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underCurrents and the Quest for Space
(Art Explores the Universal Concerns of Asian Americans)

SOMArts Cultural Center

May 2013

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, March 7, 2013 – The Asian American Women Artists Association (AAWAA) and Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center (APICC) join forces to present the politically charged, high impact exhibition, “*underCurrents & The Quest for Space*,” for the United States of Asian America Festival opening on May 2, 2013 and continuing through May 25, 2013 at SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, San Francisco.

Model Minority, Shy, Exotic, Quiet, Oriental, Brilliant at Science and Math.... These are common stereotypes about Asian Americans that, when left unchallenged, can lead to misunderstandings, discrimination, and the continued invisibility of this group. Exploding these myths and imagining the larger space Asian Americans can inhabit in the American psyche are the focus of this multi-media, multi-disciplinary arts exhibition.

Curated by Inson Choy, international Asian and Asian American art curator and with art selections by esteemed jurors, Jay Xu, Director and CEO of The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, and Mary-Ann Milford, Professor of Art History, Mills College, Oakland, this exhibition proves to be controversial, but beautifully memorable.

In conjunction with the exhibition a panel discussion, headed by Julie Soo, president of the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, will address major issues facing women and how the community can be part of the solution.

AAWAA offers *underCurrents & The Quest For Space* as a vehicle for sharing suggestions for solutions and visioning what could and should be.

- Opening Reception: Thursday, May 2, 2013, 5pm-8 pm
- Poetry Reading, *Poetry underCurrents*: Wednesday, May, 15, 2013, 7pm-8:30pm
- Panel Discussion: Navigating the underCurrents -Saturday, May, 25, 2013, 1pm-3pm

Admission to the exhibition and the programs is free.

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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.

General Information 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.

Funded in part by the California Arts Council and the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Lists of artists attached. Bios and photos are available upon request.

underCurrents & the Quest for Space
Participating Artists

Artist's Name

Medium

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Salma Arastu | painting |
| 2. Jung Ran Bae | mixed media/installation |
| 3. Michele Benzamin-Miki | drawing |
| 4. Manon Bogerd-Wada | sculpture, mixed media |
| 5. Mitsuko Brooks | photography, poetry |
| 6. Karen Chew | mixed media |
| 7. Samantha Chundur | painting |
| 8. Shari Arai DeBoer | etching |
| 9. Reiko Fujii | mixed media installation |
| 10. Kate Hers | poster, video |
| 11. Zilka Joseph | literary |
| 12. Kay Kang | painting |
| 13. Miyang Kim | painting |
| 14. Alexandra Lee | mixed media |
| 15. Mido Lee | photography |
| 16. Brenda Louie | mixed media |
| 17. Li Ma | mixed media installation |
| 18. Choppy Oshiro | paper cut, mixed media |
| 19. Isabelle Thuy Pelaud | literary, video |
| 20. Yoshie Sakai | video |
| 21. Pallavi Sharma | video |
| 22. Cindy Shih | painting |
| 23. Judy Shintani | mixed media installation |
| 24. Shizue Seigel | mixed media |
| 25. Valerie Soe | video |
| 26. Cynthia Tom | painting, mixed media installation |
| 27. Laura Wong | photography |
| 28. Leslie Zeitler | literary |
| 29. Stella Zhang | mixed media |
| 30. Xiaojie Zheng | painting |

Curator: Inson Choy, Asian and Asian American art

Jurors: Jay Xu, **Executive Director** of The Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, and Mary-Ann Milford, Professor of Art History, Mills College, Oakland