

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA – *April 9th, 2014* - Asian American Women Artist Association (AAWAA) and Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC) join forces to present the multidisciplinary art exhibition ***Eating Cultures***, for the United States of Asian America Festival opening on May 1, 2014 through May 30, 2014 at SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, San Francisco.

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.

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 curatorial advisers, 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 Filipino-American Bay Area-based sculptor **Susan Almazol**, 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**.

Dates: May 1st 2014 - May 30th, 2014

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

Opening Reception: May 1st, 2014, 6pm-9:00pm

Featuring food catered by La Cocina Incubator Kitchen

Eating Asian America Panel Discussion: May 10th, 2014, 2pm – 4:00pm

Co-presented by the Culinary Historians of Northern California

Literary Sriracha: A Spicy Mix of Poetry, Mini-Memoirs, and Flash Fiction: May 17th, 2014, 2pm-4:00pm

Co-presented by Asia Society

Closing Reception, Community Potluck, and "Sausage Homage" performance by Genevieve Erin O'Brien:



May 30th, 2014 6pm-9:00pm • Co-hosted by Community Health for Asian Americans

Admission to the exhibition and programs is free and open to the public.

About the Invited Artists

Susan Almazol • <http://www.susanalmazol.com>

Susan Almazol is a Bay Area based Filipino American artist who creates sculpture and stories revealing the rich influences of the cultures where she was born (Philippines), where she began school (Japan), and where she grew up (North America). Susan treasures the scraps of paper with her mother's scribble recipes and still uses those same scraps of paper today. She feels Asian food means so much more than the sum of its parts. It is how Asians show love, care and concern.

Cathy Lu • <http://www.cathyclu.com>

Cathy Lu is a Chinese American San Francisco based painter and sculptor. Using traditional Chinese iconography and symbolism as a jumping off point, Lu explores ideas of gender, cultural identity and global patterns of migration. She received her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the Jingdezhen Contemporary International Ceramic Exhibition in China.

Genevieve Erin O'Brien • <http://www.erin-obrien.com>

Genevieve Erin O'Brien is a Queer Vietnamese-Irish American Los Angeles based artist, community organizer, and educator. She received her MFA in Studio Art/Performance from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2009 she received a Fulbright Fellowship to travel to Vietnam to conduct research for her *Nu'óc Nào?* project. She has presented work nationally and internationally, including at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

Kate Hers Rhee • <http://www.estherka.com>

Kate Hers Rhee is a Korean American Berlin and Detroit based visual artist and cultural producer who works in the field of social art practice. Her work seeks to rethink and reshape notions of transnational and cultural identity, often through different modes of communication and public/private interventions. She received her MFA from the University of California at Irvine. Her work *Dr. Rhee's Kimtschi Shop* has been shown internationally and featured on PRI's "The World".

About the Asian American Women Artists Association

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 www.apiculturalcenter.org. Contact APICC at 934 Brannan Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, (415) 829-9467, info@apiculturalcenter.org.

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