

For Immediate Release

The Influence of Hung Liu

Featuring works by: Hung Liu, Freddy Chandra, Lisa Solomon and Robb Putnam

11 September – 30 October 2021

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 11th, 2:00 – 7:00pm

Face masks are required for all visitors with social distancing encouraged.

Walter Maciel Gallery will present a small group show of Hung Liu's work in conjunction with the three Walter Maciel Gallery artists: Freddy Chandra, Robb Putnam and Lisa Solomon who were former grad students at Mills College where Liu taught for nearly 25 years.

Presented in Gallery 4, the show celebrates Liu's guidance and influence as a mentor and art instructor following her untimely death due to pancreatic cancer in early August. The exhibition includes two portraits of prostitutes, one depicted in oil in relationship to a symbolic fish and the other as a color lithograph with an image of a dandelion as well as works by Chandra, Putnam and Solomon that respond to specific thoughts, sentiments or memories of Liu. Chandra will present a large multi-panel vertical plexiglass painting entitled *Blue Hour* as evidence of the blue and somber mood Hung's death has caused so many of her former students and the art world at large. Putnam has made a series of new birds sculpture from his usual found fabrics and materials with one bird being specifically dedicated to Liu. The birds act as messengers in nature and perhaps carry a continued conceptual path to Liu and her legacy. Putnam will also present an earlier bear sculpture representing the power or force depicted in Liu's artwork. Solomon has chosen to show early works using thread as her material for drawing on fabric and done during or soon after grad school when she was Liu's student in the early aughts. Three series of works will be on view including one large thread drawing of women in Victorian clothing on cotton, two thread drawings of colorful animated robots on quilted fabric and a series of small self portraits shown in red embroidery rings.

Hung Liu currently has an important show of monumental paintings and historical family photographs in the retrospective, *Hung Liu: Portraits of Promised Lands* at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC. The show is curated by Dorothy Moss and includes a hard cover book with essays by Moss, Nancy Lim, Lucy R. Lippard, Elizabeth Partridge, Philip Tinari and several artist reflections such as Judy Chicago, Carrie Mae Weems and Amy Sherald. The show marks the first comprehensive overview of an Asian American woman at the National Portrait Gallery and will be on view through May 29, 2022.

Hung Liu is also featured in the current solo exhibition, *Hung Liu: Golden Gate* at the de Young Museum in San Francisco through March 13, 2022. A public memorial is being organized for this fall at a major museum in San Francisco and we will send more details at a later date.