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Media Contact:

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# HUNGRY GHOSTS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – February 8th, 2015 - Asian American Women Artists Association (AAWAA), Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC), and Manilatown Heritage Foundation join forces to present the multidisciplinary art exhibition *Hungry Ghosts*, for the United States of Asian America Festival opening on April 2nd, 2015 through April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the I-Hotel Manilatown Center Gallery, 868 Kearny Street, San Francisco.

Situated in the historic I-Hotel, *Hungry Ghosts* features the work of emerging and established Asian American and Pacific Islander artists of all genders from around the country. Jumping off from the traditional concept of “Hungry Ghosts” - typically lost or unhappy spirits known as agwi (Korean), ègu ĩ (Chinese), gaki (Japanese), ma doi (Vietnamese), or preta (Sanskrit) – the *Hungry Ghosts* exhibition explores how unresolved personal and collective historical struggles, often re-emerging into public consciousness in overtly violent or subtle ways, continue to haunt us today. Among the works featured in the exhibition will be Juliana Kang Robinson’s meticulously rendered ink, gouache, and collage paintings of solemn bears traveling upon a sea of bones alluding to the ongoing conflict between North and South Korea.

In addition to art, film, performance and literary works, *Hungry Ghosts* will feature a pop-up shop featuring affordable artwork by *Hungry Ghosts* artists and a wishing wall public art installation.

*Hungry Ghosts* is curated by lead curator Michelle A. Lee and curatorial advisors Linda Inson Choy, Cynthia Tom, and Sigi Arnejo featuring APA artists selected by artist and social activist Elizabeth Travelslight and writer and curator Lisa Chiu. Invited artists include Korean-American painter and installation artist Juliana Kang Robinson and Chinese-American watercolor and comic artist Ka Yan Chueng.

Dates: April 2nd – April 29th, 2015

Location: I-Hotel Manilatown Center Gallery, 868 Kearny St. San Francisco, CA 94108

Hours: Wednesdays – Sundays, 1:00 – 6:00PM

Opening Reception: April 2nd, 2015, 6pm-9:00pm

Closing Reception, Literary Reading, & Community Potluck: April 29th, 2015, 6pm-9:00pm

Additional programming to be announced.

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

<b>Artist</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Medium</b>
Manon Bogerd Wada	Japanese Belgian	Bernal Heights, San Francisco, CA	Mixed Media Installation
Kuang Vida	Chinese American	Chinatown, San Francisco, CA	Video
Linda Shiue	Taiwanese	Portola, San Francisco, CA	Literary
Diana Li	Chinese Peruvian American	San Mateo, CA	Video, Performance, Installation
Nicolas Oh	Korean American	Daly City, CA	Ceramic
Samantha Chundur	South Asian	Berkeley, CA	Painting
Marlene Iyemura	Filipino-Japanese American	Oakland, CA	Visual arts, Sculpture, Oil Paint
Pallavi Sharma	South Asian	San Ramon, CA	Performance, Video-Installation
Karen Nagano	Korean American	Napa, CA	Visual arts
Ka Yan Cheung (Invited Artist)	Chinese American	South Bay, CA	Watercolor and Comic
Arlene Biala	Filipina	Sunnyvale, CA	Literary (Poetry & Spoken Word)
Juliana Kang Robinson (Invited Artist)	Korean American	Santa Cruz, CA	Painting and Installation
Genevieve Erin O'Brien	Vietnamese/Irish/American	Los Angeles, CA	Performance/Photography
Kaitlynn Redell	Multi-Ethnic Chinese American	Los Angeles, CA	Mixed Media
Grace Jahng Lee	Korean American	Los Angeles, CA	Literary

## Selected Artists

### San Francisco Bay Area

#### **Manon Bogerd Wada, Bernal Heights, San Francisco, CA - Japanese Belgian**

Mixed Media Installation • [karmajamtsu@gmail.com](mailto:karmajamtsu@gmail.com)

Manon Bogerd Wada b. 1987 in NYC is a SF based artist. She completed her BFA in Community Arts from CCA. Landscape and humanity are significant threads in her art practice. Within found objects Manon discovers hidden stories and is intrigued to divulge the unseen and overlooked.

#### **Vida Kuang, Chinatown, San Francisco, CA - Chinese American**

Video • [justice.api@gmail.com](mailto:justice.api@gmail.com)

Vida grew up in San Francisco Chinatown. Having been raised surrounded by a wealth of neighborhood murals and histories, she is particularly drawn towards visual storytelling as a form of inter-cultural communication. She believes art must come in union with community and decolonize our perspectives of place and belonging.

#### **Linda Shiue, Portola, San Francisco, CA - Taiwanese**

Literary • [linda\\_shiue@hotmail.com](mailto:linda_shiue@hotmail.com)

Linda Shiue is a curious explorer of food+travel+culture who believes in the healing power of food. The kitchen is her studio and the vast world of spices, her palette. You can explore cooking with global flavors with her at The Doctor's Spicebox cooking classes on the San Francisco Peninsula.

### Peninsula

#### **Diana Li, San Mateo, CA - Asian American, Diasporically Mixed**

Video, Performance, Installation • [diana.li3192@gmail.com](mailto:diana.li3192@gmail.com)

Diana works with video, performance and installation, and is greatly influenced by her transnational background and female identity. She graduated from UC San Diego with a B.A. in Ethnic Studies and Visual Arts Media, and is currently interning and volunteering at Asian American art and media organizations in San Francisco.

#### **Nicolas Oh, Daly City, CA - Korean American**

Ceramic • [dhocj@live.com](mailto:dhocj@live.com)

Nicholas Oh was born in Green Bay Wisconsin in 1985. When he was 7 he moved to Korea, and moved back to the Oregon when he was 15. He served in the U.S. Marine corps as a reservist. He is currently a graduating senior from San Francisco State University.

### East Bay

#### **Berkeley**

#### **Samantha Chundur, Berkeley, CA - South Asian**

Painting • [samanthachundur@gmail.com](mailto:samanthachundur@gmail.com)

Samantha Chundur is an artist trained in architecture, urban design and planning. The vivid, bold colors inspired by her native country India, as well as the different cultures she has encountered through her travels, dominate her abstract art. Her paintings are a celebration of these 'everyday colors.'

## Oakland

### **Marlene Iyemura, Oakland, CA - Filipino-Japanese American**

Visual arts, Sculpture, Oil Paint • [miyemura@mills.edu](mailto:miyemura@mills.edu)

Marlene Iyemura is a Bay Area born and based queer Filipino-Japanese American artist working in a variety of media to engage with topics that spring from her lived experience and identities. Concerned with systematic oppression and racial "othering," Iyemura's works are visual critiques of the hegemonic structures marginalizing her communities.

## San Ramon

### **Pallavi Sharma, San Ramon, CA - Asian Indian**

Performance, Video-Installation • [Write\\_PallaviSharma@yahoo.com](mailto:Write_PallaviSharma@yahoo.com)

Born in India, Pallavi immigrated to USA in 1997. She received her BFA and MFA from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Baroda, India and her Ph.D. in Art History from India's National Museum Institute of History of Art and Conservation. She is a multidisciplinary artist and her research interest concerns Asian American women's cultural production, feminist pedagogy and activism.

## North Bay

### **Karen Nagano, Napa, CA - Korean American**

Visual arts • [kanagano9@gmail.com](mailto:kanagano9@gmail.com)

Karen Nagano graduated from Stanford University with a B.A. in Art. She attended Kofukai Art Institute in Tokyo, Japan. She also studied Art at UC Berkeley and did graduate work at UC Santa Barbara in Art Education and Studio Art.

## South Bay

### **Ka Yan Cheung (Invited Artist), South Bay, CA - Chinese American**

Watercolor and Comic • [kayancheung.tumblr.com](http://kayancheung.tumblr.com)

Ka Yan Cheung was born in Hong Kong and grew up in NYC. She comes from a family of garment and restaurant workers, and watching her family members struggle each day moved her towards radical politics. Comics is her favorite medium, because she considers it an art for the people.

### **Arlene Biala, Sunnyvale, CA - Filipina**

Literary (Poetry & Spoken Word) • [abiala@yahoo.com](mailto:abiala@yahoo.com)

Arlene Biala is a Filipina poet and performance artist, born in San Francisco, CA. She is the author of *bone*, her first chapbook of poetry published in 1993, *continental drift*, published by West End Press (through University of New Mexico Press distribution) in 1999, and *her beckoning hands*, published by Word Poetry - WordTech Editions in July, 2014. She received her MFA in Poetics & Writing from New College of CA, and was the recipient of an artist residency at Montalvo.

## Santa Cruz

### **Juliana Kang Robinson (Invited Artist), Santa Cruz, CA - Korean American**

Painting and Installation • [julianakangrobinson.com](http://julianakangrobinson.com)

Juliana Kang Robinson is professor of Painting & Drawing at De Anza College. She has taught at institutions such as the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and California College of Art. She received a Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Past awards include the Ox-Bow School of Art Fellowship and The Women's Studio Workshop Artist Residency. Recently, she is one of twelve artists featured at the 21st Juried Contemporary Art Exhibition at the Korean Cultural Center in Los Angeles, May 2015.

## Los Angeles

### **Genevieve Erin O'Brien, Los Angeles, CA - Vietnamese/Irish/American**

Performance/Photography • [erin@erin-obrien.com](mailto:erin@erin-obrien.com)

Genevieve Erin O'Brien is a Queer Vietnamese/Irish/American artist. She holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. O'Brien was a Fulbright Fellow in Vietnam. She was 2014 Armed With a Camera Fellow and commissioned artist for the Music Center. She is lecturer in Asian American Studies.

### **Kaitlynn Redell, Los Angeles, CA - Multi-Ethnic Chinese America**

Mixed Media • [kaitlynn.redell@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlynn.redell@gmail.com)

Kaitlynn Redell received her BFA from Otis College of Art and Design and her MFA at Parsons the New School for Design. She has participated in numerous exhibitions in the US and internationally including at A.I.R. Gallery (NYC), El Museo del Barrio (NYC), Western Project (LA) and Museo Laboratorio - Ex Manifattura Tabacchi (Italy).

### **Grace Jahng Lee, Los Angeles, CA - Korean American**

Literary • [gracejahnglee@gmail.com](mailto:gracejahnglee@gmail.com)

Born stateless in Seoul, Grace Jahng Lee is a writer of prose and poetry. Fragmented lives, displacement, and memory are central themes in her writing. An alumna of the VONA workshop, she is working on an autobiographical novel.

### **About the Presenter:**

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, 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](http://www.aawaa.net). Contact AAWAA at 1890 Bryant Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94110, (415) 252-7996, [info@aawaa.net](mailto: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 multidisciplinary 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](http://www.apiculturalcenter.org). Contact APICC at 934 Brannan Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, (415) 829-9467, [info@apiculturalcenter.org](mailto:info@apiculturalcenter.org).

**Manilatown Heritage Foundation**

The mission of Manilatown Heritage Foundation is to promote social and economic justice for Filipinos in the United States by preserving our history, advocating for equal access, and advancing our arts and culture.

In solidarity with Filipino and other community service organizations, we envision an inspired and self-sustaining Manilatown Heritage Foundation that effectively and creatively enhances the Filipino community's capacity to shape social, political and economic policies. Our community will be one that has equitable access to resources and opportunities, as well as pride in our culture, history and traditions. For more information on Manilatown Heritage Foundation and its mission and programs, please visit [manilatown-heritage-foundation.org](http://manilatown-heritage-foundation.org). Contact Manilatown Heritage Foundation at [868 Kearny Street San Francisco, CA 94108](http://868KearnyStreetSanFranciscoCA94108) or (415) 291-0175.

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