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**PEARL RIVER MART AND CHELSEA MARKET PRESENT
'NOT YOUR CHINA DOLL: ART INSPIRED BY ANNA MAY WONG'**

*In celebration of AANHPI Heritage Month, this exhibition features artwork
in a variety of mediums by six AAPI and POC women artists*

New York, NY — April 29, 2024 — Curated by Katie Gee Salisbury, the author of [Not Your China Doll: The Wild and Shimmering Life of Anna May Wong](#), this exhibition pays homage to Hollywood's first Asian American movie star.

Born Wong Liu Tsong ("Frosted Yellow Willows") in 1905 to a Chinese American family in Los Angeles, Wong settled on her future profession by age 11. By 14, she was doing extra work in films, and by 17, had won her first starring role. Two years later, she got her unlikely breakout role in *The Thief of Bagdad* (starring Douglas Fairbanks in brown face), which skyrocketed her to stardom.

While many roles followed, most were stereotypes — China dolls or dragon ladies always scripted to die in the end. After some success in Europe, she returned to Hollywood and spoke out against the industry's blatant racism (she had been passed over for *The Good Earth's* lead female role, which went to German-born Luise Rainer), eventually parlaying her renewed stature into a series of groundbreaking films with Paramount. In 1961, just weeks before rehearsals were set to begin for *Flower Drum Song*, in which she was to play the role of Madame Liang, Wong died in her sleep of a heart attack.

"Not Your China Doll: Art Inspired by Anna May Wong" showcases artwork from Mina Chacko, Helen Chang, Felicia Liang, Tiffany Liang, Linda Sandoval, and Elizabeth Yoo. Their work spans several mediums, including oil painting, digital art, and collage.

"When Katie approached us about a show centered on Anna May Wong, it seemed like the perfect fit," says Pearl River Mart President Joanne Kwong. "We were looking for something both inspirational and educational for AANHPI Heritage Month and in our community, Anna May Wong is a pioneering icon. That being said, most people in this country have never even heard her name, even with her face on a quarter and a Barbie doll in her honor. So Katie's exhibition, along with her companion show in our Soho location and table activation in the Meatpacking district, will hopefully strengthen Anna May Wong's legacy, and those of her contemporaries, and give them the places in history they rightfully deserve."

Accompanying Ms. Salisbury's Chelsea Market exhibition are two installations:

- "Not Your China Doll: A Retrospective of Anna May Wong's Trailblazing Career." On view from May 1 through Sept. 8, 2024 in Pearl River Mart's Soho gallery at 452 Broadway. Includes archival photographs, ephemera, classic film clips, an interactive installation, and timeline. [Opening reception](#) is 6 to 8 PM on May 9.
- "Young Hollywood Was Asian: The Pioneers Who Made Motion Pictures." Presented in partnership with the Meatpacking Business Improvement District, archival photographs of pioneering yet lesser known AAPI figures in Hollywood will appear on outdoor tables for the month of May. Included are Oscar-winning cinematographer James Wong Howe, Hollywood's first AAPI heartthrob Sessue Hayakawa, Filipina movie star Elena Jurado, and more.

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“Not Your China Doll: Art Inspired by Anna May Wong” is on view from May 1 to 31 in Chelsea Market. Pieces are available for purchase.

Press contacts

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Purchase inquiries

- Angela Tung (angela@pearlriver.com)

About the Curator

Katie Gee Salisbury is the author of *Not Your China Doll: The Wild and Shimmering Life of Anna May Wong*, a new biography of the first Asian American movie star. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, Vanity Fair, The Believer, the Asian American Writers' Workshop, and elsewhere. She was a finalist for the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship in 2021 and gave the TED Talk “As American as Chop Suey.” She also writes the newsletter Half-Caste Woman. A fifth-generation Chinese American who hails from Southern California, she now lives in Brooklyn.

About the Artists

Mina Chacko is an aspiring character designer and character animation student at the California Institute of the Arts.

Helen Chang finds inspiration in the ever-changing urban landscape of her native New York City. Chang's use of decollage, the process of revealing hidden layers and textures within found materials, adds depth and complexity to her collage compositions. Drawing inspiration from such culturally and visually iconic figures as Anna May Wong, Chang uses vintage film stills and assorted ephemera to reflect the dynamic and hybrid nature of the city as metaphor for identity.

Felicia Liang is an artist, illustrator, and risograph printmaker based in the Bay Area, California. Her work is inspired by the cultures and communities she’s around, as well as her own inner musings. She loves using color, experimenting with different mediums, and playing with a wide range of styles—from simple line drawings to maximalist compositions.

Tiffany Liang is an artist based in Manhattan, NY. She graduated from Wesleyan University with a major in film studies, but often found herself working in the painting studios late into the night. As a result, her work focuses on technique, history, and storytelling. Working primarily with oil paints, Tiffany meticulously creates large-scale portraits to reclaim space for figures who may have been lost or forgotten over time.

Linda Sandoval is a California native, born and raised in Los Angeles. She gathers inspiration from black and white photo stills of Hollywood’s yesteryear. One of her favorite subjects to include in her collages is the iconic Anna May Wong. Through her art, she hopes to create a world where different cultures and eras can coexist.

Elizabeth Yoo is a Korean-American fine artist, writer, and lifelong New Yorker. She specializes in key art for movie posters, physical media, and book covers. The poster she illustrated for Academy Award-winning director Ryūsuke Hamaguchi’s *Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy* was named one of the best movie posters by Posteritati, Letterboxd,

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and Little White Lies. Her paintings, rendered in Japanese watercolor, Sumi ink, pastel, and charcoal, often evoke the glamor of Old Hollywood and film noir.

About Pearl River Mart

Pearl River Mart was founded as a “friendship store” in 1971. The iconic Asian emporium has locations in New York City’s SoHo district and the popular Chelsea Market with both a retail outlet and Pearl River Mart Foods. From home furnishings to fashion to snacks and everything in between, the store features one-of-a-kind items imported from Asia, as well as innovative merchandise designed and created by Asian Americans. A beloved destination for people from all over the globe, Pearl River has become symbolic of the uniqueness, authenticity, and multiculturalism of New York City. Visit www.PearlRiver.com and follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).