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**PEARL RIVER MART GALLERY PRESENTS
'CORKY LEE ON MY MIND: A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE'**

*Friends, mentees, and longtime partner of the legendary photographer honor his legacy
for the first time in-person and celebrate the return of Pearl River's art gallery*

NEW YORK, NY – June 11, 2021 – It's almost impossible to think of modern Asian American history without thinking of the legendary **Corky Lee**. He was there at every key moment for the last 50 years, from protests stemming from the murder of Vincent Chin to students demonstrating for ethnic studies to an epic gathering of his making of the descendants of Chinese railroad laborers. He was always there to make the invisible visible, to make the unseen seen. He humorously referred to himself as the "undisputed unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate," but that indeed he was, capturing moments both historic and everyday, political and personal, combating injustice and wielding justice with every snap of his camera.

When he passed away this January due to Covid-19, multiple generations across many communities — activists, historians, photographers, journalists, artists, friends, and loved ones — mourned the loss. This group exhibition, **CORKY LEE ON MY MIND: A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE**, is the first in-person celebration since his death and strives to pay homage to Mr. Lee's philosophy of "photographic justice" by honoring his work and sharing pieces he would have loved.

Curated by artist and frequent collaborator **Chee Wang Ng**, photographer and longtime partner **Karen Zhou**, and Pearl River Mart President and friend **Joanne Kwong**, **CORKY LEE ON MY MIND** features the work of 21 photographers in varying stages of their careers, all bonded by their admiration of Mr. Lee. The participating photographers are **Lincoln Anderson, Tomie Arai, Louis Chan, Edward Cheng, Alan S. Chin, Stan Honda, Bob Hsiang, Joseph Hsu, Andrew Kung, Jook Leung, Kyle Lui, Chee Wang Ng, Wai Ng, Joseph Songco, Cindy Trinh, Antony Wong, Dean Wong, Leland Wong, Marilynn K. Yee, Hai Zhang, and Karen Zhou**.

Key dates:

- **June 11 to August 29: On view dates of the exhibition.** Located in the art gallery of Pearl River Mart's new SoHo flagship location.



Pearl River Mart's gallery, the only gallery dedicated to Asian American art and culture in New York City, was the setting of Mr. Lee's own 2016 solo exhibition, CHINESE AMERICA ON MY MIND. "When we relaunched Pearl River in 2016, Corky was there," said Pearl River President Joanne Kwong. "He was one of our first artists-in-residence, and his exhibition set the bar high for all who followed. He set the tone for the gallery itself, which became a warm and inspiring hub for the many and varied perspectives, stories, and experiences of the Asian American community. He always showed his support and enthusiasm for his fellow artists -- inspiring, mentoring, and encouraging many friends to exhibit. As we relaunch our gallery now in our new flagship location, it seems only fitting that he help us rebuild yet again."

Pearl River Mart, the beloved Asian emporium celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021, was recently forced to move its flagship TriBeCa/Chinatown store after negotiations with its former landlord stalled. The iconic New York City family business pivoted quickly and reopened a new flagship in SoHo on May 1.

Pearl River's artist-in-residence series is a bimonthly curated exhibition featuring local artists from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. Previous artists have included *New Yorker* magazine cartoonists Amy Hwang, Jeremy Nguyen, Suerynn Lee, Evan Hahn, and more; photographers Louis Chan, Hiroyuki Ito, and Corky Lee; painters Arlan Huang and Kam Mak; illustrators Yumi Sakugawa and Felicia Liang; and multimedia artists Wiena Lin, Ben Sloat, and Xin Song.

CORKY LEE ON MY MIND: A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE is available to view during Pearl River Mart store hours: every day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free.

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About Pearl River Mart

Founded as a "friendship store" in 1971, Pearl River Mart is the iconic Asian emporium located in New York City's SoHo district, the esteemed Museum of Chinese in America, and the popular Chelsea Market with two locations, a retail store 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 or follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).

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