



Monterey Museum of Art Fall 2024 Exhibition Season Features New Acquisitions
Imagining China: The Art of Belle Yang and Joseph Yang highlights familial partnership

MONTEREY, CA (JULY 17, 2024) – With its mission to celebrate the diversity of California art past, present and future, the Monterey Museum of Art’s (MMA) fall 2024 exhibition season presents [*Imagining China: The Art of Belle Yang and Joseph Yang*](#), on view from September 12 – November 24, 2024. The first cultural institution to exhibit Belle Yang and her father Joseph Yang’s work in a creative conversation, the Museum today also announces that Ms. Yang has promised a significant number of her own works, as well as her father’s works to MMA’s permanent collection (currently on long term loan); and has pledged substantial support to create an endowment for catalogue production. Belle Yang shares, “Joseph Yang was my mentor throughout his life, and even now from the afterlife. For both of us, creativity is the reason we are on this Earth, and I feel a lightening of a load to know that our art will remain together as a legacy to inspire others.”

Imagining China presents a visual journey of what it means to be “100% Chinese and 100% American” as Belle has described herself. Belle Yang’s many artistic influences include growing up as a first-generation American, studying pre-med locally at UC-Santa Cruz before finishing at ArtCenter College of Design in Southern California, becoming a successful graphic novelist, and finally, studying classical Chinese painting in China. Curated by Oakland-based artist and scholar, Lydia Nakashima Degarrod, *Imagining China* uncovers how Belle and her father Joseph, also an accomplished artist, found solace, resilience, and ultimately joy and deep satisfaction in creating art together.

The catalogue for *Imagining China* offers an interview with Belle Yang conducted by Lydia Nakashima Degarrod, a deeply personal essay by Belle Yang, and a foreword by MMA Executive Director Corey

Madden. The catalogue will be available for purchase during the fall season and will be distributed to museums and schools across California.

MMA Executive Director Corey Madden, notes, “Belle’s generous pledge to MMA will help us continue being responsible stewards of remarkable California art. It will help support the Museum’s capacity to study and share stories of the diversity of California artists with the wider public.” In addition, MMA is grateful to Lila and James Thorsen for their generous support of this exhibition as well as Steve Hauk for his gift in support of the catalogue of *Imagining China*.

MMA Fall 2024 Exhibitions: A Season of Creative Partnerships

Collectively, MMA’s fall 2024 exhibition season showcases California artists whose creative partnerships span generations and diverse cultures, encouraging visitors to consider the role of creative partnerships in their own lives. In addition to *Imagining China*, the fall 2024 season exhibitions include:

- ❑ [*Under the Guard Tower: The Watercolors of Chikaji Kawakami*](#)
On view August 22 – December 15, 2024
- ❑ [*Yū-gen | The Language of the Sea, Photographs by Chuck Davis and Ryuijie*](#)
On view August 30 – December 8, 2024
- ❑ [*Double Vision: Edward Weston and Henrietta Shore | Francis and Eugenia McComas*](#)
On view August 1 – December 22, 2024

ArtWorlds: Illuminating Global Creativity

MMA will host a fascinating conversation among artists and curators featured in MMA’s fall 2024 exhibition season. The event will begin with a keynote by Lydia Nakashima Degarrod, followed by a lively discussion with Chuck Davis, Rick Murai, Ryuijie, and Belle Yang that will be moderated by Lydia Nakashima Degarrod and MMA Director Corey Madden.

Saturday, September 14, 2024

3:00 – 5:00 pm, including a pre-event reception

Middlebury Institute of International Studies

Irvine Auditorium in the McCone Building

499 Pierce Street, Monterey

\$35 General admission. Includes an admission pass to MMA – Pacific Street

\$20 for MMA Members, Students, Military, Under 19, and SNAP Participants with EBT Card

For more information, please visit [ArtWorlds](#).

Image credit: Belle Yang (b. 1960), *Untitled (Granddaddy Hill)*, 1997, gouache and pencil on paper, 22 x 28 in. Courtesy of the Yang Collection. © Belle Yang



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JULY 17, 2024

###

About the Monterey Museum of Art

Now in its 65th year of operation, the Monterey Museum of Art (MMA) cultivates curiosity in the visual arts and engages community with the diversity of California art – past, present, and future. Through exhibitions and programs, MMA reflects the creative legacies of the region and serves as a collaborative center where art and the community engage.

Monterey Museum of Art
559 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93940
Open Thursday – Sunday 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
www.montereyart.org

Media Contact
Laurie Iwami
Director, Marketing and Communications
pr@montereyart.org
+1 (831) 372-5477 ext. 101