

**FIFTEEN**  
**ASIAN AMERICAN**  
**ARTISTS**

Tomie Arai  
Chong Gon B̄yun  
Wennie Huang  
Sook Jin Jo  
Tamiko Kawata  
Dinh Q. Lê  
Bing Lee  
Li-lan

Chee Wang Ng  
Ram Rahman  
Jean Shin  
Kit-Yin Snyder  
Paul Wong  
Carrie Yamaoka  
Chihung Yang

**March 22 - April 14, 2001**

**UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY  
STALLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK**

## **Fifteen Asian American Artists**

### **Introduction**

**Fifteen Asian American Artists** presents the work of fifteen artists who live, work, and/or exhibit in the metropolitan New York area. These first-, second-, and third-generation Asian Americans were born in places as varied as China, India, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, New York's Greenwich Village, and North Dakota. The personal and highly individual nature of the artists' work reflects their interaction with the contemporary New York art world, their unique associations with Asia, and their experiences of being Asian American. This exhibition emphasizes both the similarities and differences among artists from vastly different backgrounds who are nonetheless collectively self-identified as Asian Americans. We are pleased to present their work in celebration of our new neighbor, the soon-to-be-opened Charles B. Wang Asian American Center.

*Rhonda Cooper and  
Howardena Pindell*

The Asian American Center Bridge at the State University of New York at Stony Brook is pleased to support the University Art Gallery's **Fifteen Asian American Artists** exhibition. The exhibition coincides with the near-completion of the University's Charles B. Wang Asian American Center. "This project will fulfill a dream of mine," said Charles B. Wang at his donation speech. "That dream is that this Asian American Center will serve as a catalyst for a host of cultural, academic, business, and technology initiatives. It will be an environment that fosters multicultural exchange and noteworthy conferences on East/West topics, as well as a place for social expression—for art, music, dance, and cuisine." This exciting exhibit of **Fifteen Asian American Artists** is a first step in the realization of that dream. We look forward to continued collaboration between the Asian American Center and the University Art Gallery.

*Gary Mar*

### **Lenders to the Exhibition**

**Admit One Gallery, NYC**  
**Chambers Fine Art, NYC**  
**Debs & Co., NYC**  
**O.K. Harris Works of Art, NYC**  
**Hudson River Gallery &  
Conservators, Dobbs Ferry, NY**  
**Omni Gallery, Uniondale, NY**  
**P.P.O.W., NYC**

## Tomie Arai

Born in New York City  
Lives and works in New York City



### *The Family Album*, 1994

Silkscreen and laser heat transfers on wood,  
acrylic, twine, and metal hinges,  
approx. 48 x 168 x 12"

Lent by the artist

## Chong Gun Byun

Born in Daegu, Korea  
Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York



### *Bach Sonatas in G & D Major*, 1995

Oil on cello

Courtesy Hudson River Gallery and Conservators,  
Dobbs Ferry, NY

## Wennie Huang

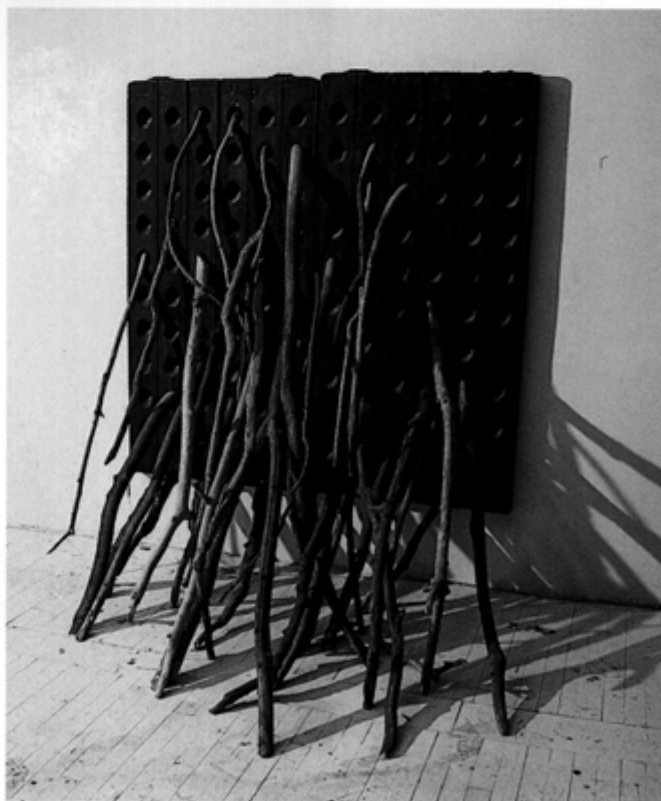
Born in Cortland, NY  
Lives and works in New Rochelle, NY



*Summoning the Ghosts*, 1999 (detail)  
Paper, glue, soil, and salt, 108 x 240"  
Lent by the artist

## Sook Jin Jo

Born in Kwangju, Korea  
Lives and works in New York City



*All Things are Born of Being III*, 1999  
Mixed media on wood, 70 x 57 x 52"  
Courtesy O.K. Harris Works of Art, NYC



## Tamiko Kawata

Born in Tokyo, Japan  
Lives and works in New York City

*Rain Forest*, 2001 (detail)  
Safety pins, dimensions variable  
Courtesy Omni Gallery, Uniondale, NY  
Photo credit: © Mark Taibo Ferguson

## Dinh Q. Lê

Born in Ha-Tien, Vietnam  
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA  
and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

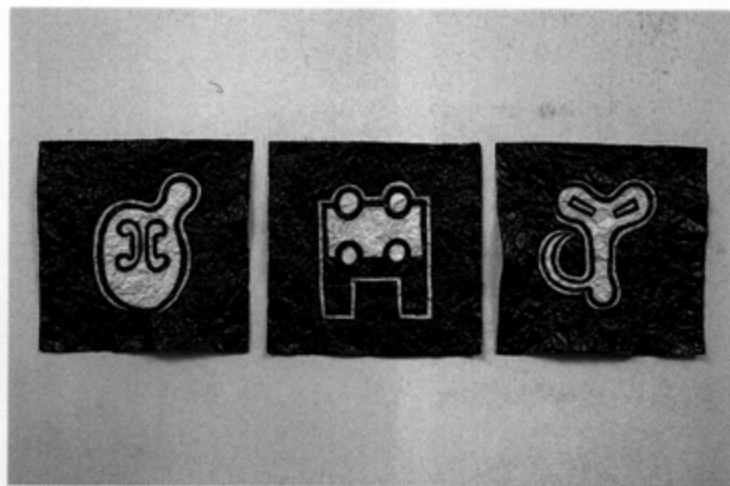


*Untitled no. 5*, 1998  
C-print and linen tape, 20 x 85"  
Courtesy P.P.O.W., NYC



## Bing Lee

Born in Canton, China  
Lives and works in New York City

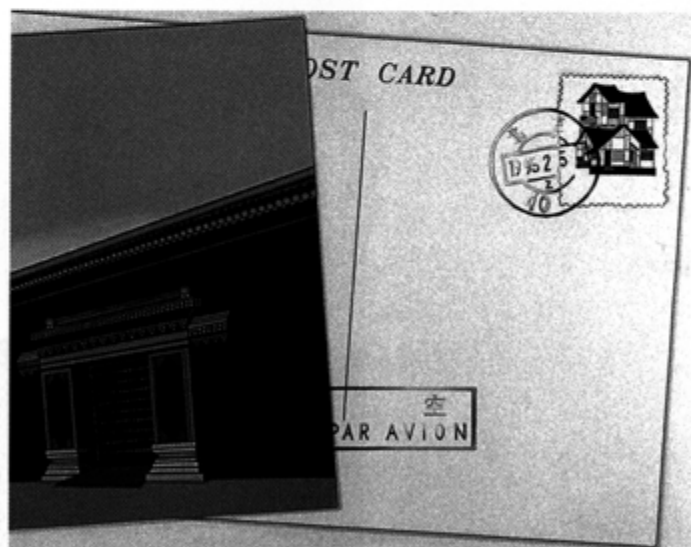


*Mix & Match*, 1997 (detail)

Installation: Graphite on paper, dimensions vary  
Lent by the artist

## Li-lan

Born in Greenwich Village, New York  
Lives and works in New York City



*China: Two Cards, Two Sides*, 1995

Oil on linen, 56 x 70"

Courtesy Chambers Fine Art, NYC



吃饱饭未呀？之 孔融让梨

## Chee Wang Ng

Born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Lives and works in New York City

*Eaten Your Fill of Rice? - Wise Beyond His Years, 2000*  
Digital C-print, 48 x 48"  
Lent by the artist



## Ram Rahman

Born in India  
Lives and works in New York City  
and New Delhi, India

*Delhi, 1992*  
Black and white photograph, 14 x 17"  
Courtesy Admit One Gallery, NYC

## Jean Shin

Born in Seoul, Korea  
Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY



*Lost and Found (Single Socks)*, 2000  
Installation: Socks, zippers, thread, and dryer lint,  
dimensions variable  
Lent by the artist

## Kit-Yin Snyder

Born in Canton, China  
Lives and works in New York City

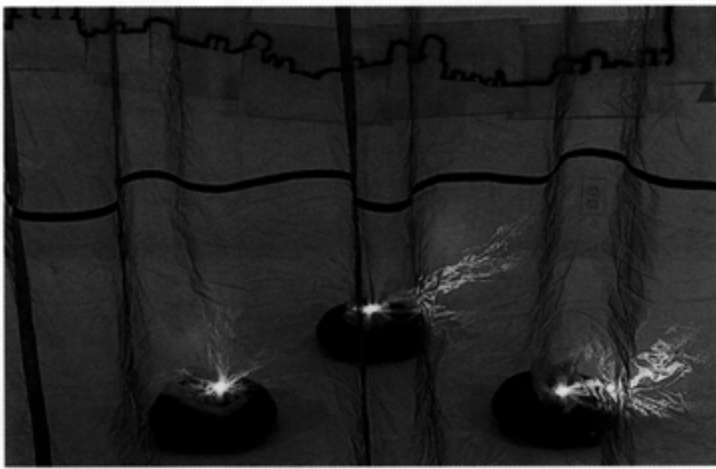


*Double Exposure: An Immigrant's Journey*  
Video, work in progress (detail)  
Lent by the artist



## Paul Wong

Born in Fargo, North Dakota  
Lives and works in New York City



*Guide*, 2000 (detail)

Installation: Solvent transfer of Lung-mên Grotto on  
Abaca paper, mannequin hands, mag-lights, vase,  
stands, and fabric, 10 x 12 x 6 ft.

Lent by the artist

## Carrie Yamaoka

Born in Glen Cove, NY  
Lives and works in New York City



*kool-pop no. 3*, 2000

Mylar, epoxy resin, and mixed media,  
52 x 30"

Courtesy Debs & Co., NYC

# Chihung Yang

Born in Taiwan, Republic of China  
Lives and works in New York City



*Day and Night*, 1991-92  
Acrylic on canvas, 78 x 60"  
Lent by the artist

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Tomie Arai** is a third-generation Japanese American. Among her recent work is a series of constructions that incorporate silk-screened photographs addressing issues of identity, displacement, and acculturation.

**Chong Gon Byun** has lived in New York City for the past 20 years. His satirical assemblages include many religious and musical references, as well as evocations of the Dadaist Man Ray and Surrealist René Magritte.

**Wennie Huang** is a second-generation Taiwanese American. Her mixed-media installations and digital images deal with issues of gender, identity, displacement, and Asian American stereotypes.

**Sook Jin Jo** has been living in New York City since 1988. Her abstract constructions make use of found objects and abandoned pieces of wood in a harmonious, formalist manner that never denies the inherent nature of her materials.

**Tamiko Kawata** has lived in New York City for over 30 years. Many of her installations include such everyday materials as safety pins, cardboard rolls, and toilet paper, employed both as a visual diary and as social commentary.

**Dinh Q. Lê's** photographs commemorate the victims of the 1977 massacre of his village on the Vietnam-Cambodian border by the Khmer Rouge. Lê comments on the cycle of violence and healing by weaving together cut-up images.

**Bing Lee** has lived in the United States since 1974. Recent projects include "pictodiary" installations of hundreds of rice paper squares with diverse pictographs derived from both Eastern and Western cultural traditions.

**Li-lan** was born in New York City of Chinese European ancestry. She uses imagery related to postal correspondence to suggest cross-cultural relationships that transcend the traditional boundaries between East and West.

**Chee Wang Ng's** latest series of digital photographs uses such familiar images as rice, bowls, and chopsticks to express and comment on traditional Chinese spiritual and aesthetic values.

**Ram Rahman's** documentary-style photographs present his witty observations of life and the overwhelming visual display of Delhi. His photographs comment on India's politics, economics, religion, and culture.

**Jean Shin** emigrated to the U.S. at a young age. Her installations employ large quantities of commonly discarded objects. Her mass of single socks that are missing their mates symbolizes dysfunction, rejection, and abandonment.

**Kit-Yin Snyder's** *Enrico IV*, her solo exhibition shown at Stony Brook in 1990, was a theatrical set/installation with a voice-over narration. Snyder has recently turned to video to visually explore her own journey and the immigrant experience.

**Paul Wong's** parents immigrated to America in the 1940s. Their assimilation left him with what he has called "cultural amnesia." Wong uses elements of Chinese history and culture to focus on the themes of memory and the loss of ethnic identity.

**Carrie Yamaoka's** paintings are made with sheets of Mylar coated with deep layers of epoxy resin. While the rectangular pieces are reminiscent of household mirrors, their colorful surfaces invite intensely personal introspection.

**Chihung Yang** emigrated to the United States in 1979. His paintings reflect the influences of both Abstract Expressionism and Chinese brush painting. His gestural brush strokes and botanical fragments reflect the vital, ever-changing quality of nature.



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5425  
UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank Professor Howardena Pindell, Department of Art, University at Stony Brook, for co-curating this exhibition. I also want to express my gratitude to Professor Gary Mar, Asian American Center Bridge, University at Stony Brook, for his continued support and for his contribution to this catalogue.

I also want to thank the gallery owners and staff who generously participated in the organization of this exhibition: Sushil Puria, Admit One Gallery, NYC; Christophe W. Mao, Chambers Fine Art, NYC; Cora Weirner-Hodes, Debs & Co., NYC; Suzanne Kreps, O.K. Harris Works of Art, NYC; Dawn Lee, Omni Gallery, Uniondale, NY; Cherese Crockett and Marisa Morales, P.P.O.W., NYC; and Barbara and Helmut Zitzwitz, Hudson River Gallery & Conservators, Dobbs Ferry, NY.

I gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following departments and organizations affiliated with the University at Stony Brook: President Shirley Strum Kenny and George Meyer, Assistant Vice President, President's Office; Provost Robert McGrath; Professor S. N. Sridhar and the Center for India Studies; and the Friends of the Staller Center.

Special thanks are also extended to members of the Staller Center staff: Pete Pantaleo, Howard Clifford, Jr., and Michelle Wacker, for installation assistance; Pauline Cullen, Coyette Perkins, Ana Maria Ramirez, Hedy Yue, and Jinzhou Jou, Gallery Assistants; Agatha Gliksman, Melissa Mauro, Elizabeth Shea, and Shaden Zakour, Gallery Interns; Liz Silver, Staller Center Technical Director, Neil Creedon, ATD, and the Staller Center Technical Crew for exhibition lighting; and Marge Debowy, Assistant to the Gallery Director.

Most of all, I wish to thank the artists for sharing their work with the Stony Brook Community.

*Rhonda Cooper*  
Director