

BIO

STEPHANIE H. SHIH (b. 1986) explores concepts of home—not just as a physical place, but also as cultural, generational, and emotional spaces we inhabit—through the lens of Asian-American identity. Over 100 pieces from her current body of work will be exhibited at the American Museum of Ceramic Art (Pomona, CA) in 2020. Her sculptures have previously been shown at Wieden+Kennedy (Portland, OR), Hashimoto Contemporary (San Francisco, CA), and Pioneer Works (Brooklyn, NY) and featured by Vice, NPR, Los Angeles Times, and The New York Times.

In addition to exhibiting and selling her work, Shih also uses it to raise money for marginalized communities experiencing instability related to home, including indigenous tribes fighting for land rights, undocumented immigrants detained by ICE, and victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Through the lens of the Asian-American pantry, my ceramic sculptures explore how shared nostalgia can connect a diaspora. For first-generation Asian Americans, the finite collection of imported grocery brands from our youth has become shorthand for parallel childhoods raised by immigrant parents. To meet strangers who have memories of eating the same can of fried dace—a small fish preserved with salted black beans—is to discover a sense of belonging. Replicating these kitchen staples in clay immortalizes both the shared memories and the feeling of finding the nonexistent homeland of Asian America.

Since 2018, I've folded over 1,000 porcelain dumplings and sculpted a kitchen's worth of instant noodles, soy sauce, Spam, and 50-pound bags of rice. The process of recreating the Chinatown grocery stores of my youth has itself become part of my work: crowdsourcing food memories from other first-generation Asian Americans, researching the packaging variations that have since been updated, and replicating labels with abundant fishing scenes from an oyster sauce I've used hundreds of times but never really looked at. The result is a pantry from the '80s—filled with with fingerprinted surfaces and shakily painted labels—that looks at once familiar and hazy, like an old memory.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 段/家: NOSTALGIA FOR A NONEXISTENT HOMELAND, Wieden+Kennedy, Portland, OR
- 2018 STONE DUMPLING HOUSE, window installation, Gasworks, Brooklyn, NY
- 2017 A STRONG TIDE AND OTHER HOMES, Duke Riley Studio, Brooklyn, NY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 MAKING IN BETWEEN: CONTEMPORARY CHINESE AMERICAN CERAMICS, American Museum of Ceramic Arts, Pomona, CA
- 2020 THE CHINATOWN COLLECTION, Care of Chan, New York, NY
- 2019 OLIVA KIM: HOLIDAY EXHIBITION, Nordstrom, New York, NY
- 2019 SMALL WONDERS, Objets Trouvé, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2019 FUR CUP, Underdonk, Brooklyn, NY
- 2019 ROOM 4 RENT, Pet Friendly, Brooklyn, NY
- 2019 POTLUCK, Hashimoto Contemporary, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 ON GROWING UP IN A CHINATOWN STORE, Chinese Culture Center, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 UNICA: ISSUE 1, Sey, Brooklyn, NY
- 2018 ASIAN-AMERICAN CERAMICISTS, Wing On Wo & Co., New York, NY
- 2018 BROOKLYN FORTUNE COOKIE CO., Pioneer Works, Brooklyn, NY
- 2018 ON THE TABLE, Gasworks, Brooklyn, NY
- 2018 PITCHER PERFECT, Gasworks, Brooklyn, NY
- 2018 THE SIX SENSES, Melissa Galeria, New York, NY
- 2017 BROOKLYN CLAY TOUR, Supersmith, Brooklyn, NY
- 2017 POTHEADS, Bklyn Clay, Brooklyn, NY
- 2017 SPRING BREAK, Bklyn Clay, Brooklyn, NY

SELECTED PRESS

- 2020 WFMU, "Radio Ravioli: Food Art," radio interview, Jan 6
- 2019 VOGUE, "Food for Thought: On the Surprising Appeal of Inedible Art," Dec 20
- 2019 THE NEW YORKER, "Annals of Gastronomy: Holiday Gift Guide for Foodies," Dec 12
- 2019 HI-FRUCTOSE, "Stephanie H. Shih's Ceramics Pull from the Asian-American Pantry," Nov 13
- 2019 STYLIST FRANCE, "Stephanie, C'est Raviolis!" Oct 24, p. 12
- 2019 ARTNEWS, "Morning Links from September 27, 2019," Sep 27
- 2019 LOS ANGELES TIMES, "Good Enough to Eat: Meet the Artist Who Wants to Open a Grocery Store," Sep 26, p. F8
- 2019 VOICE OF AMERICA MANDARIN, "以亚洲食物为题材的纽约陶瓷艺术家" ("New York Ceramic Artist Focuses on Asian Food"), televised feature, Aug 8
- 2019 THRILLIST, "The Rich, Complex History Hiding Within Chinese Plate Designs," Jul 10
- 2019 JUXTAPOZ, "'Potluck' Inspires Communal Connections," Jun 27
- 2019 GARAGE MAGAZINE (VICE), "Stephanie H. Shih's Food Ceramics Nourish Asian-American Memory," May 10
- 2019 UNICA, "Stephanie Shih: Folding in Culture," Spring/Summer 2019, pp. 36-45

2018 COLORLINES, "Asian Americans Preserve Food Memories Via Art," Jan 4
2018 NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, "Through Food Art, Asian-Americans Stop 'Pushing Heritage to the Back Burner,'" Jan 4
2018 EDIBLE, "Feast Your Eyes on This Asian-American Pantry," Nov 28
2018 NEW YORK MAGAZINE, "The Strategist 2018 Gift Guide," Nov 26, p. 70
2018 EATER, "Eater Holiday Gift Guide," Nov 15
2017 THE NEW YORK TIMES, "Chilling Behind the Wheel in a Haven Made of Clay," Nov 30, p. D8

LECTURES AND DISTINCTIONS

2020 Artist talk, American Museum of Ceramic Art, Pomona, CA, Mar 14
2020 Artist talk, Kleep Ceramics, Los Angeles, CA, Mar 13
2020 Artist talk, Gasworks NYC, Brooklyn, NY, Mar 7
2020 Artist talk, Brooklyn Collaborative School, Brooklyn, NY, Jan 30
2019 Artist talk, Berkeley Carroll School, Dec 2-3
2019 Finalist, 4th Annual Storefront Residency, Wing On Wo & Co., New York, NY
2019 Finalist, Open Call 2019, Ortega y Gasset Projects, Brooklyn, NY

SELECTED COMMISSIONS

2019 WOMEN'S MARCH, ceramic portrait of Chinese-American activist Grace Lee Boggs
2019 SACRED BONES RECORDS, sculpture based on the artwork for Mort Garson's "Mother Earth's Plantasia" (1976)

SELECTED PUBLISHED WRITING

2019 EDIBLE, "For Generations, Chinatown's Oldest Store Has Handpicked Its Teaware,"
Spring 2019. pp. 21-22