

Huameng Yu
Artist Bio

Huameng was born in Chongqing, China and immigrated to the US when she was 4 years old. She describes her experience growing up bi-lingual, cross-cultural and queer as a process of diasporic alchemy: navigating plural realities and becoming a multidimensional explorer. Before working as a full-time artist, she worked as an educator and community activist. Her cultural work led her to study Chinese metaphysics and philosophy as instruments for individual and collective healing. She draws upon the wisdom traditions of her heritage to explore the intersections of nature, the human spirit and mysticism. These themes also reflect the queer and immigrant experience as it seeks to transform what has been inherited by society into an undertaking of self-creation. Through her artwork, she facilitates the passageway through the inner and outer worlds to birth new narratives of being. As a full-time artist working professionally since 2014, her work has been featured in numerous galleries and performance spaces in Seattle, Los Angeles, New York, the Bay Area, Hawaii, Mexico and China. She has been the recipient of awards granted by Artist Trust, 4Culture and the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture. She has completed residencies with the SOMArts Cultural Center, Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History and Xucun International Art Commune in China.

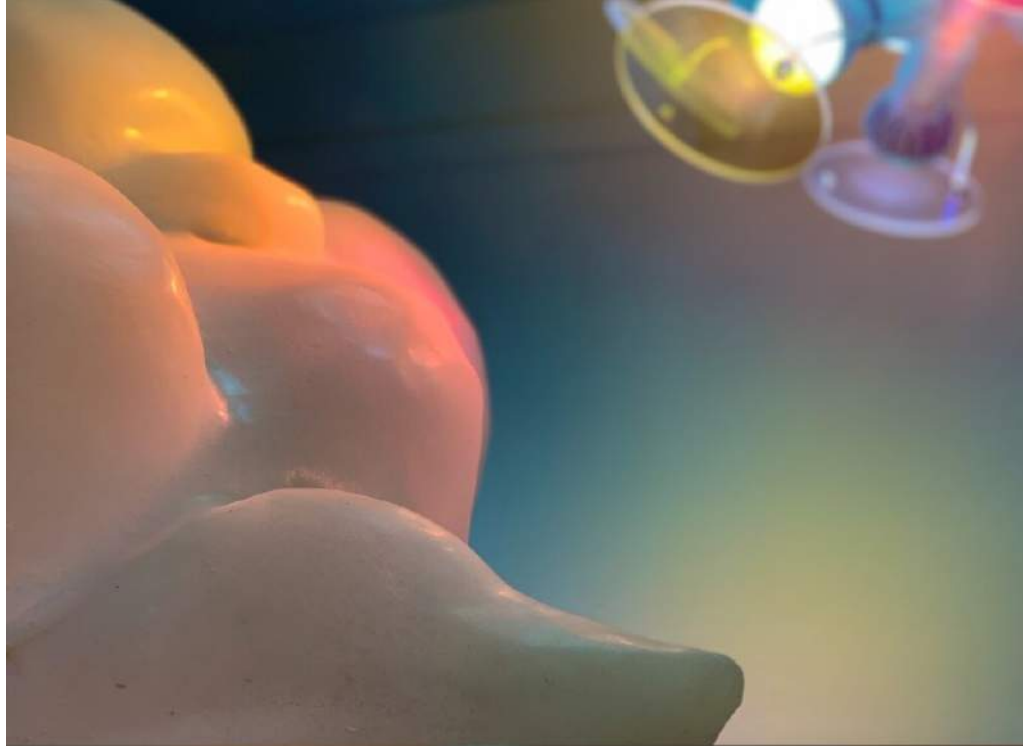
Huameng Yu and Louis Chinn are a multidisciplinary artist team offering over 25 years of professional experience. We combine our skills into sculptures and site specific installations that feature permanent materials at large scale such as steel, glass, and concrete. At the heart of our collaboration, we honor the complex process of placekeeping and creative placemaking: weaving together stories of belonging, community resilience, and bridging memory with future potential. Central themes of our work include connection to nature, bridging history with future potential, as well as activating the imagination. We have created public work throughout WA, OR, CA, MA and internationally in China and Mexico, each piece responding to the unique resources, histories, and needs of the local culture and environment.

We believe that public art is an ongoing narrative that shapes collective memory through the confluence of culture, history and future visioning. We leverage the creative process as a conversation, with extensive experience integrating design input from community stakeholders, architectural and engineering teams, local government and municipal agencies. Whether it's through the design process or the artwork design itself, we believe that public art should create a culture of belonging, which has the ability to uplift local pride and inspire civic engagement.

LOUIS CHINN
&
HUAMENG YU

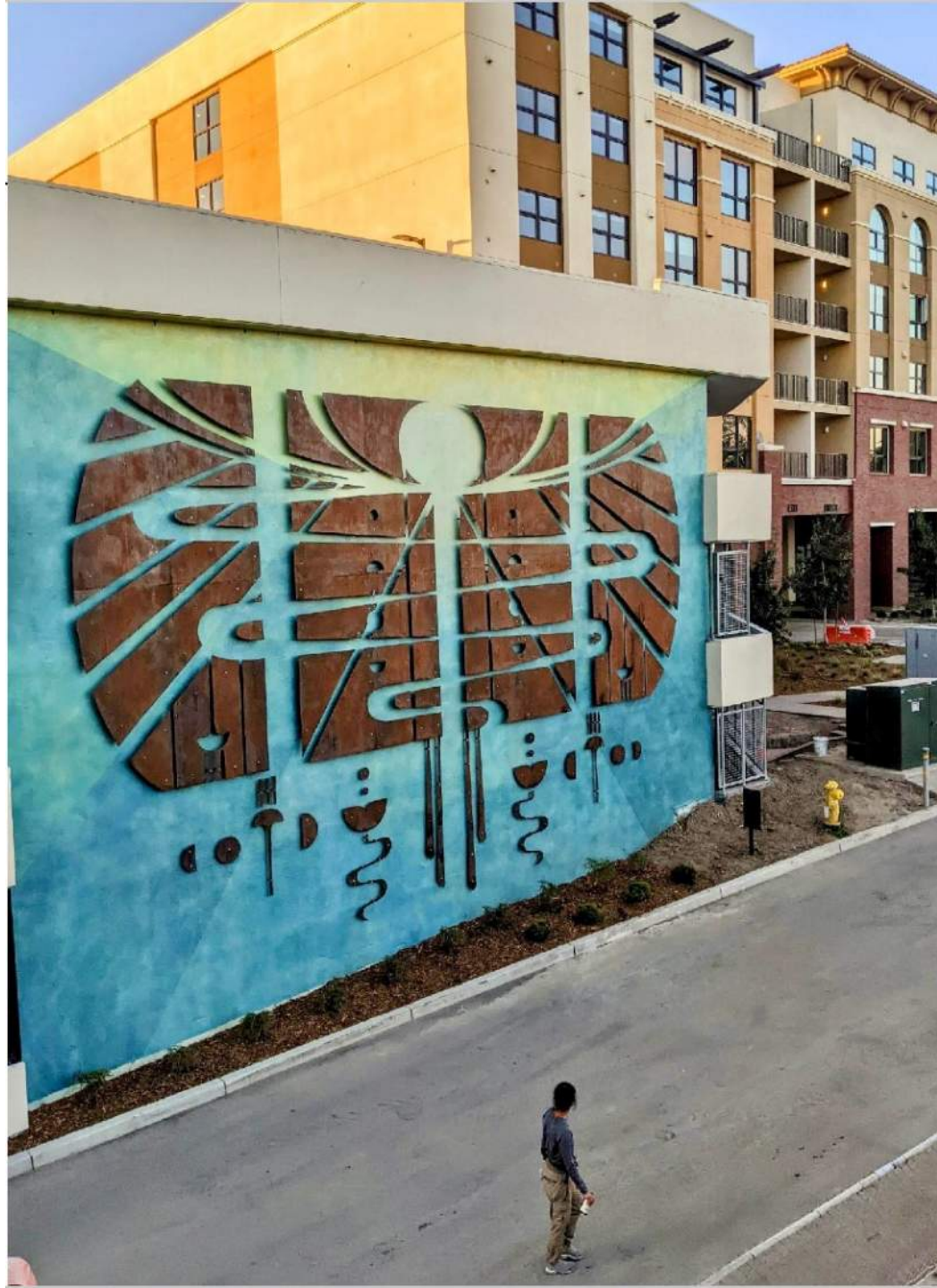








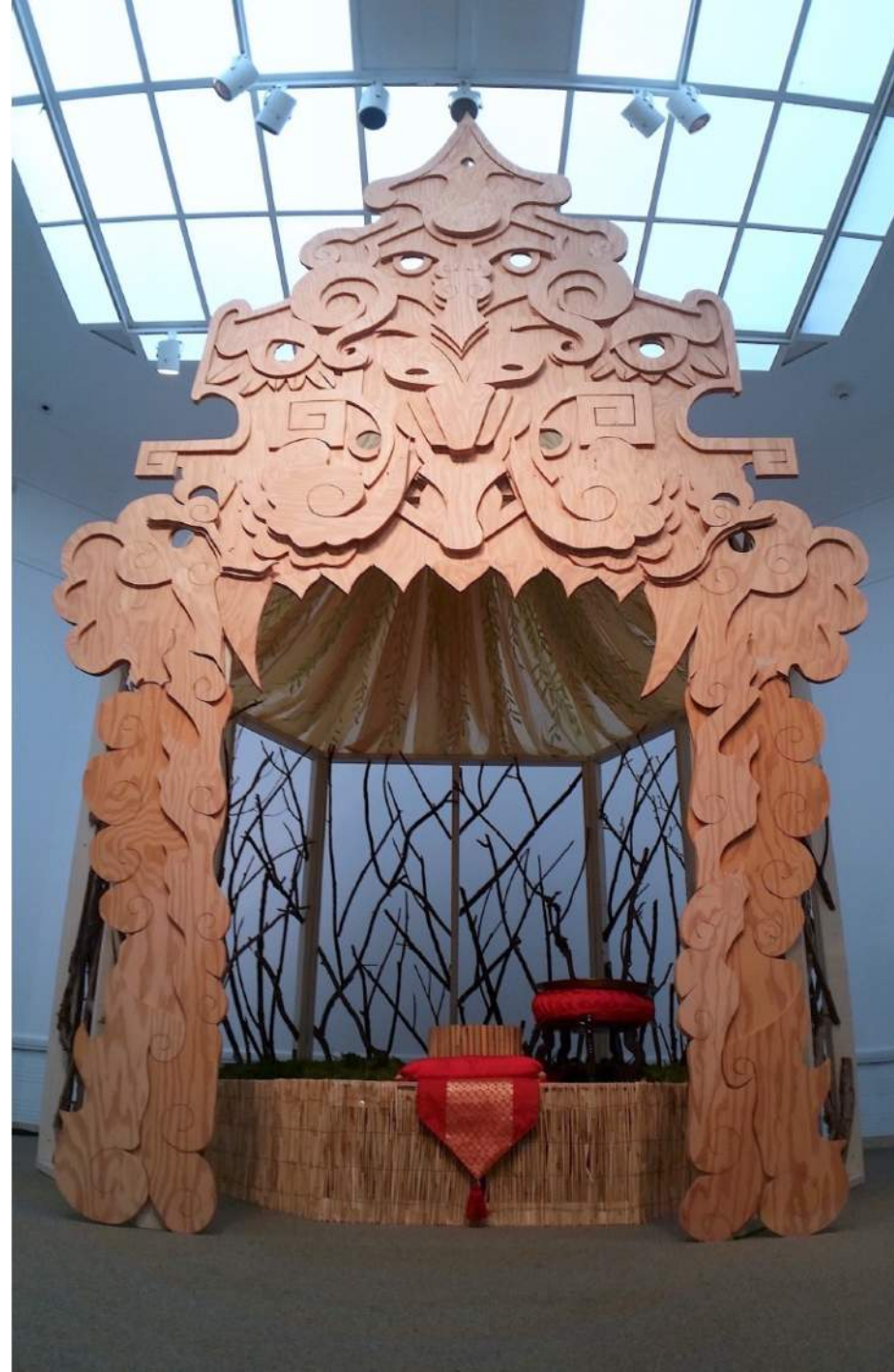














Concept Proposal

Following the theme of Collective Memory, our concept is to adapt a traditional Chinese pillar called a Huabiao, as an act of cultural remembering. The unique shape of the Huabiao pillar is not only an immediately recognizable Chinese icon and emblem, it is also a symbol of remembrance. As a wayfinding totem, it was traditionally erected to help travelers remember their way. It later evolved to memorialize promises made by ancestors and the emperor, being erected in front of royal palaces as well as tombs and temples.

The Huabiao has three distinct elements: a decorative column is often carved with a coiled dragon and other auspicious nature symbols. Near the top, the column is crossed by a board of carved clouds protruding horizontally from both sides of the pillar. Finally, a mythical creature called a Hou sits at the very top of the pillar, who is meant to connect people to their ancestors and provide protection, peace and prosperity.

We propose to create an adaptation of the Huabiao design using modern materials while maintaining its iconic shape and elements, which were traditionally carved out of wood or marble. The central column would be patinated metal, with intricate, papercut like patterns of a coiled dragon as the central image. In lieu of the theme of remembrance, the background to the coiled dragon will show the landscape of the Central District when the settlers and the first Chinese migrant workers arrived in the area - a landscape populated by douglas fir forests, with eagles and blue heron above, and waters below teeming with salmon, trout and bivalves. There is also potential to use the pattern of the dragon scales to visually embed significant dates, figures and historic moments that make up the collective cultural memory.

The dragon lives both in the skies and the water, capable of traversing enormous scales of time and space, which is analogous to the immigrant experience. It is also a composite creature with the horns of a deer, scales of a snake, talons of an eagle, and jaws of a lizard. It represents the capacity to change shape while staying true to itself. Despite its ability to shapeshift, it maintains its uniqueness and status as the cultural symbol of China. Thus it honors the immense adaptability required to survive as immigrants in a foreign country, while still staying connected to one's

roots and culture. Similarly, it references the Central District's ongoing history of change and adaptation as a home for many peoples and communities through its history.

We have extensive experience creating cutout designs in various types of metal, which we will work with the fabricator to roll and weld into a standing pillar. With permission from the rest of the design team, these shapes could also be lit from the inside, creating a dramatic glowing lantern effect of light and shadow at night. You can view our work samples for previous examples of this.

The horizontal clouds near the top of the pillar could be made of cast resin, producing a beautiful translucency that will allow for textures and some light to pass through. This would also enhance the lantern-like effect, as well as capture sunlight and glow during the day. You can see our past installation of cast resin clouds in our work samples.

Given our personal connection to the CD and having created work with similar themes and design elements, we are immensely excited to bring our experience and vision to this opportunity. We create work that is welcoming and inviting for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to appreciate. Our design will be visually engaging in all directions far and near, as well as utilize durable materials and safe construction that will stand the test of time. We aim to create site-specific and culturally significant work that engenders a sense of connection and belonging, providing inspiration for years to come.