

Joyce Tsui

The chaos that runs rampant around and within us is often overlooked in sacrifice for comfort. Awareness of these conflicts can bring empathy and hope towards a better future with improvements. Through my paintings, I aim to open people's eyes to the societal issues and internal struggles of the current state of our world that many refuse to acknowledge, like the acid attacks against Middle Eastern women. My work also draws from my personal experiences, starting from when I was once part of the 2.8 million adolescents in America who have experienced depression. Exploring and acknowledging repressed thoughts provided me resolution, as it showed we are not alone in these tormenting moments. I currently portray other aching aspects of my life such as the pressure on unmarried Asian woman in 剩女: Leftover Women. While I grapple with conflicts, I hope to bring perspective and awareness with my art and evoke an emotional response to build empathy.

As I continue to illustrate in the coming decades, my artwork will then serve as a catalog that recorded past hardships such as the 2020 Australian Wildfires. I strive to depict my and others' stories of pain, something inherently intangible and distasteful. Yet, anguish can be realized and made intriguing within visual imagery. My artwork asks viewers to temporarily reject their instinct of staying within their comfort zone and become open towards creating a connection with others by engaging in their experience.

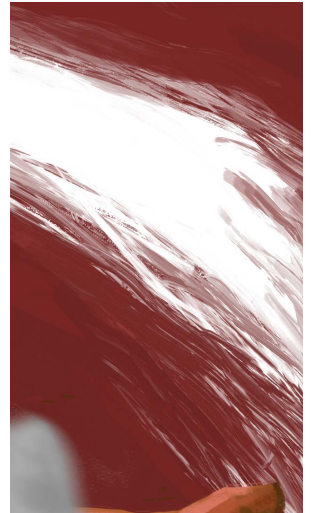


这也是 我们的家: *This is Our Home Too*

Digital | 17" x 11"

Protecting its home, the panda will not back down regardless of the attacks against it.

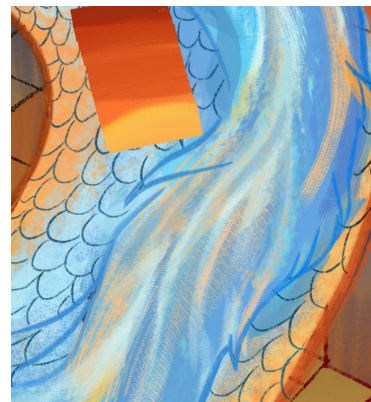
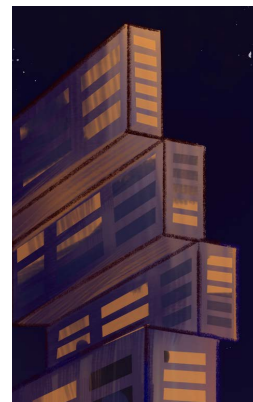
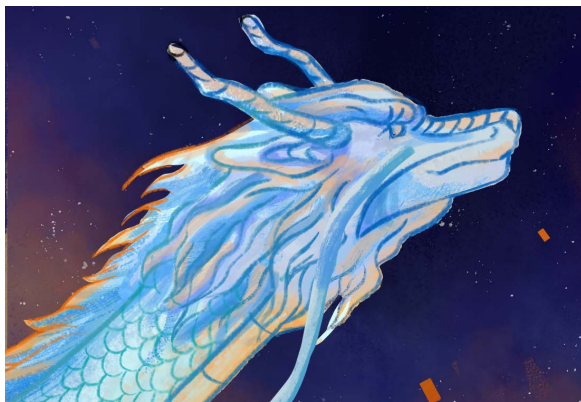
The rise of hate crimes against Asians are prevalent especially in Chinatowns across America, including in California and Seattle. 天下為公 is commonly seen on Chinatown's pagoda signs and translates to "the world is for everyone". Although some may proclaim Asians don't belong here in America, this country is our home just like it is for everybody else.



The Day I was Made Black

Digital | 19" x 13"

The illustration was paired with Daniel Cardoso's personal anecdote, *The day I was made Black*. Cardoso shares about his frustration of being labelled Black by others when he saw himself as American.



Protector of the City

Digital | 35" x 29"

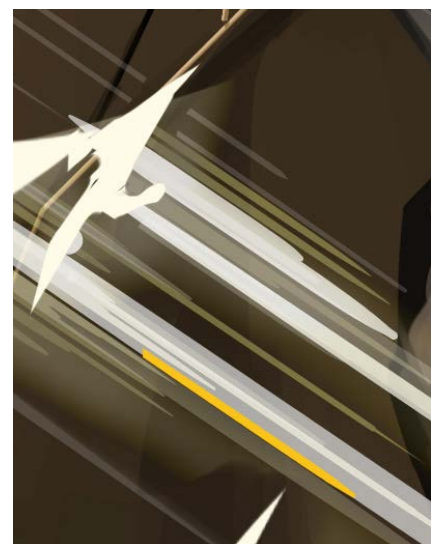
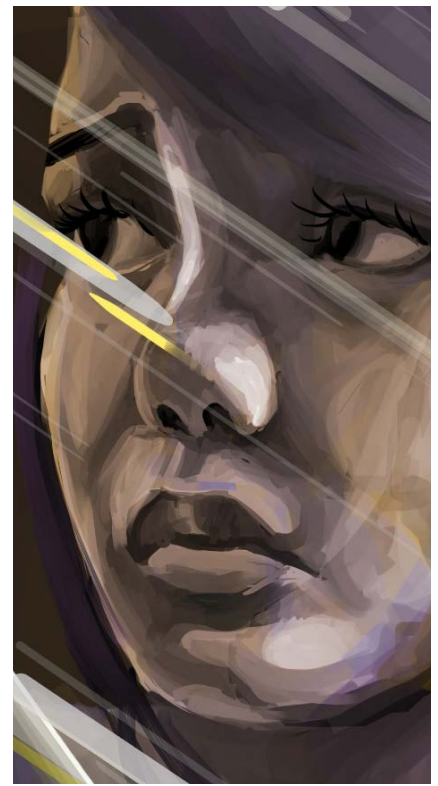
Modern Chinese architecture creates gaps in their architecture due to their belief in Feng Shui. These absences are for dragons to pass through. Much like a guardian, dragons can fly through these cityscapes feeling the warmth of the city they protect.



剩女 *Leftover Women*

Digital | 31" x 23"

As the young girl curiously reaches out to read the posters on the umbrella, she unknowingly learns about the future pressures she must endure. 剩女 (Leftover Women): a derogatory term that describes unmarried women over 25. Women in China are constantly told they're disappointing their parents, will never find true happiness without children and marriage, etc. In Shanghai marriage markets, parents will fill out their children's profiles without their consent to advertise for them to marry. Sometimes, those flyers are placed on top of umbrellas.

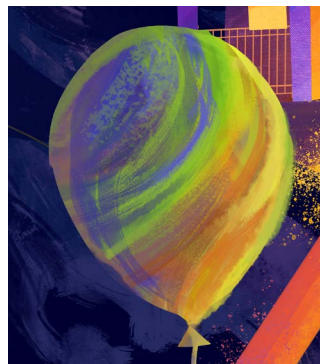


Against the Light

Digital | 15" x 20"

Afraid of the light, she keeps her umbrella tight against her body wherever she goes. For if the light even touches her, she will instantly become dirty.

Colorism is deeply embedded in Asia's culture, and women go to lengths, even bringing an umbrella everywhere, to keep themselves white as dark skin is seen as filthy, undesirable, and old.



Out of Reach

Digital | 24" x 26"

Filled with envy, the child longs for a perfect home every family seems to have. Unfortunately, the ferris wheel is out of her reach.



Dear James,
Honestly, I was really happy when I heard my family was moving from FL. It's so humid and the rain and insects are all so nasty. Even though canoeing and seeing crystal clear water was fun, I'll pass on spiders jumping from trees to assassinate me. Though I do miss you all. It was fun being in the same neighborhood as you. It's so normal and weird to think there was a crocodile in the river. I miss that stern fella. I also wish I could see the fireworks from Disney from our houses again.

Miss you all,
Joyce ☺



James Ge
429 Grand Ave Plwy,
Wintermere, FL 34786
USA



Hey Chris,
I have no idea why you would voluntarily go to Texas. But I hope you can see the love bugs that I always was talking about. They stick through their butts absolutely disgusting. Also, they get tons of tornadoes. I remember when I was young, my family was evacuating and was stuck on the highway. We saw a tree get shredded and I started screaming we're going to die haha. Well good luck!
-Joyce ☺



Chris Chang
920 W 26th St
Austin, Tx, 78705



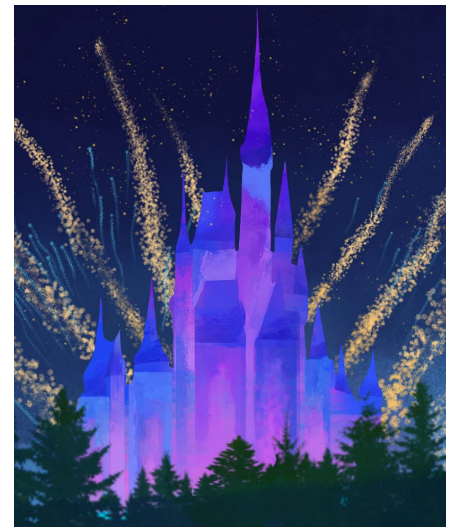
HEY BRIAN!
Long time no see. It was real fun being in UCSB with you and doing dumb stuff like playing tennis with flying pans. Dude, remember when we had our church's bbq at goleta beach and we saw two trailer full of fannies? I still have no idea what was happening, but good times haha. I miss those memories, but I hope you're doing alright.
-Joyce ☺



Brian Chang
6532 El Greco Rd
Goleta, CA, 93117
USA

To the States I've Lived

Since I was young, I've been moving every year and lived in 4 states and 3 countries. My strange experiences in each place has become the way I remembered about the location. I still have friends in each state and I always end up telling these weird memories to my friends.



Dear James,
Honestly, I was really happy when I heard my family was moving from FL. It's so humid and the rain and insects are all so nasty. Even though canoeing and seeing crystal clear water was fun, I'll pass on spiders jumping from trees to assassinate me. Though, I do miss you all. It was fun being in the same neighborhood as you. It's so normal and weird to think there was a crocodile in the river. I miss that stern fella. I also wish I could see the fireworks from Disney from our houses again.

Miss you all,
Joyce ☺

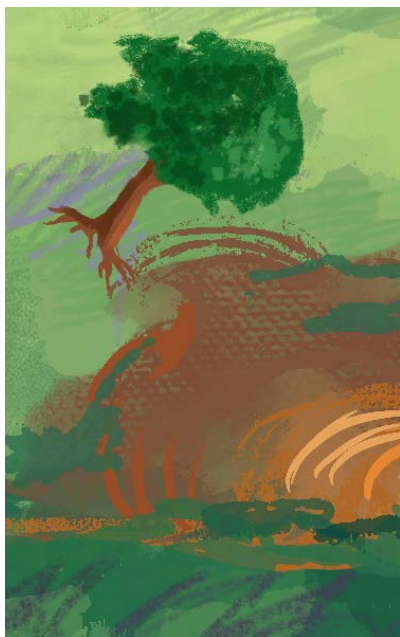
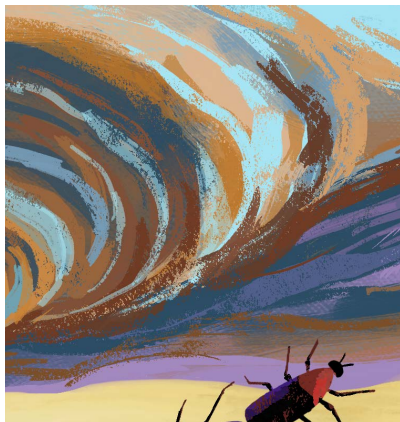


James Ge
429 Grand Ave Pkwy,
Windermere, FL 34786
USA

We Had a Neighborhood Croc

Digital | 5" x 7"

Our apartment was across Disneyland, giving my family a free view of the fireworks every night. When Fourth of July arrived, my family was unamused as we were used to seeing the beautiful view. The strange Florida norm and stereotype was that our neighborhood had a crocodile and I would always wonder if an unfortunate dog got too close to it.



Hey Chris,
 I have no idea why you
 would voluntarily go to Texas.
 But I hope you can see the
 love bugs that I always was
 talking about. They stick through
 their butts - absolutely disgusting.
 Also, they got tons of tornadoes.
 I remember when I was young,
 my family was evacuating and
 was stuck on the highway. We
 saw a tree get shredded and I
 started screaming we're going
 to die haha. Well good
 luck!
 - Sayre ☺

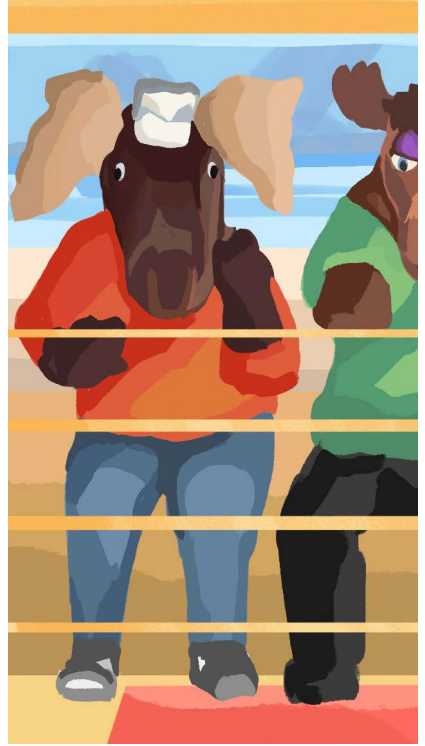


Chris Chang
 920 W 26th St
 Austin, Tx, 78705

Tornado Shreds a Tree and Makes a Girl Scream

Digital | 5" x 7"

During recess in 2nd grade, a boy gave me a love bug. Love bugs are disgusting creatures that mate by connecting their butts, so I naturally started to cry. Later that year, we were evacuating from a tornado. I remember seeing a tree get shredded by the tornado. While we were stuck on the freeway, I made the car ride pleasant by yelling my signature phrase, "We're going to DIE!"



HEY BRIAN!

Long time no see. It was
 real fun being in UCSB
 with you and doing dumb
 stuff like playing tennis
 with frying pans. Dude,
 remember when we had our
 church's bbq at goleta beach
 and we saw two trolley full
 of furries? I still have no
 idea what was happening,
 but good times haha. I
 miss those memories, but I hope
 you're doing alright.

-Joyce ☺



Brian Chang

6532 El Greco Rd

Goleta, CA, 93117

USA

I Saw 2 Trolley Full of Furries During a Christian Beach BBQ

Digital | 5" x 7"

Our Christian Church had a beach barbeque beginning of the school year with the motto "100 lbs of meat, 100 new friends." As my friends and I were waiting for the meat to be cooked, we realized there was a furry gathering there and then two trolley full of furries passed by. We hid behind a tree to peek at them and one of them waved at us from the trolley.



Toxic Embrace

Etching | 9" x11"

The mind is such a dark place, that fungi can grow. In a toxic relationship, dark thoughts can breed and encourage each other in that unhealthy mindset.



C O N T A I N E D



M E M O R I E S



Contained Memories

Color Pencils, Lino Block Print | 13" x 19"

Jewelry can carry intimate moments and history when passed from one to the other.



The Parasites Living Inside of Me

Acrylics | 40" x 32"

Acne, a stubborn parasite that fills me with disgust, making me feel dirty and draining my self-confidence