



Troubling Borders: Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora is organized by UCR Sweeney Art Gallery, sponsored by the Chancellor's Strategic Investment Funds at UCR, co-sponsored by UCR's Department of Media and Cultural Studies, and curated by Lan Duong, associate professor, Media & Cultural Studies Department, University of California, Riverside, and Isabelle Thuy Pelaud, associate professor, Asian American Studies, San Francisco State University.

RELATED EVENTS

Closing Reception and Reading, Saturday, October 6, 6-9 PM, free admission

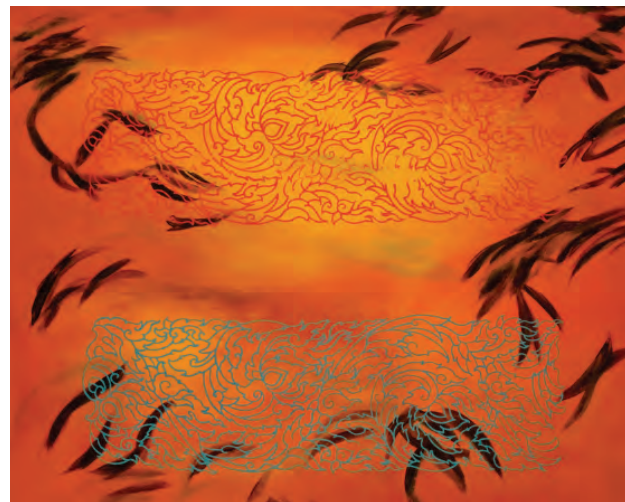
Readings by poets and writers from the anthology, *Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora: Troubling Borders in Literature and Art*. Artists featured in the exhibition will be present.

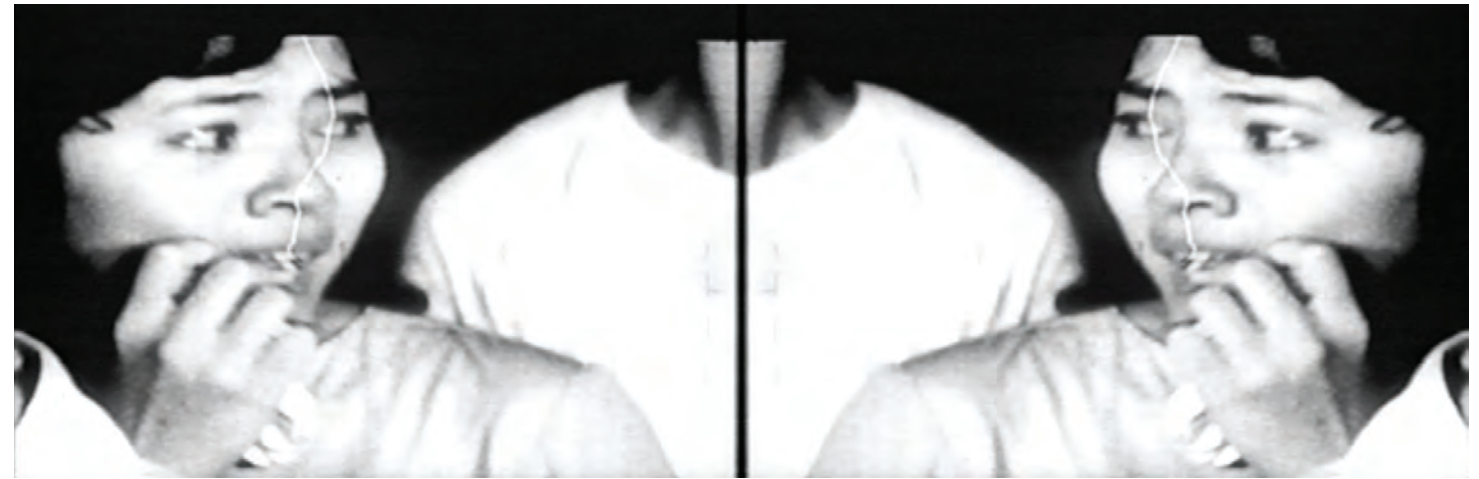
Colloquium, Sunday, October 7, 1-3 PM, free admission

Artists, scholars and writers will discuss issues of community, craft and reception. Moderated by Lan Duong, Isabelle Thuy Pelaud, and Mariam B. Lam.

For more information on the exhibition visit <http://sweeney.ucr.edu>

(Cover) Julie Thi Underhill *Fear of Ambivalence*, 2001, Gelatin silver print. (Insert from left to right) Reanne Estrada *General Tri-Corn*, 2005, Ink on erasers. Ann Phong *Box of Water 2*, 2008, Acrylic on canvas. Hong-An Truong *The Past is a Distant Colony*, from the series *Adaptation Fever*, 2007, Video. (Clockwise from top) Anida Yoeu Ali *Palimpsest for Generation 1.5*, 2010, Video, performance. Nalyne Lunati *Kranok 1*, 2006, Acrylic and silkscreen and watercolor paper. Lin+Lam *Unidentified Viet Nam No. 18*, 2007, 16mm film, color and black & white with sound. All works courtesy of the artists.





TROUBLING BORDERS: Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora

June 30 - October 7, 2012

Troubling Borders: Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora showcases the writings and visual works by women of Cambodian, Laotian, Filipino and Vietnamese descent, as well as women who identify as Mien, Hmong, and Cham. Many of these women reside in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and parts of Asia in the aftermath of the Cold War. The exhibition will feature paintings, drawings, photographs, videos, and sculptures by seven international, contemporary artists: Anida Yoeu Ali, Reanne Estrada, Lin + Lam, Ann Phong, Nalyne Lunati, Hong-An Truong, and Julie Thi Underhill. Writers who will be reading from their work include Leakhena Leng, Karen Llagas and Julie Thi Underhill.

Forming an incredibly diverse group, these women writers and artists point to the ruptures caused by colonization, war, globalization, and militarization. Their stories and artwork are vital and varied, and together they provide a sharp contrast to normative narratives and ideologies that have been constructed in the West and the nation-states of Southeast Asia.

This multi-media art exhibition and colloquium also previews the contents and celebrates the upcoming publication of the first anthology by and about Southeast Asian women in the diaspora. Four years in the making, *Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora: Troubling Borders in Literature and Art* is edited by Isabelle Thuy Pelaud, Lan Duong, Mariam B. Lam and Kathy Nguyen.

By making these works visible to a large public and pushing the boundaries of literature and art, the editors highlight the global connections that draw many disparate groups of women together. The art exhibit and colloquium form one part of these larger efforts to promote the works of Southeast Asian women.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS + WRITERS

Performance artist, writer and global agitator, **Anida Yoeu Ali** is a first generation Muslim Khmer woman born in Cambodia and raised in Chicago. Her interdisciplinary performances use Butoh to examine the poetic potential of the body and collective healing. Her performance work transforms loss into conversations about reconciliation. Since 1998, Anida has toured over 300 colleges and venues with the spoken word ensemble, *I Was Born With Two Tongues*, and the multimedia collective *Mango Tribe*. The Tongues' pioneering live performances and critically-acclaimed debut CD, *Broken Speak*, ignited a new generation of Asian American voices. She is also a founding member of Young Asians With Power!, Asian American Artists Collective-Chicago, the National APIA Spoken Word & Poetry Summit, and *MONSOON* fine arts journal.

Born in Manila, Philippines, **Reanne Estrada** is a Los Angeles-based visual artist with a happily schizophrenic practice. As an individual artist, she delights in making works of dubious archival quality. She has exhibited her work at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, Mercer Union Centre for Contemporary Art in Toronto, the Museo ng Maynila and Green Papaya Art Projects in Manila, Philippines, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, Southern Exposure in San Francisco, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, and the Luckman Center at California State University Los Angeles, among others. Her work is included in the collections of the New Museum of Contemporary Art,

New York, The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Oakland Museum of California, and The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, as well as various private collections.

Lin + Lam produce research-based projects that examine how individual and national subjectivities are mediated and defined. Paying close attention to materiality, site, and the specificities of different mediums, their collaboration is a productive integration of their individual strengths and backgrounds. Lin + Lam have shown their work internationally at venues including the Taiwan International Documentary Film Festival, the Museum of Modern Art, NY, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, and have received awards from the Fulbright Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, and the New York State Council on the Arts, among others.

Leakhena Leng is a 1.5-generation Khmer American refugee. She comes from a strong resilient people who survived the Khmer Rouge regime and are now in the U.S. facing another kind of war and struggle. Her mother fled to a Thai refugee camp in 1979 where Leakhena was later born in 1980. She grew up in the projects of Seattle, Washington. With her mother's love and determination to see her rise above the harsh conditions they found themselves in as displaced people, Leakhena was able to pursue a college education at the University of Washington earning a BA in English and a Master's in Social Work. She has dedicated herself to social justice work and building solidarity among her people.

Karen Llagas is a recipient of the second Filamore Tabios, Sr. Memorial Poetry Prize, and her first collection of poetry, *Archipelago Dust*, was published by Meritage Press last August 2010. She has an MFA from the Warren Wilson Program for Writers and a BA in Economics from Ateneo de Manila. Also a recipient of a Hedgebrook residency and a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize, she lives in San Francisco where she works as a Tagalog interpreter and instructor, as well as a poet-teacher in the California Poets in the Schools program (CPITS).

Nalyne Lunati is a Thai American artist. Born in Bangkok, Thailand in 1972, she immigrated to the United States when she was five years old with her parents. She grew up in Arcadia, California where she attended Arcadia High School. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in painting from San José State University (2007). She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy of Industrial Societies (P.E.I.S.) and a minor in Business Administration from U.C. Berkeley (1995). She currently resides in the Bay Area and is the Founder of Avant-Garde Art Studio in Pleasanton, California. She was accepted to the Art in U.S. Embassies program in 2009, and two of her paintings now hang in the U.S. Embassy in Burma.

Ann Phong was born in Saigon. In 1981 she had a chance to escape Vietnam by boat and has since settled down in southern California. In 1995, she received her Master of Fine Arts degree from California State University at Fullerton and has actively participated in more than 60 solo and group shows in galleries and museums. Her work has been widely exhibited in Los Angeles, Orange County, San Francisco, Houston, Vancouver, Paris, Thailand and Japan. Ann's paintings have been collected by the Queen Gallery in Bangkok, the Student Center at Cal State Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona University, as well as various private collections. Some of her works are included in American high school text books, such as *Literature and The Language Arts*, published by The EMC Corporation. Ann Phong currently teaches art at Cal Poly Pomona University.

Hong-An Truong is an artist and writer based in New York and North Carolina. She has been an artist-in-residence at the Center for Photography at Woodstock and the Visual Studies Workshop. Her photographs and videos have been shown at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum in Queens, the ISCP, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Laguna Art Museum, Torrance Art Museum, Oakland University Art Gallery, and DobaeBacsa Gallery in Seoul. Her work was included in *1968: Then and Now* at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 2008 and screened at the PDX Documentary and Experimental Film Festival in 2009. Truong received her MFA at the University of California, Irvine and was a studio fellow in the Whitney Independent Study Program. She is an Assistant Professor in the Art Department at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Julie Thi Underhill is a writer, photographer, filmmaker, historian, and visual artist. Her poetry, essays, and oral histories have been published in *Takin' It to the Streets: A Sixties Reader*, *Veterans of War*, *Veterans of Peace*, and *Embodying Asian/American Sexualities*. She received a Rockefeller Fellowship from the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences at University of Massachusetts-Boston. She is currently a doctoral student of ethnic studies at University of California-Berkeley, where she studies the Cham diaspora, cultural identity, memory, representation, transnational feminisms, war, genocide, and Asian American histories.