

## **BYOB (Bring Your Own Belongings) Installation**

**06/01/23 - 07/30/23**

**Queens Botanical Garden V&A Gallery**

As the grant awardee of the Asian American Arts Alliance's 2023 *What Can We Do?* Program, photographer Su Ji Lee takes in collaboration with the Queens Botanical Garden and its dedicated Tai-chi community. *BYOB (Bring Your Own Belongings)* is an ongoing project by Su Ji where the selected community members are photographed with a cherished belonging that holds significance in representing their identity, cultural background, or personal interests. The project aims to visualize the intimacy people have with their possessions and provide an intimate bonding experience in the presence of the photographic lens. Within each photograph, the subjects' postures are gracefully infused with the natural motions derived from the practice of tai-chi. The integration further enhances the dynamic interaction between the two main subjects—the model and their cherished belongings—captured in each frame.

The *WCWD?* program was created in response to the alarming increase in anti-Asian hate and violence during the pandemic that has caused many people to experience grief, anxiety, and fear. *WCWD?* not only empowers artists who may themselves feel helpless against the swelling tide of anti-Asian sentiment against the AAPI community, but also gives them a chance to find their place in the ecosystem of care through their talents and community connections while creating a circle of resilience.

### **Artist Biography**

Su Ji Lee is a Brooklyn-based visual artist working with photography and installation. Starting her photographic journey in Seoul, Korea, the works restructure familiar existence into a visible questionnaire. As if her numerous attempts of conducting experiments are to find solution in the void, Su Ji reassembles anonymous yet effable visual cues into a flat miniature.

Su Ji studied Photography and Museum and Gallery Practices at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York. Select awards include Asian American Arts Alliance What Can We Do? Micro-Grant, Made in NYC Photography Fellowship, and 2020 Feature Shoot Emerging Photography Awards.

She is currently open for creative projects and commissions.

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