

Zhou Documents

1994

Catalogue Excerpt: Artist Statement of Wen Yi Hou

Wen-Yi HOU 侯文怡

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came to the US to study metal casting. Combining studio work, job, and family life has been most significant for me.

I have been directing my attention to preserving and infusing a philosophy to transmit physical, psychological, political, socio-economic as well as religious attributes to relate my cultural past to a changing society of today. Symbolically, I use human experience as a central theme, implicating man in creation and in association with natural and artificial elements to mark the advancement of society.

BARBARA ROSE HAUM

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, 1962

Born in postwar Germany, I came upon my Jewish background later in life. I moved to New York to pursue a doctorate in studio art at New York University. Living in New York gives me both distance and closeness to my country of origin.

Throughout the last four years, I have freely adapted the use of *midrash* in the visual arts. In the Jewish tradition, *midrash* is the 2,400-year-old practice of using Biblical passage or citation as a way to illuminate or interpret another. *Midrash*, from the Hebrew root "derash" (to investigate or to inquire), is the rabbinic interpretation of the Bible in general and the Torah in particular. Breaking up the context in which old words are found, *midrash* directs their meanings towards new places.

WEN YI HOU

Born in Shanghai, China, 1957

In September 1976, Mao died and university education reopened for the first time since 1966 to all young people. I passed my exams in 1978 and enrolled in two top university programs in China: one in science and the other in fine arts. I chose art as my future career, instead of science, and graduated in 1982 as one of two women in the Western Painting Program at Zhejiang Academy of Art. As an avant-garde artist practicing free expression, I lost my job and legal residence in China. I lived illegally in Shanghai and organized and participated in a traveling group exhibition with other young artists from southwest China. Although the public misunderstood the art and reacted against it, the exhibi-

tion was significant because it was the first to be organized by artists instead of government officials.

In 1986, I received a fellowship and traveled to the United States for graduate study at the University of California, San Diego. I had an American-born son, William, and moved to New York City at the end of 1989. Since moving to New York, I have been collaborating with a number of non-profit art spaces.

KEIKO KOSHIMITSU

Born in Tokyo, Japan, 1958

I was born in 1958, the eldest daughter of a Tokyo company president. My parents entered me in a famous Catholic school for girls from wealthy families. From kindergarden to high school, I was strictly educated as a reserved woman to one day become the wife of a fine man. I decided to go to art school, where I believed there was no discrimination between men and women. But it was the same. Professors treated me differently as a woman, and so I gave up trying to be an artist in Japan.

I started planning to move to the USA, where I thought there was no sexual discrimination. I saved money working as a teacher and a waitress to go to New York and in 1984 I moved to the East Village. My life in New York was not easy, but I was happy to have freedom. I worked for four and a half years as a waitress in a Japanese restaurant that helped to sponsor me to get a green card. I also started to have contact with a gallery, but as a no-name artist it was not easy. I had no connections. I finally met with another great discrimination as a minority in this country. I believe the mission of the artist is to portray this planet as one of human togetherness, and not one of racial discrimination.

DINH LE

Born in Ha-tien, Vietnam, 1968

The major transition in my life occurred when America's "me" value system became stronger than the Confucian teachings instilled in me by my parents. It was then that I made the choice to become an artist despite my parents wishes to the contrary. Until this time, I had always followed the Confucian doctrines of obedience to one's elders and loyalty to the family above one's own self-interests.

KUOZHONG

Born in Taipei

I was born in Taipei. I came to the US to study for graduate and school, I have lived in the US too long, I have "the constant syndrome" (yours from the inside). That according to my English writing much like blur wrote and ask movies and w

SHERWIN MA

Born in Johannesburg

I left South Africa during the Uprising. I moved then to Israel where I heard where I heard offered the job next Monday. Baltimore was have been in E

JENNY MARK

Born in Athens

I was born in Athens. I first twenty-or to Washington year later I en where I took n I moved to New graduate prog living in New Y

In 1987, my bo with my photo Greek immigra Between 1988 Moscow and Si residence phot lectuals in the writers, direct group Studio c