

Asia in Motion

Cressman Center for Visual Arts
100 E Main Street Louisville, KY 40202
January 14-February 18, 2022
Opening Reception: Jan. 14, 5-8 pm

The Hite Art Institute is pleased to present ***Asia in Motion*** an exhibition of contemporary work from students and faculty of the Hite Art Institute. Presented in partnership with the 2022 Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, the artwork in *Asia in Motion* displays a wide range of media and conceptual topics currently being explored by artists of Asian descent within the Department of Fine Arts.

Jingshuo Yang's ink and watercolor illustrations for example, examine the connections between spiritual Chinese philosophy and the work of the Western philosopher Nietzsche. Using the butterfly as a symbol of peace and freedom, she juxtaposes the delicate tactility of the butterfly against chaotic and colorful washes of ink to explore ways of balancing the stress of the world with the search for inner tranquility.

Examining gender and cultural differences between China and the United States, artist Xuanyi Wang, who was born and raised in China before moving to the U.S., explores conceptions of the self within her artwork and specifically how the self is defined by and altered by one's personal environment. These adaptations of the self are symbolically illustrated in Wang's "Cat's Cradle" a pair of paintings depicting two sets of hands guiding the string used for the game into its various shapes. As the string alters between the hands that shape it, so does the self between the places it resides. Themes of Identity are further explored in the sculptural work of Jonathan Loyd, whose pieces explore the confusions he feels as a second generation Korean American and adoptee, and his attempts to situate himself socially and culturally.

While the themes of the aforementioned artists are considerably personal, the work of other participating artists look externally to issues of social justice or focus on material and functionality. The photography of Shachaf Polakow, for example, documents Palestinian resilience and resistance under the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank. As a member of the artist collective ActiveStills, Polakow seeks "to confront the Israeli settler-colonial project in the region of Palestine." Finally, fiber artist Moon-He Baik uses sustainable materials to create wearable art such as clothing and accessories. The content of her work reflects her connections to the two cities she considers home: Seoul, Korea, and Louisville, KY.

While these descriptions speak to only a sample of the work exhibited in ***Asia in Motion***, they offer a glimpse at the unique and broad range of content and materials being presented. We hope you will join us during the run of this exhibition to further explore the artwork on display ... *Asia in Motion* is on view at the Cressman Center for Visual Arts from January 14-February 18, 2022. A

reception for the exhibition will take place on Friday January 14 from 5-8 PM. This event is free and open to the public.

Students participating in *Asia in Motion* include Jonathan Loyd (BFA), Xin Chen (MFA), Xuanyi Wang (MFA), Suyun Son (MFA) Shachaf Polakow (MFA) and Jingshuo Yang (MFA). Faculty participating include Ying Kit Chan, Moon-He Baik, Dimitri Kim, and Delin Lai.