

Christine Wong Yap

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Aqua and Gold, Framed, 2009



Unlimited Promise, 2009 (installation view at Triple Base Gallery)
Produced in the Breathe Residency at Chinese Arts Centre

Short Biography

Christine Wong Yap is a dynamic visual artist who makes installations, sculptures, works on paper and multiples to explore optimism and pessimism. The Oakland, CA-based artist has exhibited widely in the San Francisco Bay Area, including recently in Southern Exposure's inaugural exhibition, *Bellwether*. A former *Affiliate Artist* at the Headlands Center for the Arts, she completed a three-month residency at the Chinese Arts Centre in Manchester, U.K. in the 2009. Her work has been lauded as "wry, whimsical,"¹ "always engaging,"² and "uniformly exciting and assured."³

For more information, please visit www.christinewongyap.com.

1 Connie Hwong. 2 Nirmala Nataraj. 3 Kevin Killian. Revised April 22, 2010.

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Full Biography

Christine Wong Yap's installations, sculptures, multiples and works on paper have been exhibited widely in the San Francisco Bay Area—recently in *Bellwether* at Southern Exposure and *Exercises in Seeing* at Queen's Nails Projects—and in New York, Los Angeles, Manila, Osaka, London, Newcastle, and Manchester (U.K.). Upcoming exhibitions and projects include *We have as much time as it takes* at the Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art (San Francisco), *Irrational Exuberance (Asst. Colors)* at Sight School (Oakland, CA), *Lending Library* curated by Dena Beard at Adobe Books Backroom Gallery (San Francisco), *Here and Now* curated by Invisible Venue/Christian L. Frock for Mills College Art Museum (Oakland, CA), and *Unrealised Projects* curated by Mike Chavez-Dawson at Cornerhouse (Manchester, U.K.). Her work is in the Alameda County Art Collection.

She has been recognized with the *Breathe* residency at Chinese Arts Centre (Manchester, U.K.), the *Affiliate Artist* program at the Headlands Center for the Arts, the Center for Cultural Innovation's *Investing in Artists* grant, a *Murphy Fellowship in the Fine Arts*, and a *San Francisco Bay Guardian Local Hero Award*. In 2008, she was a collaborator in the *Activist Imagination* project, which was supported by the Creative Work Fund and a San Francisco Foundation *Fund for Artists Matching Commissions Grant*.

Born in California, Wong Yap holds a BFA and MFA from the California College of the Arts (CCA). She lives and works in Oakland, CA.

Her oeuvre “entertains the possibility of perceiving contradiction and paradox, of imagining the ultimately unknowable or imperceptible—but always with a cheeky acknowledgment of the disingenuousness inherent in surface appearances....” (Nirmala Nataraj)

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Reviews

“Glen Helfand describes the work of Christine Wong Yap, his pick for one of the chains: ‘Her artwork is about all of us, as she creates barometers of public mood, and usually aims to spread some good vibes with astute visual choices....’ ...Yap’s piece is, aptly, a distorted mirror, a device that has become one of her signatures. ...[She] make[s] use of recycled and reflected images and memories to create a new shared experience.”

Jessica Brier, *Art Practical*, Issue 11, March 25, 2010.

Wong Yap’s [oeuvre] entertains the possibility of perceiving contradiction and paradox, of imagining the ultimately unknowable or imperceptible—but always with a cheeky acknowledgment of the disingenuousness inherent in surface appearances.... The manner in which ... Wong Yap examine[s] the boundaries between image and language, idea and execution is always engaging...

Nirmala Nataraj, “Sorry at Frey Norris Gallery,” *SFStation*, April 18, 2008.

[Curator Michelle] Blade is especially fond of Wong Yap’s “Unlimited Promise.” The installation ... is like a black-and-white ghost of the colorful images, international mail art (which includes a cardboard record player and a Lake Merritt walking tour) and video upstairs. Using foil-covered letters to create morphing shadows of letters on one wall, Yap presents a coolly meditative experience, never letting the viewer’s eye complete the phrase “unlimited promise.”

Messer, Ari, “‘Involved Socially’: Artists meld life and art,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 20, 2009.

[“Dark into Light” is]...a curious tangential play on absence and temporality, making this a sweet, clean, but provocative Project Space experience.

Andy Ritchie, “Art Review: Dark into Light,” *Artslant*, February 24, 2008.

Christine Wong Yap[’s] whimsical, wry installations and sketches have gained both local and international followings.

Connie Hwong, “Headlands Center for the Arts Fall Open House.” *Flavorpill*, October 7, 2008.