

The Noguchi Museum Announces Winner of 2024 Open Call for Artist Banners

David Huang's artwork will be installed on the Museum's outdoor banners for one year;
three finalists to lead Community Day programs in summer 2024

Opening Reception: Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 6–8 pm



The Noguchi Museum's 2024 Open Call for Artist Banners finalists, from left to right: David Huang (winner), Jacqueline Qiu, and Derek Zheng (runners-up). Photo: Evan Scott ©INFGM / ARS

New York (May 2024) – **The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum** announces illustrator David Huang's *Hands Toward the Universe* as the winning submission to its third annual Open Call for Artist Banners. Huang's designs will be installed on the Museum's outdoor banners for one year, from May 2024 until May 2025. Jacqueline Qiu and Derek Zheng were selected as runners-up. Each of the three finalists' designs meaningfully explored the Open Call's theme of "love and labor" through compelling visuals and strong messaging.

Coinciding with Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, The Noguchi Museum will host an opening reception and reveal of the new banners on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**, from 6–8 pm. RSVP to rsvp@noguchi.org.

Each of the three artists will receive an honorarium and the opportunity to develop and lead a public program at The Noguchi Museum in collaboration with the Museum's Education department during free admission Community Days in the summer of 2024 (Saturdays, June 8, July 13, and August 10). The Museum will also produce short interview films with each artist to highlight their work and studio practice. Learn more: noguchi.org/open-call-for-artist-banners-2024

ABOUT THE OPEN CALL FOR ARTIST BANNERS

The Open Call for Artist Banners project was established in 2021 to celebrate and amplify emerging creative voices from The Noguchi Museum’s local Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. To be eligible, artists must self-identify as AAPI and reside in or have a studio in one of the five boroughs of New York City.

The 2024 project’s theme “love and labor” is inspired by Isamu Noguchi’s work in public spaces—gardens, playgrounds, plazas, fountains—which expand in meaning through communal use and enjoyment. As Noguchi once said, “In art one does not work isolated from humanity” (Interview with Paul Cummings, *Artists in Their Own Words*, New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1979).



David Huang, *Hands Toward the Universe*, 2024.

David Huang states about his work *Hands Toward the Universe*:

My name is David Huang, and I’m an illustrator based in South Brooklyn. I’m a queer Taiwanese migrant from Taiwan who came to the U.S. at the age of 14. In my work, I like to use textures, colors, and composition to express my ideas on paper.

As a visual artist, I often ponder the connection between my identity and my creations. A quote by Louise Bourgeois that deeply resonates with me is, ‘I am not what I am, I am what I do with my hands.’ In this context, I perceive the act of creating as a form of self-exploration, digging deeper within ourselves to weave a coherent story from our personal experiences.

Yet, we do not exist in isolation. As we process information and learn from our surroundings, the end product of our work extends beyond ourselves, whether it be painting or sculpture, ceramics or prints, they all end up as satellites of our psyche, engaging with and observing the world, poised for a silent dialogue and open to the gaze of an audience.

For me, the art of creation is a gift; it has helped me keep a heightened sensitivity toward my own emotions and gave me a child-like curiosity to the world around me. In these six banner designs, I aim to spotlight the two-way journey of exploration—inward and outward.

Through creation, we delve within, probing the depths of our own consciousness, gaining an understanding of our place and identity within the community. Simultaneously, we venture outward—in the compositions of these pieces, I played with scale to underscore art as something grander than ourselves, an outward-facing connector fostering interaction between ourselves and the world.

The title “Hands to the Universe” echoes the theme of this year, “Labor and Love,” where we can be reminded of the joy of exploration (love), through the process of creation (hands).

The 2024 winners were selected by guest jurors artist Oscar yi Hou; Justine Lee, Programs Director for Asian American Arts Alliance (A4); and June Shin, winner of the 2022–23 Open Call for Artist Banners; as well as the project’s organizing committee at The Noguchi Museum, a cross-departmental group of intergenerational staff volunteers.

2024 ARTIST BANNER FINALISTS

David Huang is an illustrator and designer who graduated from Rhode Island School of Design in 2017. He has been illustrating since then. He also earned a certificate from Type West for type design. His works have been recognized by 3x3, American Illustration, World Illustration Awards, and Society of Illustrators. His clients include New York Times, New Yorker, Boston Globe, Chobani, Quartz, Vox, Citi Bank, AARP, Hyundai, AngelList, Die Zeit, Curbed, The Verge, LA Times, Culture Trip, Bandcamp and many more.

He grew up in Taipei and spends most of his time in three places close to his heart: New York, London, and the Bay Area. When he isn’t illustrating, he enjoys taking the subway to try out restaurants, dancing on the weekends, learning new languages intensively, and searching for random historical facts on Wikipedia. david-huang.com | Instagram: [@omguac](https://www.instagram.com/omguac)

Jacqueline Qiu is a multidisciplinary artist based in New York. Exploring the breaking down of traditional fiber crafts and the combining of Eastern and Western painting philosophies, Qiu immortalizes transitory attachments and nomadic pondering through playful rearrangements and reconstructions of nature. Her woven tapestries hang at the conjunction between inner landscapes and the outer world. This past year, Qiu completed the Ós Residency at the Icelandic Textile Center in Blönduós. Her work has been exhibited at Latitude Gallery, Harper’s Chelsea, Underdonk Gallery, Woods-Gerry Gallery, Gelman Gallery, Rhode Island Hall, and Gallery 263. She has completed workshops at Tianzifang, New York Academy of Art, Anderson Ranch, and Huang Lan-Ye’s Kesi Studio. She holds a BFA in Textiles from the Rhode Island School of Design. jacquelineqiu.com | Instagram: [@jacqueline_qiu](https://www.instagram.com/jacqueline_qiu)

Derek Zheng is a filmmaker and illustrator who lives in Queens. His work explores the nature of storytelling through the sequencing of images. Most recently, his film *Sorrows* premiered at the Efebo d’oro film festival in Palermo. His illustrative work has been featured in The Baffler, It’s Nice That, Bloomberg Businessweek, and The Economist. derekzheng.com | Instagram: [@derekzheng_](https://www.instagram.com/derekzheng_)

ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by category-defying Japanese American sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (now known as The Noguchi Museum) in Queens, New York, was the first museum in the United States to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Itself widely viewed as among the artist’s greatest achievements and holding the world’s largest collection of his works, the Museum features open air and indoor galleries in a repurposed industrial building and a serene outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to managing the artist’s archives and catalogue raisonné, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of Noguchi’s material culture, from sculpture, models, and drawings, to his personal possessions. Provocative installations drawn from the permanent collection, together with diverse special exhibitions and collaborations with practitioners across disciplines, offer a multifaceted view of Noguchi’s art and illuminate his enduring influence. noguchi.org | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)

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