MacArthur Nurses VI, 2013
JENIFER WOFFORD
Acrylic on canvas

The imagery in MacArthur Nurses is based on the famous staged photograph of General Douglas MacArthur “returning” to the Philippines in 1944 and alludes to the contemporary migration of Filipina nurses throughout the world, especially to the United States.
MESSAGE FROM THE Executive Director

A decade ago the American tradition of the potluck dinner brought friends and strangers together at the Wing Luke Museum. The topic was race, and the result was a provocative exhibition by artists of many ethnic backgrounds.

Last year with a clamor of pundits declaring America to be past the question of race, over 60 folks broke out the covered dishes again. This time the result was the largest response ever by artists to our call for art. Under My Skin, a juried exhibition of current works by 26 artists, opened on May 9. Almost 700 people attended the largest opening in our history.

This month we open War Baby/Love Child, which premiered in Chicago earlier this year. It was in 1967 that the Supreme Court overturned the last American law penalizing people of different races for marrying. War Baby/Love Child expresses how the face of the U.S. is changing from the Biracial Baby Boom of the 60’s to the Multiracial Millennium.

Coming next year, we partner with the family of Bruce Lee to create a new exhibition about Bruce Lee. Some are questioning The Wing for going Hollywood, and that’s precisely why we support the Lee family. Bruce’s untold story and legacy go beyond the action hero image we remember. Things about this exhibit will likely surprise you. For example, did you know Bruce was mixed race? How did this affect his philosophical teachings and path as an Asian Pacific American trailblazer?

Questions, provocations and even some revelations… Come explore a museum and a neighborhood like no other, and thank you for the adventure.

Beth Takekawa, Executive Director

Thank You & Welcome

Please welcome new staff members who recently joined the Museum: Justin Av, Jennifer Chen, Mari Kim, Rose Paquet Kinsley, May Nguyen, and John Nonato.

Thank you to staff members who concluded their service to the Museum over the course of the past six months: Ethelyn Abellanosa, Janet Aviado, Mario Pilapil, and Anhia Yoshizumi.

From Our Collections: What is This?

Can you guess what this is? How and why is it used?

Hint:
It is used for a key component of a festival.

Submit your guess along with your name, mailing address and email address to jbaltan@wingluke.org. Correct responses will be sent a FREE Museum Experience pass in the mail. Look for the correct answer in the next issue (Winter 2014) of The Wing Newsletter.

Answer from the last issue (Winter 2013): A Hmong Rooster hat worn by children for the Hmong New Year.
The Wing’s exhibitions always draw on powerful community connections, and group conversation is consistently a crucial part of the process. This was even truer of the circle of people and organizations that came together to create Under My Skin. We kicked off the exhibit development with a series of community conversations called “Race Potlucks,” held in different neighborhoods around the city. Participants at these events exchanged thought-provoking stories about everything from interracial dating at Ballard High School, to the cultural significance of cornrows.

The partnerships we formed with our potluck hosts – the Northwest African American Museum in the Central District, KidSpeak, Trusted Advocates in White Center, Bethany United Church of Christ and Youth Undoing Institutional Racism on Beacon Hill – served as a strong foundation for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), a group that emerged directly from the discussion series. The CAC included artists, activists and community leaders from an extensive range of racial and ethnic backgrounds, whose work deals with art and race in a wide variety of contexts, from classrooms to boardrooms, galleries to prisons.

Race conversations are deeply personal, of course. As the CAC met over the course of a year, they delved into their own experiences with race and racism, building relationships across racial, gender and generational lines. One of the CAC’s goals for the exhibit was to allow museum visitors to experience the kind of open-hearted conversations they themselves had engaged in – to create a “safe” space for people to ask hard questions and share difficult truths.

The community conversation that shaped Under My Skin also extended to YouthCAN, our high school arts and leadership program. This year, students focused on the topics of race and identity, exploring issues through poetry, visual art and extensive conversation. They met with Youth Undoing Institutional Racism and discussed their thoughts and experiences regarding race in America. YouthCAN students also conducted interviews with community “elders” (people older than 25!) to gain comparative context for their own experience with race. These generous participants were drawn from the diverse group of people who attended our race potlucks and served on the CAC. A Mexican American man recalled being bused across town in the 1970s as part of Los Angeles’s desegregation plan. A Chinese American man described the multicultural Chinatown of his youth. A White man noted the loss of his Irish and German heritage, something his “parents gave up so they could be White and fit in.” Students also discussed challenging topics such as White Guilt and “Tiger Moms” with interviewees. This dialogue served as a foundation for the students’ spoken word poetry and assemblage sculptures, which in turn fed into the storyline and text for the exhibit.

Under My Skin provides a powerful testament to the potential that lies in community ties and conversation, while simultaneously creating a foundation for further discussion among visitors to the exhibit.
Because of you, we raised $315,000!!
THANK YOU!

We couldn’t do it without you. A BIG thank you to our sponsors, attendees, donors and volunteers for supporting the 2013 Dinner and Auction, Celebrate Year of the Snake. It was a fabulous evening in celebration of our youth programs and our next generation of leaders. With your generous support, we raised $315,000!

Attendees enjoyed a fun dinner with special guest, Kip Fulbeck, pioneering artist, spoken word performer, author of several books including Part Asian, 100% Hapa, and featured artist in our new exhibit, War Baby/Love Child. Highlights from the auction included artworks by ZZ Wei, Gerard Tsutakawa and other artists as well as a weekend getaway to Walla Walla, roundtrip tickets on Alaska Airlines to any destination, and a robust wine auction!

To view additional photos or for more info, visit www.wingluke.org/2013auction.

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Top to Bottom, Left to Right:
1. The Wing’s Executive Director, Beth Takekawa, with fashion designer, Gei Chan and The Wing board member, Paul Mar
2. The Wing board members; Savitha Pathi, Diane Sugimura and Nanette Fok
3. Auction attendees; Gary Johnson, Danette Smith, Don Blakeney and Erin Abu-Rish
4. Auction attendees, artists Gerard Tsutakawa and Ron Ho
5. Auction attendees; Eric Booker of Snoqualmie Casino with Mari Horita of ArtsFund, Fred Brown, and The Wing board member Mimi Gan
Behind the Scenes of an Upcoming Exhibition

War Baby/Love Child
On display August 9 through January 19, 2014

Despite the continued significance of race in our everyday lives, it remains a taboo subject in the public sphere. Spaces for thoughtful discussion about the meaning and impact of race are few and far between. And as an increasingly ethnically ambiguous Asian American generation is coming of age, War Baby/Love Child, a multi-platform project looks at how mixed-heritage Asian American artists address hybrid identities in their artwork. The exhibit includes work by Kip Fulbeck, Louie Gong, and Amanda Ross-Ho.

Artist Louie Gong was raised by his grandparents in the Nooksack tribal community. In his work, he merges traditional Coast Salish art and icons from popular culture to make strong statements about identity. Below, he reflects on how he came to be an artist and what influences his work.

How has living/working in the Northwest affected your work?
As a Nooksack tribal member, my connections to the Northwest runs deep. I have ancestral ties to the rivers, mountains and communities here, and I’m proud to say that traditional Coast Salish art - the art style indigenous to this area- is the foundation for my work. However, I’m equally inspired by my Chinese heritage and urban environment. Ultimately, I think the combination of all these influences has helped me create art that is tightly intertwined with the physical environment and socioeconomic history of the Northwest.

How did you get into art?
I started off drawing on canvas shoes while sitting on my living room floor. As a self taught artist, I think working on shoes was an accessible place for me to start because there was no convention about what custom shoes are supposed to look like.

What inspired your piece Guardians?
Years ago, I was inspired by the similar purposes of the Chinese Guardian Lion figures and Coast Salish house posts.

How does your heritage influence your art?
I believe that my actions are the cumulative result of my ancestors’ experiences, values and decisions. Thus, my work is a collaboration with everyone who has come before me. Whenever I create something, I want to feel like my Grandpas and Grandmas on all sides would be proud of me.

Kids Get Creative & WIN BIG! for Lunar New Year

The Wing’s third annual Lunar New Year Coloring Contest was a huge success with entries pouring in from far and wide at the start of the Year of the Snake. We received over 500 submissions from kids ranging in age from 1 to 12 years old, and from countries as far off as Malaysia.

Four judges—The Wing board member Judy Tobin and her husband Michael Baker, artist and designer of the Year of the Snake contest Mike Curato, and Garfield High School Librarian Janet Woodward—took on the challenge of selecting the winners based on originality, creativity, and overall impression.

The Judges’ Prize went to Larissa Yue, age 6 of Sammamish, WA, for her colorful entry, which included her own drawings of flowers, fish, and a Lunar New Year celebration surrounding the snake. When asked about her inspiration for the entry, Larissa said, “I just thought about how happy everyone is that it’s the Year of the Snake.” For her original, creative submission, Larissa won two roundtrip tickets on JetBlue Airways, a $100 gift certificate to Dragon’s Toy Box, and a Patron-level membership to The Wing.

This year also marked the debut of the People’s Choice award, where museum visitors voted for their favorite entry posted on our walls. Kai Yramategui, age 6 of Bellevue, WA, wowed voters with his 3D rendition, complete with cotton ball clouds and glittering Space Needle. Kai won a $500 gift certificate good at shops and restaurants at the Bellevue Collection, which he’ll use toward a Wii U and dinner for his family at Ruth’s Chris--or so they hope!

Congratulations Larissa and Kai! And congratulations to our 12 Honorable Mentions!

Thank you to all the participants, judges, and donors for another successful Lunar New Year coloring contest! We’ll see you in 2014 for the Year of the Horse.
Supporter Spotlight:  
In Our Community  
Dr. Paul B. Liao

When I was a child, my father wanted us to place our palms down instead of placing our palms up. It means giving and caring for others by placing our palms down, rather than expecting to receive favor or help from others.—Dr. Paul B. Liao

At The Wing, we have the privilege of hearing and being inspired by the immigrant stories of struggle and success shared with us. Born to a farming family in Taiwan, Dr. Paul B. Liao shared with us the challenges he faced as a child and the role that education played in helping him set down roots in Seattle and becoming an internationally-recognized environmental and aquaculture engineer.

“All the children had to work in the farm... But very few village boys had the chance to go to school... I was one of the lucky ones, and it was almost two hours away walking... It was a pretty tough young childhood life, but [I] was able to get out of the village... I was the only one who went to a college, of the whole village.”

In addition to hard work and support from family and friends, Paul attributes much of his success to education. Education was his path to a better future, so that he could prevent the hardships and unequal treatment his family faced as working class farmers. To better focus on his studies, Paul secretly lived in his classroom during high school with three other students before being discovered by the school principal a year later. In 1966, Paul came to the United States and earned a master's degree at Oklahoma State University. With $500 borrowed from a roommate, he bought a plane ticket to Seattle, where he attended the University of Washington and received his doctorate. From there, he eventually went on to lead one of our nation’s largest engineering firms with acclaimed projects worldwide.

“Education changed my life and fate... It converted me from a farm boy to an engineer and businessman. Instead of giving them money, we’d rather give our children and grandchildren the best education. I want them to be considerate, loving and caring for others. They should share their success with others. They should help others; do something good to benefit the community and society.”

Paul attributes his view on giving back to his parents. His father donated his very last piece of farmland to establish a girls’ high school in 1963, a piece of land worth more than $100 million today.

“My parents were very kind and generous to help others, especially the poor. They helped the poor in our village by allowing them to buy rice with credits. Many never paid back... We are very proud of our parents for what they gave even when their own financial condition was not good. What they did and said about giving has positively impacted my life and influenced how we contribute to society. After I received my doctorate degree, we started donating money to churches, temples, disaster victims, schools and many charitable organizations. Our donations and endowments send the message to the public that new immigrants do love and care for their communities. We donate to The Wing because it educates the public to recognize and respect Asian American contributions to society.”

Thank you, Dr. and Mrs. Liao, for your significant contributions to The Wing and our community. Your story truly inspires us.

We invite you to visit to stop by and visit our new installation connected to the Dr. Paul B. (Bao-Ho) and Mei-Yea Chiou Liao Learning Studio.

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Save the Date

The Wing’s 2014 Dinner & Auction  
Saturday, March 29, 2014
Sheraton Seattle Hotel

Interested in getting involved?  
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Contact  
jbaltan@wingluke.org or 206.623.5124 x106 for more information
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