



CYNTHIA TOM BIO/Art Statement

Cultural Surrealist | Visual Artist | Cultural and Women focused Curator | Community Artist
Activist | Founder/Exec Director of A PLACE of HER OWN | Board President -Asian American
Women Artists Association

Cynthia Tom uses visual art as a means to transform our souls. She is a visual mixed-media artist, painter and curator who likes to play with the accepted norm, tossing non-verbal questions into the air for our consideration. Her art is known as a source of inspiration for healing, empowerment, spirituality and change, fostering dialog and building community in innovative ways.

Surrealism is the platform for her ideas to ruminate and take form, solutions discovered and spirituality deeply informs her work. She is a seeker and philosopher about issues in her life, her ancestors and the community of women. Painting, mixed media, art installation, and curatorial projects are her means of expression. She creates dynamic art works reflecting her passion for social justice for women and people of color, integrating the arts within the community to heal and transform. Her paintings are meant to encourage women to own their power and for others to see them out of their traditional context.

Cynthia feels a strong responsibility as an artist to create engaging modalities that share truths and spur us collectively into action. She believes we as artists have the power to educate deeply at the heart level and create profound changes in how people perceive their communities, urging the call for social justice on a soul level, like no other media can.

Often described in terms such as cultural and social surrealism, her work has been exhibited at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, the De Young Museum, Rutgers's University, Los Gatos Museum of Art, Thoreau Center for Sustainability, SOMArts Cultural Center, Woman Made Gallery - Chicago, Gallery Route One – Pt. Reyes, California Institute of Integral Studies, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Chinese Culture Center, Towers Gallery, to name a few.

She lectures on her work, on issues related to women, feminism in the arts and Asian American women in the arts. She has won numerous awards for her art and leadership, including the ABC/KGO Profiles in Excellence leadership award, The SOMArts Commons Curatorial Fellowship, recognized nationally by NPR Radio in 2010 and 2011, National Association of Professional Women VIP of the Year - 2013. Her art process and pro bono curatorial work with AAWAA has cemented her passion and processes for holding the artistic space for women to heal and transform. Most currently manifested in her long term project, "A PLACE OF HER OWN," (a culturally informed arts based healing and transformation project).

Cynthia's art is a subject of discussion in text books, Women Artists' of the American West, Univ of Purdue, Susan Ressler and a text book Asian American Art in Post-Colonial Times – University of Padua, by Dr. Laura Fantone, Professor SF Art Institute. For both her art and her work in the community, which are inseparable, she has been featured in the New York Time's SF Arts Monthly, SF Chronicle, Psychology Today, the Marin Independent Journal, DigitalJournal.com and on KPFA, NPR and KPOO radio. <http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/360847>