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24th International Open

March 18 – April 22, 2023 | Reception: Saturday, March 18, 2023 | 4–7 PM CST

Artists Walkthrough: Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 2–4 PM CST

Juried by Pritika Chowdhry

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ON VIEW: March 18 – April 22, 2023

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DESCRIPTION [SEE THE WORK](#)

CHICAGO --Woman Made Gallery (WGM) is proud to present its 24th International Open juried by Pritika Chowdhry who currently serves on WGM's board of directors. The exhibition includes work in a variety of mediums by 43 artists from across the United States and from Canada, UK, Iran and Japan. From addressing exploration of self and the struggles they have experienced in their lives to experimentation with a variety of mediums, the artists in this exhibition present a varied and visually interesting array of works as each tells their story.

About the Juror: Pritika Chowdhry is an artist, curator, and writer whose artworks are in public and private collections. Pritika's most recent solo retrospective was exhibited at the South Asia Institute of Chicago, from August 6 to December 10, 2022.

Pritika has exhibited her works nationally and internationally in group and solo exhibitions in the Weismann Museum in Minneapolis, Queens Museum in New York, the Hunterdon Museum in New Jersey, the Islip Art Museum in Long Island, Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, the DoVA Temporary in the University of Chicago, the Brodsky Center in Rutgers University, and the Cambridge Art Gallery in Massachusetts. Pritika is the recipient of a Vilas International Travel Fellowship, an Edith and Sinaiko Frank Fellowship for a Woman in the Arts, a Wisconsin Arts Board grant, and a Minnesota State Arts Board grant.

Born and raised in India, Pritika is currently based in Chicago, Illinois. She has received her MFA in Studio Art and an MA in Visual Culture and Gender Studies from UW-Madison. Pritika has taught at Macalester College and College of Visual Arts, both in St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information visit <https://www.pritikachowdhry.com/>

Exhibiting Artists: Ophelia Arc, Boisali Biswas, Celia Butler, SueSan Chen, Stephanie Cunningham, Chantal Danyluk, Karla Gabriela De La Fuente, Melanie Deal, Sharon Draghi, Magda Gluszek, Leah Golberstein, Deborah Hirshfield, Anna Hitchcock, Pamela Hobbs, Laurel Izard, Natalie Jackson, Jia Jia, Linda Jurkiewicz, Mina Katebi, Donna June Katz, Cynthia Kerby, Leili Khabiri, Jayne King, Heather Layton, Marie-Jose, Levia McFarlane, Jennifer McNulty, Katherine Nemanich, Lindsay Olson, Mary Jo Parker O'Hearn, Sue Scanlon, Heather Schroeder, Hanna Seggerman, Elizabeth Shoby, Raven Smith, Anika Steppe, Rebekah Stoneberg, Hedy Torres, Yoshie Tsuzuki, Kathy Tun, Nancy VanKanegan, Gwynneth VanLaven, and Isabel Winson-Sagan.



Sue Scanlon: Ghost Dress (2000) – fiber; 24 x 21 in.



SueSan Chen

美兰靠力 (2022)

canvas print, digital art

16 x 12 in.

\$300

ARTIST STATEMENT

美兰靠力 (mei3lan2kao4li4) is a transliteration of “melancholy” meaning to bloom in American requires strength.

I am born of series of propagations—the story of being violently severed and yet finding the strength to grow again and again. With every change in environment, the deepest parts of us take root to build a home and thrive.

This self-portrait explores my identity at the intersection of gender, race, and family. Placed in the Western gaze of a silhouette limited to the bust, I blossom even without a place of origin. The poppy flower, from which opium is derived, represents reclaiming my identity as an Asian American woman, despite it being weaponized against me.

For much of my life I've felt lonely as an only child, as a child of working class immigrants, as an Asian American in a primarily white suburb. Only recently have I allowed myself the tenderness to look inward, to discover where I hold joy and love, to embrace the melancholy of my identity and know I am not alone.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

SueSan is an engineer, designer, and artist based in Chicago and earned a BS and MS from Northwestern University. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, they currently work as a Manager of Branded Environments at United Airlines, where they design inclusive and accessible spaces. Through curating local art in this role, they reconnected with their art practice and now create graphic prints, illustrations, and fine art.

© SueSan Chen