

# HYBRIDITY, MULTIPLICITY, HETEROGENEITY

## THE ART GALLERY

MARCH 2011

### FREDDY CHANDRA

Freddy Chandra is an Indonesian born visual artist living and working in Oakland, California. He completed his undergraduate studies in Architecture and Art Practice at the University of California (Berkeley) and obtained his M.F.A in Studio Art from Mills College (Oakland). His work has been exhibited in the United States, Canada and Europe. He was a recipient of a 2009 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant. He has also previously received a 2006 Kala Art Institute Fellowship, a Project Space Residency at the Headlands Center for the Arts in 2007, and a residency at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in 2009. Freddy Chandra is represented by Brian Gross Fine Art in San Francisco, Margaret Thatcher Projects in New York, Waleter Maciel Gallery in Los Angeles, Galerie Lausberg in Germany, and Fabbri Contemporary Art in Italy.

"My current work is rooted equally in the language of abstract painting and in the temporal nature of the moving image. In applying acrylic and urethane paints on transparent cast acrylic panels, I repeat, pair, overlap, reverse, and re-sequence ensembles of chromatic areas and seamless shifts of lines and values. These works are rhythmic compositions of discrete frames in which the relationship between parts inherently informs the logic of a continuous whole. These wall-based installations -- from the modestly scaled to the panoramic -- use the structure of filmic space to link the concrete and the atmospheric through a sequence of encounters. Through investigations of specific color relationships, value shifts, dimensional modulations of transparency, and compositional structures, I seek rhythms that are fleetingly present in such elusive moments as when overhearing a fragment of music only as it fades away, essentially catching hold of bits in a stream of information before it disappears. In my work, I try to make more tangible the act of recognition, recollection and anticipation driven by a desire to understand the present moment in the space between attentive perceiving and the peripheral subconscious."

### BIHN DAHN

Binh Danh is a photographic artist based in San Jose, CA whose work investigates his Vietnamese/Cambodian heritage and the American collective memory of war through various methods, including his own innovation of "chlorophyll printing" images onto leaves using photosynthesis. His latest body of work re-examines landscapes of the West through the 19th-century Daguerreotype process, which involves "capturing light" onto mirror-polished silver plates.

"My work largely explores history, war, mortality, and memory through the photographic processes such as chlorophyll printing or the Daguerreotype process. I also collect cultural artifacts and re-contextualize them to inform my own art making. My goal is to reflect on our shared humanity."

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### LUCY LIEW

Lucy Liew was born in Malaysia and is of Chinese Melanau descent. She has developed her own signature, adopting the traditional native art motifs of Borneo as a language to express her themes. Over the years her subject matter has taken a variety of forms, both figurative and abstract; but at the heart of all Liew's work is the celebration of beauty in life and nature. In her recent work the artist has begun to approach these themes on a grander scale to create multi-panel works and larger canvases. Liew's figurative works are about her journey of discovery as a woman coming from an Eastern culture integrating with life in America. These works focus on the universality of the human spirit.

*"The Persistence of Home* reminds us that our memories and cultural identity persist even after we leave our childhood home and country behind. Although most of us will call several places 'home' in our lifetimes, we will always carry with us 'windows' to our past. Our minds can also provide us with a 'portal' to the future where our dreams lie. Here, the child is not looking back, but rather beckoning toward a future of infinite possibilities."

### RATHA NOU

"My name is Ratha Nou. I'm a Cambodian American, originally from the South Bay in San Jose. East side to be exact. I grew up in the early 90's, hip-hop scene, surrounded by a crew of prolific individuals that have help shape me to become the artist I am today. I get my work ethic from my Mom, my passion from my Friends. I'm grateful to everyone I've crossed paths with that has helped my curiosity and creativity expand. Stablished & Stab Labs are just outlets for my collective to express our perspectives. Nothing else to it. We are driven to create and more so with the goal of collaborating together to deliver effective visual messages."

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#### JANSEN E. OBLENA

Oblena is a Filipino American photographer and SFSU alumni.

“There is no historical or cultural inspiration to any of the shots I take; no envisions an orchestrated image or a developed scene in my mind. I play with my time machine, to capture moments and settings both when I stumble and when I search, when I'm off guard and when I'm focused. I impart pressure onto the shutter because as a human being, not as an artist, I have feelings, emotions, taste, and instinct that all whisper "press the button." Similar to a soldier shooting his gun - when they feel in danger, they will point and shoot at that danger. Parallel with that instinct, when I find something beautiful or when beautiful finds me, I will point and I will shoot. Each individual art project I participate in only involves me walking into a blank room, filling it with items both inanimate and alive, allowing the simple and intricate to blend or polarize, waiting for a desired outcome by nurturing only the elements-never orchestrating, and capturing the birth at the end of it.

In short, I love creating and capturing - because I love the world. How my culture and origin has transcribed a philosophy I would have to delve further, and perhaps in that depth I can meet the demarcated proposal half way.”

#### ISABELLE THUY PELAUD

Isabelle Thuy Pelaud is the author of *this is all i choose to tell: History and Hybridity in Vietnamese American Literature*. She has written numerous essays and poems circling Vietnamese culture. In addition to her literary talents, Pelaud is an installation artist whose recent works consists of quiet pieces that evoke a sense of searching for balance and contentment within one's self and society. Pelaud, herself being of Vietnamese ancestry, works actively within the Vietnamese American community as a founder and co-director of the Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network and as an Associate Professor in Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University. The artist is continually striving to connect and contribute to the Vietnamese community as she enriches her space with art that releases these aspirations onto the rest of us.

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#### CAT U-THASOONTHORN

*Hayward III* is one piece in the 'Post Meridiem (p.m.)' series, a collection of 8 mixed media works which convert night photographic images into silkscreen prints and combine them with flickering neon light. 'Post Meridiem' aims to represent the artist's feelings of comfort and unease which arise simultaneously when confronting single light sources in largely dark areas at night. The translations of these photographs into silkscreens and the resultant interference of the medium - through imperfections in registration and overlapping - also references the inaccuracies and dreamlike quality of our memories of a place. Cat U-Thasoonthorn is a Thai American artist who works primarily with neon, the photographic silkscreen, wood, and steel. She is currently pursuing her MFA in Sculpture at the San Francisco Art Institute.

#### GUE YANG

Gue Yang is a proficient figure painter of Hmong descent. He is well versed in both digital painting and traditional 19th century realism. His ability to converse in both styles and mediums burrs the line between the identifiable tactile experience of a painterly mark from the slick surface of a digital print. His paintings are greatly influenced by John Singer Sargent and often reference his lesser known works. Yang currently resides in San Francisco and studies at the Academy of Art University.

"The model which I painted here is Hana Ihaya, a good friend of mine. I chose to paint her because I love beautiful women. Ironically, I can't for the life of me paint or draw beautiful women because to me, it defeats the whole purpose of making art (at least in my opinion). Truly beautiful women already have the foundations of a good design: to replicate that would be meaningless. That's why for me, it is impossible.

I chose the color of this piece because I think it is quite calm. The blues and greens remind me of the beach on a late afternoon. To go any further into the purple and red family would suggest coldness and fear. Happy is good."

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#### DR. YEE YEE HTWE (YEING)

Yeing is one of the talented female artists from Burma (Myanmar). Yeing travelled intensively all over Burma from Northern Kachin State to remote area of Southern Kayah State during the past 25 years for her professional job as a medical doctor. She has worked many years in public and private institutions such as public general hospitals and INGOs for public health care service in Burma (Doctors without Borders and Care). Currently, Yeing resides in the San Francisco Bay area, studying a PhD course (Health Service) as a doctoral student, with leisure time with the arts. Yeing also writes health-education related articles and novels (published in many magazines and journals by different pseudonyms in Burmese language). She has two areas of passion: "Arts" and "Advocacy and Education for Community Health".

Yeing's paintings remind us to see and appreciate simple beauty around us. They reflect her soul, her inner thought combined with her intellect in seeing the beauty of diverse ethnic people, culture, tradition, lifestyle and nature of Burma. Sometimes, they can also reflect the deeper part of nature and life itself. Yeing mostly uses small painting knives as her painting brushes which give the artist more freedom and more detail in doing her art works: "My palette knives are my fingers attached to soul."

"Life is short, but, the art is long; everyone who loves art is an artist in some way."

Yeing donates 5% of her earnings from the sale of her paintings to non-profit organizations working for public health care in Burma.