



WHOSE CHINATOWN?

A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

APRIL 10 - 11, 2021 | LIVE OVER ZOOM

Presented by The Asian Canadian Writer's Workshop, Centre A,
Griffin Art Projects and The New Gallery



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WHOSE CHINATOWN: A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE BRINGS TOGETHER A WEEKEND OF COLLABORATIVE PANELS AND TALKS FACILITATED LIVE OVER ZOOM, BROUGHT TO YOU BY GRIFFIN ART PROJECTS, CENTRE A, THE NEW GALLERY AND THE ASIAN CANADIAN WRITER'S WORKSHOP WITH COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT FROM TEA BASE, AIYA哎呀 AND YOUTH COLLABORATIVE FOR CHINATOWN. JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF CONVERSATION, CONNECTION, AND SOLIDARITY AS WE CELEBRATE CHINATOWNS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND ENGAGE WITH TOPICS THAT RANGE FROM CULTURAL HERITAGE AND REVITALIZATION TO GENTRIFICATION, ECONOMY AND THE CHANGES THAT HAVE SWEEPED ACROSS CANADA'S CHINATOWNS DUE TO DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION, PRIOR TO AND POST-COVID.

Front Image: Morris Lum, documentation of Friends of Chinatown Toronto's development sign. Top Image: Chinese restaurant matchcovers, from the collection of Karen Tam, from the exhibition Whose Chinatown at Griffin Art Projects

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY:

DAY 1: <http://bit.ly/2NK2vch>

DAY 2: <http://bit.ly/3pxCsDj>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SATURDAY APRIL 10, 2021

4 - 5 PM EST NICE TO MEET YOU

Join us as we kick off our virtual weekend with a warm welcome and introductory remarks from the team! Join Griffin Art Projects' Director Lisa Baldissera and guest curator Karen Tam, The New Gallery's Director Su Ying Strang, Centre A's Interim Executive Director and Curator, Henry Heng Lu and the Asian Canadian Writers Workshop's Executive Director Allan Cho, to learn more about the vibrant institutions they lead and their hopes and goals for this virtual weekend together.

5:15 - 6:45 PM EST ARTIST TALK: WILL KWAN

Centre A's curator and Interim Executive Director Henry Heng Lu will be in conversation with Toronto-based artist Will Kwan about his exhibition *Exclusion Acts* at Centre A. This exhibition brings together a number of new photo, text, and media-based works that take an unflinching look at the systemic and absurd ways that economic ideology shapes social relations and beliefs. The works examine a range of conditions, from the racialization of low wage and precarious labour, to the financialization of housing by private equity, to the fanatical neoliberal rhetoric used to support the supremacy of the economy. Seen in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, the works in the exhibition portray not an inflection point, but systems and minds trapped in a recursive state— inertia, entrenchment, business as usual. This virtual conversation will discuss different manifestations of inequality explored in the exhibition.

PRESENTED BY CENTRE A: VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART

SATURDAY APRIL 10, 2021

7 - 8:30 PM EST VANCOUVER'S CHINATOWN: THEN & NOW

CINDY CHAN PIPER | ELWIN XIE | SID TAN | WINNIE CHEUNG
MODERATED BY ADA CON

The artist and poet Jim Wong-Chu once remarked that Chinatown is all in our imaginations, for each generation who has lived or interacted there remembered it differently or had different experiences according to their place in time. What first began as a ghettoized space by colonialists used to contain and segregate a predominantly displaced Chinese male bachelor society from the rest of society, Vancouver's Chinatown has hardened to survive major threats to its existence —race riots, the TransCanada highway, and gentrification— and has now become a contested space between real estate developers, small businesses, and those who reside there. As Chinatown is very much a cultural and historic relic of Canada, the city of Vancouver and the province of British Columbia have pushed to have Chinatown designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the future of Chinatown is uncertain in the midst of a global pandemic. Join us as our four speakers whose roots and history with Chinatown discuss and share their memories, experiences, and thoughts about the future of Vancouver Chinatown.

PRESENTED BY THE ASIAN CANADIAN WRITERS WORKSHOP

8:45 - 9:30 PM EST CHAT & CHEWS

Join us as we raise a virtual glass in cheers of community, conviviality and great conversation! We'll be capping off each day with an informal mingling session during which participants will have the opportunity to meet and chat about some of themes and ideas of the day. Zoom links for each mingling session will be sent upon registration.

Hungry? We recommend that you support a local restaurant for your meal tonight! See pages 12-13 for our list of restaurant recommendations.

SUNDAY APRIL 11, 2020

4 - 5:30 PM EST VISIONS FOR CHINATOWN

AIYA 哎呀 | DORIS CHOW OF YOUTH COLLABORATIVE FOR CHINATOWN | FRIENDS OF CHINATOWN TORONTO | SU YING STRANG | LINDA ZHANG
MODERATED BY HENRY TSANG

Join us for a panel that addresses the changes that have swept across Chinatowns throughout Canada and beyond due to gentrification, development, and population, prior to and post-COVID. Panelists will consider the anti-racism that has surged during the pandemic, and what can and should be done about it. This panel is planned on the occasion of the presentation of *Whose Chinatown? Examining Chinatown Gazes in Art, Archives, and Collections* from January 9 - May 2, 2021, a vibrant exhibition curated by Karen Tam that brings together an art history of Chinatowns and their communities by historical and contemporary Canadian artists.

PRESENTED BY GRIFFIN ART PROJECTS



Above: Documentation of aiya哎呀's Harbin Gate events, aiya哎呀, 2018

SUNDAY APRIL 11, 2020

5:45 - 7:15 PM EST WOVEN THREADS: CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT CONNECTING AND COMMUNITY IN CALGARY CHINATOWN

TERESA TAM | ANNIE WONG | CHERYL WING-ZI WONG
MODERATED BY SU YING STRANG

Join us for a discussion featuring Calgary Chinatown Artists-in-Residence, Teresa Tam (Calgary, AB), Annie Wong (Toronto, ON), and Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong (New York, NY), moderated by Su Ying Strang, Director of The New Gallery. The artists will share their ongoing research and work specific to Calgary Chinatown, and how Chinatowns inform their respective practices and/or lives. This residency, organized by The City of Calgary Public Art Program and The New Gallery, is an opportunity for these artists to connect with stakeholders in Calgary Chinatown, and to learn about the community's past, present, and possible futures. The residency also takes place during a time when The City is undergoing consultation and planning for the future of Calgary Chinatown. The overlapping timelines of these projects poses the question: how does artistic research support engagement and advocate for communities?

PRESENTED BY THE NEW GALLERY

7:30 - 8:15 PM EST CHATS & CHEWS

Join us as we raise a virtual glass in cheers of community, conviviality and great conversation! We'll be capping off each day with an informal mingling session during which participants will have the opportunity to meet and chat about some of themes, topics and ideas of the day. Sessions will be lightly moderated by conference Partners and Collaborative Supporters. Zoom links for each mingling session will be sent to participants upon registration.

Hungry?! Check out our list of restaurant recommendations on pages 12 -13.

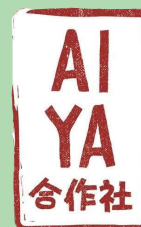
A SHOUTOUT TO OUR Collaborative Supporters

WE WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANT WORK BEING
DONE BY OUR COLLABORATIVE SUPPORTERS! PLEASE CONSIDER
MAKING A DONATION OR SPARKING A CONVERSATION USING THE
EMAILS LISTED BELOW:



Youth Collaborative for Chinatown | Contact: ycc.yvr@gmail.com

Youth Collaborative for Chinatown - 青心在唐人街 - practices, shares and celebrates the living culture and heritage of Vancouver's Chinatown. As a registered non-profit they gratefully accept donations as Vancouver Chinatown Generations Society. Because of the disproportionate impact on Chinatown businesses during COVID, donations will be used to purchase gift certificates from local restaurants and grocery stores, which will then be distributed to low income residents.



aiya哎呀 | Contact: aiyacollective@gmail.com

aiya哎呀 is an intergenerational group of artists and Chinatown community members who are using the tools of arts and culture to make work that addresses the displacement and cultural erasure in Edmonton's Chinatown. While aiya哎呀 does not accept donations, they always love to meet people who care about Edmonton's Chinatown and want to be part of the work!



TEA BASE | Contact: yourlocalcollective@gmail.com

Tea Base is a curious community arts space tucked away in Tkaronto/Toronto's Chinatown Centre Mall. They aim to make accessible space for intergenerational activists and artists who support social justice movements in and around Chinatown. Teabase accepts donations through: https://withfriends.co/tea_base/join.

PARTICIPANT BIOS

aiya哎呀 is an intergenerational group of artists and Chinatown community members who are using the tools of arts and culture to make work that addresses the displacement and cultural erasure in Edmonton's Chinatown. Beginning with the 2017 removal of the Harbin Gate, aiya哎呀 is compelled to create spaces of mourning and remembering. The dismantle of the gate is symbolic of ongoing displacement and is an outcome of capitalist and colonial values. aiya 哎呀 collective members include Grace Law, Wai Ling Lennon, Shawn Tse, and Lan Chan Marples.

Lisa Baldissera is the director of Griffin Art Projects. She has worked as an independent curator, consultant and writer, and in curatorial roles in public art galleries in Western Canada since 1999, including Senior Curator at Contemporary Calgary (2014-16), Chief Curator at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon (2012-14) and Curator of Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (1999 to 2009). She holds MFAs in Creative Writing (UBC) and Art (University of Saskatchewan) and a PhD from Goldsmiths College, University of London.

Winnie L. Cheung was born to refugee parents in cosmopolitan Hong Kong, where she was surrounded by people converging from China and all over the world. She is fascinated by the forces behind people's migration, and is curious to know how individuals' identities are shaped by the knowledge of their families' history. Winnie is a founding member and Executive Director of the Pacific Canada Heritage Centre Museum of Migration (PCHC-MoM).

Friends of Chinatown Toronto (FOCT) is a grassroots group comprised of artists, architects, writers, journalists, business owners, residents and community activists fighting for community-controlled affordable housing, economic justice, and racial justice in Toronto's downtown Chinatown. Our advocacy centres the needs and voices of working class, senior, and immigrant communities who rely on Toronto's downtown Chinatown for cultural and economic resources that are unique to the neighbourhood. Our mission is to build community power and resist displacement through political education, intergenerational collaboration, coalition-building, and community-based art. We aim to represent, build, preserve and honour the memory and future of Chinatown and its community members as an integral piece of Toronto's legacy.

Will Kwan is a Hong Kong-born Canadian artist whose work examines the diverse ways that hegemony is produced through economic systems and cultural narratives. His work is held in the permanent collections of M+ (Hong Kong), Folkestone Artworks (Kent), and Hart House at the University of Toronto. He has participated in exhibitions at MoMA PS1 (New York), ZKM Center for Art and Media (Karlsruhe), CAC Vilnius (Lithuania), the MAC VAL (Vitry-sur-Seine), Art Museum at the University of Toronto, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Western Front (Vancouver), and in biennials/triennials in Liverpool, Folkestone, Montreal, and Venice.

Henry Heng Lu is a curator, writer and artist based in Vancouver and Toronto, Canada. Presently, he is Curator + Interim Executive Director at Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. He is a co-founder of Call Again, a mobile initiative/collective committed to creating space for contemporary diasporic artistic practices, within Canada and beyond. He has presented independent projects through numerous channels, such as Creative Time Summit, Art Museum at the University of Toronto, The New Gallery, Vtape, and Trinity Square Video.

Cindy Chan Piper is an architect and city planner (retired), an actor, and a photographer who is a fourth-generation Chinese Canadian. She still lives within walking distance to Chinatown.

Su Ying Strang is an artist and cultural worker based in Mohkinstsis/Calgary, AB. Originally hailing from the Southern United States, Strang relocated to Canada in 2006 to pursue her education at the Alberta College of Art + Design (now AUArts). Strang is the Director of The New Gallery (TNG) in Calgary Chinatown, President of the Alberta Association of Artist-Run Centres, and a Governor on the Board of Glenbow Museum. Since 2013, Strang's focus at TNG has been the context of its location in Calgary Chinatown, developing the organization's role as an active participant and striving to be a good neighbour in the community. TNG's work was recognized at the 2017 Mayor's Luncheon for the Arts where the organization was presented with the Sandstone City Builder's Award for making Calgary a better place to live through the arts. Most recently, Strang was recognized as a fellow at the 2020 Salzburg Global Forum for Young Cultural Innovators. Other recent awards and appointments include Avenue magazine's Top 40 Under 40 Class of 2018 in Calgary; the 2018 Alumni Horizon Award from AUArts; and she is a 2017 alum of the inaugural cohort of the Banff Centre's Cultural Leadership Program.

Karen Tam is a Montreal-based artist and curator whose research focuses on the various forms of constructions and imaginations of cultures and communities, through her installation work in which she recreates spaces of Chinese restaurants, karaoke lounges, opium dens, curio shops and other sites of cultural encounters. Since 2000, she has exhibited her work and participated in residencies in North America, Europe, and China. Tam holds a MFA in Sculpture from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a PhD in Cultural Studies from Goldsmiths (University of London).

Teresa Tam (Calgary, AB) is a practicing visual artist born and based in Calgary, graduating from ACAD in 2014. Teresa's practice utilizes familiar spaces and experiences to alter them into something foreign through re-interpreting and re-creating. Her projects are developed to include and emphasize visitor interactions. She specializes in digital platforms, functional installations, body-based exchanges, and labour-intensive cooking. She recently exhibited with EMMEDIA's Particle + Wave Festival as Quartet in Transit, Stride Gallery, and M:ST Performative Art.

Sid Chow Tan is a retired media producer/community organiser for a number of non-government organizations. He is currently active on issues of racism along with highlighting the 62-years of Canada's legislated injustices (1885 - 1947) of the Chinese head tax and exclusion. As a paper son and descendant of a head tax payers and exclusion families, he has been vocal for a "direct redress" for exclusion. Tan was the Chairman of the Chinese Canadian National Council, a founding and current director of the Head Tax Families Society of Canada. He was a past President of the Full Figure Theatre Company Society and also a former Vice-President of the Firehall Arts Centre Society.

Henry Tsang is an artist and occasional curator whose projects explore the spatial politics of history, language, community, food and cultural translation in relationship to place. His artworks take the form of gallery exhibitions, pop-up street food offerings, 360 video walking tours, curated dinners, ephemeral and permanent public art, employing video, photography, language, interactive media, food and convivial events. Henry teaches at Emily Carr University of Art & Design.

Annie Wong (Toronto, ON) is a writer and multidisciplinary artist working in performance and installation. Often collaborative, site-specific, participatory, and process-oriented, her practice explores the intersection of the poetic and political of everyday. Wong has presented across North America, including at The Gardiner Museum (Toronto, ON), Studio XX (Montreal, QC), Third Space (Saint John, NB), and Open Source Gallery (New

York, NY). She has held residencies at The Art Gallery of Ontario, Khyber Centre for the Arts (Halifax, NS), and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Banff, AL). Wong's literary practice includes poetry, art writing, and non-fiction.

Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong (New York City, USA) is an artist and trained architect working at the boundary of art, architecture and social practice. Cheryl received her B.A. in Art and Italian at the University of California at Berkeley, studied sculpture at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera (Milan, Italy) and earned her Master of Architecture from Columbia University GSAPP. Her work has been exhibited at Triangle Arts Association, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Istanbul Design Biennial, Usagi Gallery, Los Angeles Center for Digital Art, Taliesin West, the Venice Biennale of Art, BMW-Guggenheim Lab, Berkeley Art Museum, Museo della Permanente in Milan, amongst others.

Elwin Xie grew up in Vancouver's Chinatown during the 1960s. He is a museum interpreter at Burnaby Village Museum and whose most recent publication is "Union Laundry-The Story of Harry and May Yuen" in the Winter 2020 issue of BC History magazine. He is involved with the Vancouver Historical Society, the Heart of The City Festival, and LiterASIAN in the capacity of A.V. He is re-capturing his lost Yin Ping Cantonese - one of the dialects of the mighty Low Wah Kiu trailblazing pioneers.

Youth Collaborative for Chinatown - 青心在唐人街 - practices, shares and celebrates the living culture and heritage of Vancouver's Chinatown. Their experiential programs connecting place and people across generations were recognized with 2020 BC Heritage Awards. An annual Hot+Noisy Chinatown Mahjong Social activates public space through cultural games played among young and old; a Cantonese Saturday School teaches the heritage language using the neighbourhood's historical streets and spaces as classroom. The grassroots volunteer group incorporated in 2019 as Vancouver Chinatown Generations Society.

Linda Zhang is an artist, a licensed architect, certified advanced operations drone pilot and educator. She is an assistant professor at Ryerson SID and a principal at Studio Pararaum. Her work re-examines the spatial practice of marginalized narratives within cultural heritage through matter, material processes and memory technologies. Her work has been exhibited internationally in Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain and the United States. She is the recipient of the 2020 Artist in Residence at the European Ceramic Workcentre (EKWC). Linda holds a B.S.Arch from McGill University School of Architecture and a M.Arch I AP from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

CHECK OUT OUR LIST OF LOCAL EATS

THIS LIST OF RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY CONFERENCE PARTNERS AND COLLABORATIVE SUPPORTERS. PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL CHINATOWN TONIGHT!

CALGARY

GREAT TASTE CHINESE RESTAURANT
123 2 AVE SE | (403) 265-9880

U & ME RESTAURANT
233 CENTRE STREET SW #201
(403) 264-5988

RAINBOW BAKERY LTD
328 CENTRE ST S #135
(403) 234-9909

EDMONTON

DYNASTY CENTURY PALACE
9700 105 Ave NW #206
(780) 428-3388

XU HUE
10548 97 ST NW | (780) 426-7775

Our Favs:
Great Taste - Soup dumplings
U & Me - Lo mai gai
Rainbow Bakery - Egg tart
- The New Gallery

Sending some love to our dim sum / banquet restaurants!
- aiya 哎呀

To recognize the strong Vietnamese diasporic community who started Edmonton's North Chinatown.
- aiya 哎呀

EDMONTON

DOUBLE GREETING WONTON | 10212 96 ST
(780) 424-2486

To recognize the significant location of South Chinatown, aka Boyle or the inner city, that is being gentrified.
- aiya 哎呀

VANCOUVER

GAIN WAH RESTAURANT
218 KEEFER ST | (604) 684-1740

JADE DYNASTY RESTAURANT
137 EAST PENDER STREET | (604) 683-8816

NEWTOWN BAKERY
148 EAST PENDER | (604) 689-7835

FLOATA SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
180 KEEFER ST | (604) 602-0368

THE BOSS BAKERY AND RESTAURANT
532 MAIN ST | (604) 683-3860

Try the curry beef brisket on rice and honey garlic spare ribs!
- YCC

Great Singapore noodles!!
- YCC

A great casual spot for grabbing pastries!
- ACWW

TORONTO

GOLDSTONE NOODLE RESTAURANT
266 SPADINA AVE | (416) 596-9053

KING'S NOODLE RESTAURANT
296 SPADINA AVE | (416) 598-1817

ANH DAO RESTAURANT
383 SPADINA AVE | (416) 598-4514

**SUPPORT LOCAL.
EVERY MEAL COUNTS.**

THANK YOU!



**THE
NEW
GALLERY**

