

Have You Eaten ?

Featured Artists:

jess barnard · eric chan · jess cheng · ryan chen · ga young cho · gome ·
julia nagatsu granstrom · alicia guo · angelina han · seraphim hong · dev jhala ·
jae eun kim · judy lee · ayesha mohyuddin · jnn · mwin · zachary pacleb ·
yaminee patel · kevin phan · siggy · charissa soriano · archie sugiyama ·
anna tono · po-yan tsang · jessica vergel · alexa villanueva · cassie whitebread ·
nicole woon · rya wu · kae yu · nino uniardi · danielle zhang

@haveyoueatenseattle | haveyoueaten.art

RYA
WU

x



Have You Eaten ?

Have You Eaten is a multi-pronged investigation of the Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander diaspora relationship to identity, otherness, and belonging.



*What does it mean to be from neither here, nor there?
To be both of this place yet not completely, with traces
of your you-ness from a different land, in a different tongue,
where the sun feels different and perhaps closer.
Where a familiar face is followed by “Have you eaten?” and
an offering of a morsel to take with you.*

*Where, exactly, do you belong?
How have you come to know the feeling of belonging, or not?
Where is your home, and what makes it thus?
What transports you there?
Or how have you created a sense of home, or felt the absence of one?
Is home tied to a specific place? Person? Sound? Flavor? Smell?*

Tell me, have you eaten yet ?

Featured Artists:

jess barnard · eric chan · jess cheng · ryan chen · ga young cho · gome ·
julia nagatsu granstrom · alicia guo · angelina han · seraphim hong · dev jhala ·
jae eun kim · judy lee · ayesha mohyuddin · jnn · mwin · zachary pacleb ·
yaminee patel · kevin phan · siggy · charissa soriano · archie sugiyama ·
anna tono · po-yan tsang · jessica vergel · alexa villanueva · cassie whitebread ·
nicole woon · rya wu · kae yu · nino uniardi · danielle zhang

@haveyoueatenseattle | haveyoueaten.art

RYA
WU

x





jess barnard

SHE/HER



JESSBARNARDCREATIVE.COM



@JESSBARNARD

“ *Healing brought me home. Therapy brought me home. Home is created, held and nurtured. Home is knowing and trusting that you can always find your way back to yourself.* ”

Hi, I'm Jess! I'm a Seattle based Filipino-American photographer. With a passion for the outdoors, women in sport, diversity, inclusion and value in representation — I am committed to finding the stories, the joy and the in-between moments we yearn for.

I remember exactly how I felt at the Have You Eaten: Meryenda opening reception last spring. I felt belonging. I felt like I was surrounded by not only beautiful art and people, but community. I felt powerful, I felt energized, I felt myself. And what a perfect moment to be photographed. One of my favorite moments as a photographer was taking someone's portrait and saying, "I hope you love it." They quickly replied, "Oh I know I will. Because I love who I was when you took it." That hit me hard. And felt incredibly powerful. I'd love to give our community that opportunity. Imagine this: you're feeling yourself... you're feeling community, belonging, joy — here, sit, let me capture you in this moment.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





eric chan

HE/HIM

 @EIRIKSWOOD

“ *[My sense of home is] expressed through narrative imagery of our people and their object culture, as it evolves or rediscovers itself over generations of interaction..*

Auntie’s Sushi Special – a mealtime gathering of aunties, inspired by the center foreground of Leonardo da Vinci’s L’Ultima Cena / Last Supper. Nantaimori is the arrangement of sushi on a male body, which is far less common than its female counterpart (nyotaimori) within a capitalist patriarchy built on the monetization of the male gaze and the commodification of women of color. **Gumiho’s Absolution** – portrait of the nine-tailed fox spirit, a female shapeshifter often demonized by the confucian patriarchy throughout East and Southeast Asia. Also an allegory for the experience of Asian-American women, who face unique forms of hyper-invisibility and sexualized discrimination and violence as individuals navigating cross-cultural spaces. **Ajumma 24-7** – Pojangmacha, or “covered wagon” food stalls, are the main attraction of street food night markets in Korea. Most are impromptu, makeshift operations staffed by ajummas or ajeossis (older aunties and uncles), as the elder generations had far fewer economic and education opportunities in the aftermath of the Japanese occupation (1910–1945), Korean War (1950–1953), and military government dictatorships (1953–1988).

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





jess cheng

THEY/THEM

 JESSCHENGSTUDIO.COM

 @JESSCHENGSTUDIO

“ *I grew up in a rural town where I was the only Asian kid in my grade. My family immigrated from China when I was three and we had no other family around. This made the impact of being othered by peers and emotionally neglected by my immigrant parents even more profound.* ”

Jess Cheng is an interdisciplinary artist who works in clay, fiber, and installation. They immigrated to the US at three years old and grew up in rural Arkansas as the sole person of Asian descent in their class. They first worked with clay while studying Mechanical Engineering in southern California in 2014. Since then, they have attended and assisted workshops at the Penland School of Craft, Archie Bray Foundation, and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. They work with clay, repurposed textile, and natural materials with special emphasis on invasive species. Attentiveness, the natural world, and building genuine connections and community are integral components of their practice. Their sculptural work is ever-changing and explores themes of nurture, suffering, and regeneration. They currently reside in Seattle with their partner and their cat.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





ryan chen

HE/HIM

 IAMRYANCHEN.COM

 [@IAMRYANCHEN](https://www.instagram.com/iamryanchen)

“ *I am learning that home is a root that is planted but takes time to grow. To achieve that, I am challenging myself to redefine home here in Seattle. So as much as home was a certain smell or dish, I am reminded now that home is about creating new memories.*

I am a Dallas-born, Seattle-based designer, illustrator, and muralist whose work aims to capture the nuances of human connections. I frequently depict cityscapes and communities of people to highlight the beauty in everyday life and the importance of human relationships.

This piece is entitled “Boxed In”. It was a piece I created during the height of the pandemic. The feeling of being stuck, both externally and internally. During this time, I also faced a reckoning of questioning who I was. I was rediscovering myself not only as an artist but as a Taiwanese-American. And as I started reshaping my mind, I felt that tension begin to shift and push against the walls. The piece is a paper cut. Inspired by traditional Chinese paper cuts, I wanted to take this method of storytelling with modern themes.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





young cho

SHE/HER

 @YOUNGCHOART

“ *Home is essentially where I am, encompassing everything around me. Despite lingering feelings of displacement due to cultural differences, I believe it doesn't alter my roots, and my existence remains intact.*

I was born and raised in Korea until the age of 30. Although I have immigrated to the United States and now live here, I still consider myself Korean, believing that my identity will not change. Home is essentially where I am, encompassing everything around me. Despite lingering feelings of displacement due to cultural differences, I believe it doesn't alter my roots, and my existence remains intact.

I'm working on a series titled 'Where I Am.' This series explores my childhood and the idea that being an immigrant doesn't change my roots, no matter where my body resides. The play and culture I experienced in my youth continue to shape me as an adult, and I believe that these memories provide healing throughout life.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





gome

HE/THEY

 @GOME.206

“ We don't see a ton of Filipino representation in mainstream music, and this audio project showcases the potential of the Filipino sound, resampled and re-envisioned. By sampling these tracks from Filipino artists, I have felt more connected with my roots.

Hello! I'm gome, a Filipinx-Salvadoran digital artist from Seattle. My art focuses on the projection of emotions through the use of vivid imagery and a dreamlike perspective, creating a "lost in space and time" vibe. Through photography, video, photo manipulation, and music production, my work presents itself to the audience in a captivating way, leaving them feeling moody and in awe. Through my art, I hope to have the consumer "itch that feeling" of experiencing a new perspective by using avant-garde techniques based in digital surrealism.

The Digital Art print collages symbols from the Philippines and Seattle. From The King Station Clock Tower to Jeepneys, a WSDOT ferry to carabao (Filipino Water Buffalo used for farming), newspaper excerpts from the "Filipino Forum," a newspaper from Seattle throughout the 1900s, the piece connects us with roots of the Philippines and things we're familiar with here in the PNW.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





julia nagatsu granstrom

SHE/HER



WWW.GRINDSTONEWRITING.COM



@GRINDSTONEWRITING

“ Even though it felt like a huge chore at the time, the experience of making and eating rice has always created a sense of home—the swish of the grains as you wash the starch out, the steam, and the fluffy rice canvas flavored by whatever we ate it with. Home is eating a meal around a kitchen table with loved ones in a joyful environment.

Julia Nagatsu Granstrom is a Japanese American writer from Seattle, WA. She is a winner of the 2019 SAG-AFTRA Annual Table Read for the Northwest Screenwriter’s Guild. She is exploring her Japanese roots with miso for breakfast and eggy rice. Her current work-in-progress is the “Where Do You Eat From?” podcast which centers around asking BIPOC folks about their experience with their cultural foods and how they stay connected to those foods despite the challenges they face.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





alicia guo

SHE/HER

 ALICIAGUO.COM

 @A_LYCHEEE

“ *Home is Boston, despite not living there anymore. Home is my bedroom in Seattle, but not the living room or kitchen in my apartment. It is the two blocks from the taco house to the ice cream parlor, but not the one after. Home is what I yearn for when I say I’m tired, I’m hungry... And sometimes it’s the people that made me feel the most me. I feel smaller, less full now without them. I call [my mom] and ask how she made those dishes and laugh at the lack of measurements, sometimes lack of specific ingredients.*

The piece To Be Endless is a digital poem that will generate endlessly. The simple computational rules it follows live at the edge of sense, then evoke a special specificity of feeling, asking you what are some things you would like to be? This piece is inspired by Chen Chen’s poem When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities, a poem that leaves one with such a sense of possibility. To me, To Be Endless is a challenge of narratives and the daring to dream to be things we did not think we could, things that aren’t written into the stories of Asian Americans. The way this would be displayed would be continuously scrolling, never ending with things to be.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





angelina han

SHE/HER

 @MARIGOLDSS

“ *Home is in our relationships and in the way that we care for each other, which is something that my Asian upbringing has influenced. When I feel the urge to feed everyone I love, I think of my grandparents and parents and the way they raised me to show love. When my friends and I go on long walks just to spend time with each other, and talk about nothing in particular, we are saying, you belong here and I want you to feel at home with me.*

Pocket Oranges is an ode to friendship with my friend Ava. We met in college and quickly became close, bonding over our shared experiences as artists and Asian-American women. Our friendship is a space where I have always felt a sense of belonging and of being seen in my entire self. A part of my continual search for home and belonging is a desire for things and rituals that remind me of people I love. In Pocket Oranges, I painted a corner in my kitchen that was filled with reminders of Ava. She had sent me money on Valentine’s Day to buy tulips, and recommended Bliss Montage by Ling Ma, which I was reading. Ava always carries oranges in her pockets to eat and to share, and I picked up a bag of clementines at the store with her in mind, wanting to emulate this ritual that I associate so closely to comfort and to her.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





seraphim hong

SHE/THEY



SERAPHIMHONG.COM



@WAXDRAWING

“ *As I form stronger relationships to every part of myself rather than sifting to refine, I find that I don't feel the need to perfect my image and 'authenticity' in my Asian American multicultural heritage. I am learning to hold every aspect of myself, and as I do so I am grateful to others in sharing their own journeys in self acceptance and expression.*

The first painting of two fawns is named 'First Love / Late Spring' after the song by multiracial Japanese American artist Mitski. In the song there are many references to growing up and realizing how much more there is to understand about the world, love, and yourself and being overwhelmed with that emotion. Learning about my Japanese American and Korean heritages cracked open a whole new view of the world and history that has deeply effected my self expression and goals in this lifetime. The act of being new and learning always feels awkward and wobbly like a child. Being validated in one part of your identity brings hope of exploration and celebration of all of you.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





dev jhala

HE/HIM

 @ART.HROPODS

“ *[Home] is finding a community, finding others who have been made small, when there are so many of us, that fills me with the rage that is too great to compress. I refuse this demand, and make my home in the comforting presence of other QTBIPOC, my friends and my lover, the DIY punk community that holds its roots in acceptance and champions diversity because of those like me that came before me.*

JeDev Jhala is a multimedia artist working in both 2D and 3D forms. His work is created by compulsion, informed by his experiences as a trans artist of color. He draws from poetry that inspires him, music, and his personal relationships, and the visuals and ideologies of subcultures populated by minorities like punk and DIY spaces, and tattoo culture. Dev's goal is to create spaces that are actively accepting of QTBIPOC, and platform people of color, both in a personal sense connecting with the community through his work, and on a larger scale through collaboration with others who champion those values to make dents and shake up social norms.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU


x





jae eun kim

THEY/THEM

 @INSAM_SCORPION

“ *I feel a tremendous sense of strength from my cultural identity, however fragmented or disconnected from my culture that I may feel sometimes living in diaspora. I think the spaces of not knowing or feeling disconnected have been a secret gift for me. And has ended up driving where I get a lot of inspiration for the art I do now.*

Jae Eun Kim (they/them) is a Korean American printmaker and mixed media artist. They explore themes of futurism, diaspora, connection and mysticism through various mediums. Communicating these themes through speculative fiction, poetry, performance, visual and fiber arts. They graduated with a BA from the University Of Washington and have worked at non-profits Powerful Voices and Young Women Empowered where they've facilitated several arts-based and social justice education programs for youth. In 2015, they were invited to stay at Hedgebrook for a writers residency. They are also a founding member of an art collective called flowerflower with a mission to sustain creative economy for queer artists of color connected to Seattle's Chinatown International District (CID).

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





judy lee

SHE/HER



WEBELONGSEATTLE.COM



@WEBELONGSEATTLE

“ I grew up feeling this dissonance which was compounded by my desire to belong to a country that only saw me as a foreigner and one-dimensional stereotype. I internalized this and grew to feel shame about my Asianness, ultimately learning to stop belonging to myself and never feeling a sense of home anywhere. It took a lifetime for me to learn to belong to myself and to finally find home in who I am. Today I am proud of my in-betweenness and see it as an advantage, giving me a unique perspective and ability to take from each culture what I need to live a meaningful life. Embracing who I am also gives me the power to stand in my authenticity and to challenge our invisibility as Asian Americans. Feeling home in who I am means I can finally see how important our stories are and that they matter and contribute to the complex tapestry of the American experience.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





ayesha mohyuddin

SHE/HER

 AYESHAMOHYUDDIN.COM

 [@AYESHASAJEWELRY](https://www.instagram.com/AYESHASAJEWELRY)

“ *Unpacking home means reckoning with the entangled histories of Bengal, empire, language, colonialism, partition, and the ever-changing complexities of what it means to be Muslim without centering an eternal gaze. The kitchen is where these histories come alive through the hands and hearts of multiple generations of family who transmit knowledge through cooking and eating. History and identity coalesce into morsels meant to be tasted, ingested, and embodied. In the kitchen, my senses can metabolize history.* ”

Ayesha Mohyuddin is a contemporary jewelry artist who explores identity, spirituality, and ways of knowing through body-related objects and performance. Ayesha is interested in capturing the complexities of home, history, and identity through material, ritual, performance, and eating. Her recent work uses food, cooking, and the tools of the kitchen to express the physicality of nostalgia, identity, and history. Ayesha’s work is rooted in Islamic material culture, cooking, and her upbringing in a Bangladeshi Muslim household in rural Tennessee.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





jnn

SHE/HER

 @KAFFE.HUNNI

“ *Swimming in the realm of "other" is my lived (living) reality—neither accepted as a "true" Khmer or American. Balancing between the edge of ambiguity, staying fluid to prevent the full loss of self, and replenishing the waters that have evaporated—a continuous cycle I've learned to wade. Through strength of tragedies and love I've never known and learned to receive, I recognize the power of "home"—diving into the deepest trenches to explore the unseen of me, fully embracing the dark and light. Others have tried to make a home out of me; I see why. And now, I've carved my own hut out of the mud of my entity.*

JNN is a Khmer American multidisciplinary artist from South Seattle. She uses art as a way to interpret the inner workings of her mind & the world surrounding her—making sense (or not) of her place within this complex world.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





mwin

HE/HIM

 MWINARTS.COM

 @MWINART

“ *Eating Vietnamese and American food made me feel like I was living the American dream, When my parents immigrated from the war, they never imagined they would become American citizens and eat cheeseburgers. Nonetheless, they always made sure that my brother and I never forgot our roots.*

Throughout history, Asian food has been subjected to negative stereotypes in America, such as the false notion of eating dogs and the use of MSG, as well as the creation of cuisine such as chop suey. Today, the perception of Asian cuisine in America can be viewed either through the lens of racism or cultural appreciation. Despite this, Pho has gained popularity in modern American pop culture, featuring on TV shows and documentaries. The dish, which was created by immigrants as a means of surviving and achieving the American dream, is now being commercialized.

I wanted this painting to showcase a prideful positive perspective and made the Pho soup can the star of the show, to encourage Vietnamese-Americans and Vietnamese to be proud of their culture and food.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





zachary pacleb

HE/HIM



“*“You hun-gry?” my Filipino Grandmother would say. Coaxing me to the kitchen table of her home, covered in fruit, snacks or leftovers from the previous meal. It was always the way she showed us love and welcomed us back into the family when we would visit.*”

Zachary Pacleb is a Northwest born chef and artist and son of a Filipino father raised in Hawai'i, and a mother raised in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. He is a classically trained chef and has spent time in some of Seattle's most demanding kitchens as well as out in the streets along with many of our region's local farmers. He has been documenting his relationship with food since culinary school with being published on the cover of a local in 2009. His most recent showings include Jeremy Buben's "Food Art Collection"(2018) and Rya Wu's "Have You Eaten"(2023), where his piece "Eggtopus" won viewer's choice Best in Show. He is also a continuing contributor of photographs and written works to a small local food zine called "Oden Annual".

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





yaminee patel

SHE/HER

 YAMINEEPATEL.COM

 @YAMMAKESSTUFF

“ I grew up in Ohio [as] one of the few Asian people in my school. This led to a deep feeling of inadequacy and I still struggle with the guilt of not feeling “Indian enough”, especially after moving to Seattle and being around so many people who seem to have a great connections to their roots. I am working through the guilt by celebrating everything I love about my culture and finding ways to embrace it on my own terms, without the judgement of others. Being Indian isn’t one size fits all. It’s different across India, around the world, and throughout generations and I’ve started finding great comfort in the in between.

Food is such an instant connection to culture and rice and lentils in particular are such backbones to the pan-Asian diet. In an effort to connect more with my culture, I embarked on a journey to cook more Indian meals. Unfortunately for me, my cooking skills aren’t up to par, so I was left with way too much rice and no desire to eat it. Over time I grew more and more inspired by the natural, warm colors of the dried goods in my pantry. The long methodical process of creating the images reminds me of the labor of love when cooking meals for loved ones.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





kevin phan

HE/HIM

 @KEVKEVPHANTASY

“ *Home for me are these [queer, Asian] communities and all of them associated with a different sound, person, and sensation. From seeing my mother burning incense and kneeling to pray, to hearing the drinking countdown of một, hai, ba, dô, or navigating the digital space to find communities reflective of my own, all of these evoke a feeling of belonging and home.*

Kevin Phan is a video artist from Fort Wayne, Indiana, currently based in Seattle, Washington. His work explores the ideas of memory and Asian American identity formation through the use of collage and the family archive.

In this video piece, I was thinking about my mother and her prayers day and night for my sister and I, my father, and others important to her. This is a ritual of her life. Unfortunately, another aspect of her daily life is her work as a nail technician 7 days a week. I know this is not her ideal and seeing how people review and perceive Asian service workers, I made this video critiquing those who enjoy the byproducts of Asian service and labor while dismissing and/or even relegating the Asian American to a point of invisibility. Simultaneously, I wanted to create something that highlights my mother and suggest at a futurity of potential.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





siggy

THEY/THEM

 @TTEODOL_A

“ I am intrigued by the sense of mystery that comes with nostalgia and memory. Walking a thin line between whimsy and enigma. At the beginning there is chaos, a coulee, I carve, I scrape, I rake. The chaotic yet almost technical approaches of abstraction stand for a search for simplicity and spirituality. The works do not offer definitive answers and abstain from resolutions.

Siggy received their BFA in printmaking from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2019. They have showcased their work and curated several group exhibitions including the “Initial Impression: SFAI — Osaka University of Arts Print Exchange” held in Osaka, Japan and Open Book Show 3-6 displayed at Arion Press in San Francisco. They have several works in collections across the US such as the Library of Congress together with the SF Poster Syndicate. Siggy was the recipient of the Undergrowth Printmaking Apprenticeship in Portland, OR, and most recently, the Emerging Arts Leader in Conservation and Collections at the Seattle Art Museum.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





charissa soriano

SHE/HER



CHARISSASORIANO.COM



@_CHARISSASORIANO

“ My Filipino upbringing taught me two lessons: to not live in shame (*hiya* in Tagalog) and to care (*mag-alaga*) for those around me. Filipinos often say, “*Nahihya ako, kaya...*,” which translates to, “I feel shame or I am shy, so...” I did not want to adopt this kind of thinking because it hinders one from being themselves. On the flipside, Filipinos are extremely caring, and I believe that that has rubbed off on my identity and my work.

Charissa is a Filipina documentary photographer, artist, and community builder. She was born and raised in Manila, then she moved to Seattle in 2018 to pursue her graduate studies. She completed her program Master of Communication in Communities and Networks from University of Washington in 2020. Charissa is passionate about stories of relationships, identity, immigration, and culture. She believes in using photography to provide space and healing to people often ignored or forgotten as well as empower diverse communities to care for each other. To date, her work has been published by organizations such as the IOM – United Nations Migration Agency, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, The Seattle Globalist (defunct), and The Seattle Times.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





archie sugiyama

XE/XYR



ARCHISUGIYAMA.COM



@VAMPIRE.AKUMA

“ *I never heard anyone talk about queer topics or transness in Japanese; but it was my first language, and the only language my parents spoke when they first arrived in America, so I always felt like a walking contradiction during my childhood.* ”

I am a Seattle-based interdisciplinary artist working in fashion design, digital illustration, concept art, and music. I write lyrics and play drums for local Seattle punk bands Gender Envy, and newly formed Sit. Stay. Beg., which features all QTAAPI members. I also organize many live music and arts showcase events—including fashion shows, social galas, and concerts

[My installation is from] a clothing collection I named "trinity333" as a tribute to transformation. I wanted to reclaim the ideas of "other", "alien", or "monster" as it is often used against minorities—specifically immigrants and trans people. This collection draws inspiration from allegorical pop culture, such as The Matrix, and horror genres to address stigma against marginalized identities. trinity333 rejects hegemony by reclaiming the term "alien" in its context of cultural othering. Embrace the derogatory label of "monstrosity" as a celebration of the liberated self.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





anna tono

SHE/THEY

 ANNATONO.COM

 @ANNATONOART

“ Growing up, our mother found endless ways to preserve our Japanese culture – from teaching us how to use chopsticks, to reading Japanese children’s books to us, to enrolling us in a Japanese Saturday school. As a kid who just wanted to fit in with my white American friends, I often found these efforts tedious or unimportant and did not appreciate them the way I do now. I carried a lot of internalized racism with me and had always wondered, ‘why me?’, ‘why can’t I just be white?’. As an adult, I look back at these moments with deep gratitude that our mother created a cultural thread for us to unravel when we were older, reminding us of who we are and leading me back to memories and experiences that feel like home.

Anna Tono is a visual artist based in Seattle creating AAPI-themed artwork to empower and inspire others to celebrate and take pride in their cultures. One of her goals as an artist is to provide visual representation of our unique identities and help reconnect those from Asian diasporas to their rich heritages.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





po-yan tsang

SHE/HER

 POYANTSANG.COM

 @POYAN.ART

“ *Home is the people, the sounds, landscape, the smell and taste of foods. Going to the International District feels like home: hearing people speaking Cantonese, smell of Chinese herbs and dim sum. Seeing the Pacific Ocean feels like home.*

Painting is the lens through which I process and observe my surroundings. I find inspiration in nature, the mundane, and the quiet spaces in our lives. My works have been shown in group exhibits at Gage Academy of Art and in local Seattle galleries including Gallery Axis, Magnuson Park Space Gallery, and Domicile Gallery + Design. I currently reside in Seattle, USA. I grew up in Hong Kong as well as Toronto, Canada. I am a graduate of the Kang-O'Higgins Atelier at the Gage Academy of Art in Seattle. Before that I worked professionally in the software industry for over a decade and hold degrees in engineering.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





jessica vergel

SHE/HER



JESSICAVERGEL.COM



@JESSICAVERGELDESIGN

“ I’ve learned to find belonging and acceptance in myself. I’ve learned I can find others in the diaspora who also hold their homes in themselves and we can share the same fire and excitement for our identities and cultures—very different, but very cared-for things. Home is no longer the place I was raised, but where my spirit is raised and nurtured.

In Fino' Chamoru (the Chamorro language), “Årima” translates to “Get close; draw near; bring oneself nearer.” Capturing moments during my friends’ first trip to visit me in New York City, these nine watercolor paintings celebrate the idea of closeness and sharing space in long distance friendships. Initially bonding over our AANHPI heritages in school, Hana and Seraphim are based in Seattle, while I live 2400 miles away in Brooklyn. Each illustration captures the feeling of closeness and proximity whether we are sharing earbuds, chatting over coffee and pastries, working together to improve my apartment, or simply sitting together. I came to know the feeling of belonging through simple moments like these where I can exist without expectation and without shame. Home is now being and belonging together in whichever city, sitting in genuine love and care.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





alexa villanueva

SHE/HER



LEXALUNA.COM



@LEXALUNASTUDIO

“ I realized that my “enoughness” had always been linked to my own inner knowing of who I was and what I stand for. To feel at “home”, I’ve learned, is the freedom to be myself in whatever way that looks like as my character and nature evolve.

For the past year, I’ve been collecting and freezing the scraps from my daughter’s first meals- from avocado pits to banana peels, and even my leftover coffee grounds after many sleepless nights. These compost materials are then wrapped onto ceramic vessels that were handmade using my pottery wheel, and then burned together in a fire pit for at least 12 hours. The process is magical and exciting; you never truly know how each piece will look until after the fire subsides, much like what motherhood has taught me through surrendering and trusting the journey. I studied this technique of pit firing pottery in 2020 and in many ways it allows me to connect and collaborate with the earth and its elements, as well as my Filipino ancestors and their ancient traditions through my artwork. Each piece tells the story of those sacred yet mundane moments in motherhood of tending the needs of our kin as well as ourselves, creating a ripple effect in caring for the world around us.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





cassie whitebread

SHE/HER

 @GOODLOAFCERAMICS

“ I’ve found community and a sense of belonging in the “mixed race unicorn” identity. Too often, society attempts to confine mixed-race individuals to predefined boxes, causing a sense of limbo. We’re often too much, or not enough of ___ identity. Yet, I’ve come to understand that belonging doesn’t have to be dictated by societal norms. Every mixed-race person I’ve encountered has a story (or two) of their quest for belonging, highlighting the need to break free from societal expectations and embrace the unique narratives that make us who we are. Home is found in the people who embrace your multitudes.

“Hi, my name is Cassie. I started my ceramics journey back in 2019 as a way to unwind and detach while working in the nonprofit industrial complex. I started throwing on the wheel and began to dabble in hand-building this past year. I currently enjoy making functional pieces and hanging wall art that incorporates components found in nature. When I’m not in the studio, you can find me out for a run with my partner and dog, reading a book in a cozy corner, or snacking on anything pickled.”

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





nicole woon

SHE/HER



[CRAFTBYNICOLE.WORDPRESS.
COM/FEATURES/](https://craftbynicole.wordpress.com/features/)



@CRAFTBYNICOLE

“ *There’s something nostalgic about eating off a collectible McDonald’s plate, sipping from a Mickey Mouse cup with floating confetti, or using a tray that I used to carry cereal on while watching Saturday morning cartoons. This placemat is an homage to those memories.* ”

Nicole Woon is a Seattle-based Asian-American who hopes to make others smile through her art. Her joyful work is often inspired by pop culture, food, and her cultural roots. Nicole’s interest in art stemmed from childhood making handmade greeting cards with family members as a tradition, and continued to blossom when she began creating digital illustrations in 2020. When not crafting, she loves exploring Seattle’s rich culinary scene (875+ restaurants and counting!), volunteering with the Society of Women Engineers, and visiting theme parks.

The illustration is inspired by the works of children’s author and illustrator Richard Scarry, whose Busytown books I devoured as a kid. This piece is my take on a Busy, Busy Chinatown. You’ll find animals going about their daily lives in a neighborhood near and dear to my heart. They’re running businesses, frequenting shops and restaurants, and catching up with friends and family. Can you spot all the zodiac animals?

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





rya
wu

SHE/THEY

 RYAART.COM

 @RYA.WU.ART

“ *I remember stepping out of the movie theatre having just seen Crazy Rich Asians for the first time and surrounded by an audience that looked like me feeling oh so proud to be Asian American. That was the feeling I wanted to capture and share with Have You Eaten.*

Rya Wu is a self-taught abstract artist whose repertoire spans painting, glass, and wire sculptures, incorporating found materials and upcycled textiles. With a rich foundation in psychology, silversmithing, life coaching, and jewelry making, Wu's art serves as a beacon for introspection, echoing the lived experiences, inner truths, and emotions of their audience. Growing up in an environment marked by chaos and violence, Wu never found a traditional sense of home. This personal history fuels her ongoing quest for belonging and identity, themes deeply ingrained in their work. Over time, Wu has discovered a profound sense of home within herself, the communities she fosters, and the meaningful connections she cultivates, transforming their narrative of displacement into one of belonging and self-discovery.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





kae
yu

THEY/HE

 @KYARTPILE

“ *My home lies wherever I feel comfortable enough to express myself and parts of my identity, which means that, for me, there are little bits of home everywhere—among family, where I can immerse myself in Chinese culture, among friends, where my queerness and neurodivergence are met with joy.*

时间过得太快 (Time Passes Too Quickly) is a two-piece composition including an oil painting of my grandmother, my mother, and myself, paired with a digital print of a drawing of the two former when they were my age, with hand-cut Chinese lettering acting as the link between the two parts.

I feel an inherent sense of belonging among the women of my family. There is a constant unspoken sense of welcome within my extended family that is rare for me to find elsewhere. This piece is about a lot of things, but most importantly, it is an act of honoring my mother and my grandmother, where they came from, and the experiences that they have been through to reach this current state of existence. I am proud to carry our culture and the experiences of our lineage through my own life, with the courage of my family fueling me as I strive toward my own dreams and ambitions.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU


x





nino yuniardi

HE/HIM

 NINO.STUDIO

 @NINOYUNIARDI

“ *Growing up different in my neighborhood made me an outsider. Facing challenges for my Chinese heritage, I turned to art to transform negativity into positivity, blending cultures like food ingredients. Home for me is not a place, but the feeling of peace and joy with the right people, anywhere.* ”

Born and raised in Indonesia, Nino Yuniardi was captivated by the abstraction of life, a fascination that came to define his artistic path. Inspired by Salvador Dalí, Mr. Tino Sidin, and his homeland's diverse landscapes, he immigrated to Seattle, Washington, to further explore his creative passion.

Inspired by food and visual language, Nino mixes elements like a home chef, creating something enjoyable. With contrasts, harmonies, and playful titles, Nino's art is a fun process with a quiet message. It's a way to explore diversity and unity, using food as a metaphor. Each ingredient represents our shared human experience.

In simple terms, Nino's mission is to share the joy of life through art, inviting viewers to feel alive and find peace in their hearts.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x





danielle zhang

SHE/HER



“ *I grew up in a rural town where I was the only Asian kid in my grade. My family immigrated from China when I was three and we had no other family around. This made the impact of being othered by peers and emotionally neglected by my immigrant parents even more profound.*

At 14, I moved from China to Australia alone, a pivotal experience that shaped my identity amidst efforts to assimilate. Later, relocating to the US, I embraced my Chinese–Australian heritage, finding freedom in acknowledging my perpetual outsider status. This journey highlighted the universal quest for belonging among migrants, offering comfort through diaspora art and immigrant stories. I've learned that home is defined by loved ones and supportive communities, guiding my pursuit of belonging and the creation of my own space of home.

2023 was my first time back in China in three years--everything felt extra nostalgic to me and I wanted to capture all the fleeting moments and savor them. I was drawn to specifically children--it was my first time experiencing such a strong sense of nostalgia and the yearning for being back to a simpler time in a place I call home.

Have You Eaten ?

RYA
WU

x



Have You Eaten ?

Have You Eaten is so much more than just another art show. It is an opportunity for us to show up as unapologetically Asian. It is a communal journey of self-discovery and transformation, an opportunity to feel seen, connect to each other's humanity, and to see our collective value. Have You Eaten is a love letter to our AANHPI communities, to honor the stories, the struggles, and the triumphs we all carry.

Where, exactly, do you belong?

How have you come to know the feeling of belonging, or not?

Where is your home, and what makes it thus?

What transports you there?

Or how have you created a sense of home, or felt the absence of one?

Is home tied to a specific place? Person? Sound? Flavor? Smell?

Tell me, have you eaten yet ?

If this exhibit has touched you, in any way, **please consider giving your financial support** to make the rest of this Have You Eaten a success. Unlike past Have You Eaten exhibits, this edition is without funding and could use community support. Thank you for being part of our story.

Donate here:



@haveyoueatenseattle | haveyoueaten.art

RYA
WU

x

