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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2025

Huilin Gui
Jinghong Chen
Lu Zhang
Xinmei Liu
Yao Xiao



ETERNAL LIVING ROOM

Group Exhibition
March 1st—May 3rd, 2025

Opening
MARCH 1ST 7-9PM
402 Graham Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11211
LAND TO SEA

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Curated by Yao Xiao



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Eternal Living Room

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Opening Reception: Saturday March 1st, 7-9pm

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Description:

Nostalgia is not just about indulging in the past. For five artists, nostalgia is a driving force that illuminates the fragile temporality of the present moment. Depicting scenes distilled from memory, the artwork draw on an awareness of the imprecise remixing of the original source, a reminder that everyday moments may become especially precious when recalled later.

The complex impact of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a state of exile for these five diaspora artists, who were not able to return to their home countries for years. The prolonged separation from families created a sense of departure from a life that once felt connected. The artists gravitated towards recreating memories through their work, creating a familiar space amidst an increasing sense of alienation. Haunting the center of this gravitational pull is the memory of a living space, filled with accumulated evidence of life shared by generations.

Through an explosion of mediums — watercolor, collage, cyanotype, cut paper, woodblock print, and oil painting, the artists explore what it means to dream of this space. They question the linear flow of time, push the boundaries between past and present, illusion and truth. A record of ephemeral places and times, they reach for a sense of shared space — an *Eternal Living Room* —between Asian American diaspora artists, a deep longing that unites the past, present and future generations. By making work about memories, grief, and dreams, the artists weave a future defined by togetherness, agency, and belonging.

Short description for social media:

Eternal Living Room is a group exhibition that explores memory and nostalgia through the persistent remembrance of a specific living space through an explosion of mediums. Making their art a record of ephemeral places and times, five Chinese diaspora artists reach for a sense of shared space, a deep longing that unites the past, present and future generations. By making work about memories, grief, and dreams, the artists weave a future defined by togetherness, agency, and belonging.

Artist bio & statement:

Yao Xiao

Yao Xiao is an artist born and raised in Tianjin, China and based in New York City. She is a MacDowell Fellow, and the author of graphic novel *Everything Is Beautiful, And I'm Not Afraid*. Her illustrations and writing have been published in *The New Yorker*, *Los Angeles Times*, *TIME*, *Catapult*, *Lit Hub*, and *Autostraddle*. Yao Xiao makes art about straddling and bridging different worlds and navigating difficult memories. Her work blends emotion, experience, and imagination together with visual imagery, starting conversations about the complex interiority of first generation immigrants.

Huilin Gui

Huilin is an illustrator and picture book creator from Beijing China, currently residing in NYC. Her work focuses on emotionally rich stories, Chinese cultural traditions, and themes that connect with audiences and evoke a sense of warmth capturing memories and small moments. She enjoys exploring the relationship between characters and their surroundings.

Jinghong Chen

Jinghong Chen is a Rhode Island based visual artist born in Fuzhou, China. Her work explores themes of memory, place, and migration through the medium of cut paper. Influenced by Chinese folk traditions, nature, and personal history, Chen's intricate hand-cut designs incorporate motifs from religious and cultural imagery, and examines the tension between connection and distance—both spiritual and physical—that arises from displacement and assimilation. Her works have been exhibited in Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island. She is a Finalist for a MTA public art project, and a 2023 resident at Peter Bullough Foundation.

Lu Zhang

Lu is a New York based artist born in Xi'an, China. She creates intimate experiences that reenact memories and dream states; and attempt to visualize the transference of existing knowledge and cognitive experiences, to tell stories in the form of installations incorporating ceramics and video; she also works collaboratively that engage the public in explorations about the relativity and ambiguity of relationships. Lu's recent film *A Girl Sings Along Without Knowing the Words*, a documentary film essay, was screened at Royal Queen dim sum restaurant in Flushing, Queens; and another documentary film *See you At the Park, Notes On Smiley*, screened at Metrograph, New York.

Xinmei Liu

Xinmei Liu was born in Shanghai, China, in 1993 and currently lives in Indiana. As a freelance illustrator, she creates art for editorial and publishing clients. She also translates and/or edits comics by Chinese cartoonists for the publisher Paradise Systems. Her personal work is heavily inspired by her cultural background, social issues, childhood experience and personal history. Vintage ads and packaging from 1980s China, calendar posters, propaganda posters and Japanese woodblock prints are among the influences that shaped her style. She has a cat named Tyga. catmoverart.net