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PEARL RIVER MART GALLERY PRESENTS "UNRESOLVED: A PLAYABLE ARCHIVE OF RAGE AND RECKONING"

Interactive artist Risa Puno invites viewers to engage with a complex and often taboo emotion through playful experiences

New York, NY — Nov. 12, 2025 — Pearl River Mart's latest art exhibition comes from New York-based interactive artist Risa Puno.

What happens to rage if you've been taught to suppress or ignore it? What if you could metabolize that rage in community with others? In *Unresolved: A Playable Archive of Rage and Reckoning*, part of Risa Puno's ongoing *Anatomy of Rage* series, the artist invites viewers to engage with this complex and often taboo emotion through disarmingly playful experiences that spark conversation and connection.

The Wheel of Reckoning and Rage is an interactive sculpture featuring two back-to-back spinners that pose raw, revealing questions about how rage is processed and responded to. One spinner asks about the participant's thought process when their dignity, safety, or sense of belonging is violated. The other side asks what actions (or inaction) might be taken in response.

Unresolved Rage Game is a collective storytelling experience inspired by tabletop role-playing games, such Dungeons & Dragons. But instead of battling medieval monsters, players navigate challenges inspired by real-life instances of racist or sexist microaggressions. Originally developed with Ran Xia during Soho Rep's 2022-2023 Writer/Director Lab, this raw, vulnerable, super-cringe (yet surprisingly fun) exploration is designed to help Asian women and femmes process and unpack our various relationships with rage.

"For me, rage is an emotion that I wasn't taught to acknowledge, let alone express," says Ms. Puno. "Sometimes, instead of anger, it initially reads as confusion and frustration. And often, my gut reaction is to appease the person who's triggering the rage. To fawn. Or I'll freeze and do nothing to change the situation. But I've been learning to assert myself, to confront what's going on. The Pearl River Mart gallery is an intimate space that's rooted in community which makes it the perfect place to continue to explore this for myself and with others."

"Risa's show is a first for us," says Pearl River Mart President Joanne Kwong. "We've never had an exhibition this interactive, in which the viewers' responses, and by extension their experience, actually become part of it. It also explores something many of us might be feeling nowadays. Something we don't want to acknowledge or don't have an outlet for in a productive way."

Throughout the exhibition, Ms. Puno will activate the gallery with in-person playtests of the latest version of *Unresolved Rage Game* specifically for Asian women and femmes, as well as workshops for all identities to get curious about rage together. To learn more or to sign up for playtesting, please visit Puno's website.



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On view from Nov. 13, 2025 through Jan. 31, 2026 in our Soho gallery. Join us for the opening reception Thursday, Nov. 13 from 6 to 8 PM. Free to attend but registration is appreciated.

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About the Artist

Risa Puno is an interactive installation artist who takes play seriously. She translates difficult topics — like social privilege, data privacy, or collective caretaking — into disarmingly fun experiences to help people connect more openly with one another.

Her work is grounded in a pre-colonial Philippine ideology called kapwa that means "shared identity" or "shared humanity." It's the idea that we navigate through spaces with a community rather than alone, and that we have a responsibility to care for others as we care for ourselves.

About Pearl River Mart

<u>Pearl River Mart</u> was founded as a "friendship store" in 1971. The iconic Asian emporium has locations in New York City's SoHo district; the popular Chelsea Market with both a retail outlet and Pearl River Mart Foods; and a pop-up in Macy's Herald Square until Jan. 4, 2026. 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 <u>www.PearlRiver.com</u> and follow on <u>Instagram</u>.

About the Pearl River Mart Gallery

The <u>Pearl River Mart gallery</u> features curated exhibitions with local artists from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds. Previous artists include: sculptor Warren King; *New Yorker* magazine cartoonists Amy Hwang, Jeremy Nguyen, Suerynn Lee, Evan Hahn, and more; photographers Louis Chan, Edward Cheng, Ben Hon, Hiroyuki Ito, and Corky Lee; painters Julia Chon, Arlan Huang, Kam Mak; illustrators Jerry Ma, Sammy Yuen, Nancy Pappas, Yumi Sakugawa, and Felicia Liang; and multimedia artists Wiena Lin, Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, Ben Sloat, and Xin Song.

Recent exhibitions include "The Monkey King in Chinatown: Illustrated Journeys of a Chinese Legend in NYC"; "We Are Chinatown: A Portrait of Our Community Rising Through Labor and Love" by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya; "Tiny Grains: Chinatown Forever Changed, Forever Changing" by Edward Cheng; "Not Your China Doll: A Retrospective of Anna May Wong's Trailblazing Career" curated by Katie Gee Salisbury; and "Reunion: Food as Culture, Community, and Coming Home" curated by Christine Wong.

