong and A.C.T. Artistic Director Carey Perloff in Conversation at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater

Jun. 4-29: Tony Award-winner BD Wong Leads Cast of A.C.T.'s U.S. Premiere of Orphan of Zhao, a co-production with La Jolla Playhouse

A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder Leads 2014 Tony Award Nominations; Bryan Cranston, LaTanya Richardson, Neil Patrick Harris, Mark Rylance, Audra McDonald, Leigh Silverman among nominees

Signature Theatre to Be Honored with the 2014 Regional Theatre Tony Award

Photos: Late Night with Holy Land's Jojo Gonzalez

Miss Saigon's Francis Jue Receives Elliot Norton Award Nomination for Outstanding Musical Performance by an Actor

Kerry Butler, Edward James Hyland, Matt Walton, Megan Sikora and More in Previews of Off-Broadway Production of Under My Skin at The Little Shubert Theatre

Photos: The George Gee Swing Orchestra at SWING46; Launches Indiegogo Campaign for New CD, Swing Makes You Happy

Photos: Bryan Cranston, Peter Jay Fernandez, Roslyn Ruff, Tamara Tunie, Leslie Uggams, Ruben Santiago-Hudson Celebrate All The Way Opening Night



Lia Chang

Apr. 22 – May 18: Working Theater Presents The off-Broadway Premiere of James McManus' CHERRY SMOKE at Urban Stages

André De Shields, Mary Zimmerman, Among 4 Elliot Norton Award Nominations for Huntington's World Premiere of The Jungle Book, a co-production with The Goodman

Photos: AALDEF Honors Mari Matsuda, Aasif Mandvi, and John Chou in 2014 at 40th Anniversary Celebration

Apr. 23-27: Joel de la Fuente Stars in Jeanne Sakata's Hold These Truths at PlayMaker's Repertory Company

Jun. 22 – July 27: Richard Thomas and Kristen Connolly Set for Old Globe Debut in OTHELLO

Mar. 21-May 4: Richard Thomas, Ron Rifkin, Hallie Foote and Khaled Nabaway Set for Arena Stage's World Premiere of Lawrence Wright's Camp David

Photos: Backstage and Opening Night of Signature's World Premiere of David Henry Hwang's Kung Fu

Photos: Steve Rosen, David Rossmer, Hannah Elless, Vadim Feichtner, Cathryn Salamone, Ken Triwush and Kate Wetherhead Celebrate The Other Josh Cohen Opening Night

Photos: David Henry Hwang, Annie Baker and Rajiv Joseph honored at Sixth Annual Steinberg Playwright "Mimi" Awards

Q & A with Meet Me in St. Louis: A Live Radio Play's Garth Kravits

Signature's Revival of The Piano Lesson Sweeps AUDELCO's with 8 Wins including Best Revival, Ruben Santiago-Hudson, Roslyn Ruff, Chuck Cooper and Brandon J. Dirden; Also Among 2013 "VIV" Winners – Wild with Happy's Coleman Domingo and Sharon Washington; and Storyville's Mercedes Ellington

Photos: André De Shields, Michael Shannon, Rajiv Joseph, Christine Sherrill, Doug Peck, Alexis J. Rogers, Karen Ziemba and More Celebrate 2013 Jeff Equity Awards

Photos: Denise Burse, Michael Genet, Doug Eskew, Tracie Thoms, Sakina Ansari-Wilson and More Celebrate Marcus Gardley's dance of the holy ghosts Opening Night at Center Stage

Photos: Backstage with Michi Barall and the cast of Regina Taylor's stop.reset. at Signature Theatre

Photos: The 58th Annual Drama Desk Awards and After Party

Celebrating my mom – AN ACTIVE VISION: BEVERLY UMEHARA...LABOR ACTIVIST...1945-1999 Crafting a Career

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