

EFA Studios Gallery
The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts
Steeped in Spilled Milk pt.2
04.21 - 06.10, 2022

EFA Studios Gallery is proud to present *Steeped in Spilled Milk pt.2*, curated by Alexander Si, and produced in collaboration with 24EBroadway. The group exhibition features works from **Antonius Bui, Cecile Chong, Jennifer Ling Datchuk, Cui Fei, Caroline Garcia, Bundith Phunsombatlert, Hayoon Jay Lee, sTo Len, Xin Song, and Anne Wu.** *Steeped in Spilled Milk pt.2* will be on view from April 21 to June 10, 2022, with an opening reception on Thursday, April 21 from 5-8pm. Caroline Garcia's performance ***Pay Salutation*** will be held on Sunday, May 15, 3pm - 4pm



Jennifer Ling Datchuk, ***Pluck***, 2014

In light of the murder of Christina Yuna Lee and the one year anniversary of the Atlanta spa shootings, as well as other recent hate crimes upon the APIA (Asian Pacific Islander American) community, the exhibition underscores the vulnerable positions of the femme, queer and trans Asian bodies by opening up a space for storytelling and healing.

The artists in the exhibition use material motifs and imagery that evoke labor, pain and trauma, while also symbolizing the inner strength, malleability, and the silent dignity of the Asian diaspora. Antonius Bui's 9-foot, indigo-blue hand cut paper renders the Asian body with splendor and grandeur. Similarly, Xin Song's collage combines the tradition of paper cutting with printmaking techniques to assemble abstract imagery of clouds, waterways, and facial features. Folklorish storytelling is present in Cecile Chong's encaustic paintings that juxtapose iconic Eastern and Western storybook characters.

The porcelain blue hues in Chong's works are directly mirrored in two broken porcelain plates by Bundith Phunsombatlert. Each piece uses the story of a plant as a way to trace out the migration route of cuisine and population in Africa, Caribbean and Southeast Asia. Food like grains and fish crop up in Hayoon Jay Lee's dreamlike mixed media painting along with imagery of eating utensils that are sometimes fractured, ligatured, or swollen. sTo Len's prints are made from pollution from the Saigon river and the grouping of his psychedelic propaganda posters from the Vietnam War signal a mutation and contamination in memory as a first generation Vietnamese immigrant.

Jaggedness links the pairing of Cui Fei's *Manuscript of Nature VIII_II* with Jennifer Ling Datchuk's video works. Fei's poem written entirely by thorns hangs next to Datchuk's video, *Pluck*, where the artist tweezes her eyebrows off one at a time while mumbling "he loves me, he loves me not". As the hair comes off, she sits unflinched. Anne Wu's use of incense sticks in her sculptures of architectural elements like doorways and fences echoes that state of being both vulnerable and unbreakable. Caroline Garcia's well-worn rattan Kali sticks and the subsequent performance *Pay Salutation* with the Chrysalis Kali Collective ultimately embody the will and strength in the femme Asian bodies through a series of self-defense and martial arts movements using these traditional Filipino martial art weapons.

"Sometimes people try to destroy you, precisely because they recognize your power – not because they don't see it, but because they see it and they don't want it to exist". - bell hooks.