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

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, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and have received an arts fellowship 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 first-generation Filipino American writer. She 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 US. Embassies program in 2009, and two of her paintings now hang in the US. 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 America 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 Gadwin-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 Film 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 Stoics 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 Chum diampora, cultural identity, memory, representation, transnational feminisms, war, genocide, and Asian American histories.

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 Broken Speak, her acclaimed debut CD, 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. As an individual artist, she delights in making works of dubious archival quality. As an individual artist, she delights in making works of dubious archival quality. She exhibits 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. She is currently the director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles.

I Was Born With Two Tongues 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. As an individual artist, she delights in making works of dubious archival quality. She exhibits 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. She is currently the director of the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles. Her interdisciplinary performances use Butoh to examine the poetic potential of the body and collective healing. Her performance work Broken Speak, her acclaimed debut CD, Born in Manila, Philippines,