

Louis Chinn Artist Bio

Louis Chinn, aka Jyun Jyun is an interdisciplinary artist. His work explores the theme of transformation as both an aesthetic quality and experience. Through public art, he has dedicated his career to making art accessible and essential, regardless of social position. Drawing influence from his upbringing in indigenous Alaska and Seattle, Washington along with his Chinese ancestry, his work evokes new narratives of migration and diaspora, reminding us of our connections to heritage, the earth and each other. As a teaching artist, he dedicated over a decade to innovating community building and social justice programs for youth, leveraging art and music as a means of empowerment and discovery for some of the most diverse zip codes in the country.

Louis's multi-sensory installations and performances weave visual art, music and digital technology into immersive, ritualistic experiences. These works explore the cross pollination of culture and the relationship between nature and technology. His philosophy, approach and imaginative work have garnered domestic and international support in museums, organizations, businesses and government agencies across the U.S., Mexico and China. Notable exhibitions and performances include the SFMOMA, SF Asian Art Museum, Berkeley Art Museum, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Asian Art Museum, Xucun Arts Center in China, SOMArts Cultural Center and more. For 5 years he created, curated and performed at a grant sponsored, multidisciplinary arts festival showcasing Asian American artists and heritage in Seattle, WA.

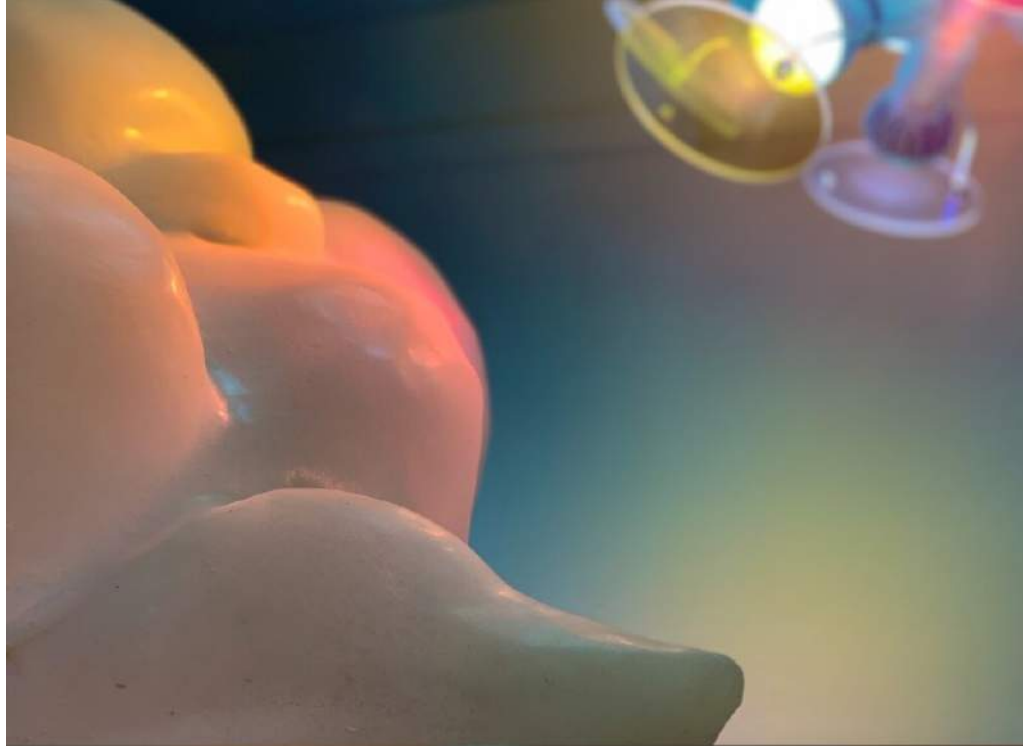
Louis Chinn and Huameng Yu are a multidisciplinary artist team offering over 25 years of professional experience. We combine our skills into sculptures and site specific installations that feature permanent materials at large scale such as steel, glass, and concrete. At the heart of our collaboration, we honor the complex process of placekeeping and creative placemaking: weaving together stories of belonging, community resilience, and bridging memory with future potential. Central themes of our work include connection to nature, bridging history with future potential, as well as activating the imagination. We have created public work throughout WA, OR, CA, MA and internationally in China and Mexico, each piece responding to the unique resources, histories, and needs of the local culture and environment.

We believe that public art is an ongoing narrative that shapes collective memory through the confluence of culture, history and future visioning. We leverage the creative process as a conversation, with extensive experience integrating design input from community stakeholders, architectural and engineering teams, local government and municipal agencies. Whether it's through the design process or the artwork design itself, we believe that public art should create a culture of belonging, which has the ability to uplift local pride and inspire civic engagement.

LOUIS CHINN
&
HUAMENG YU

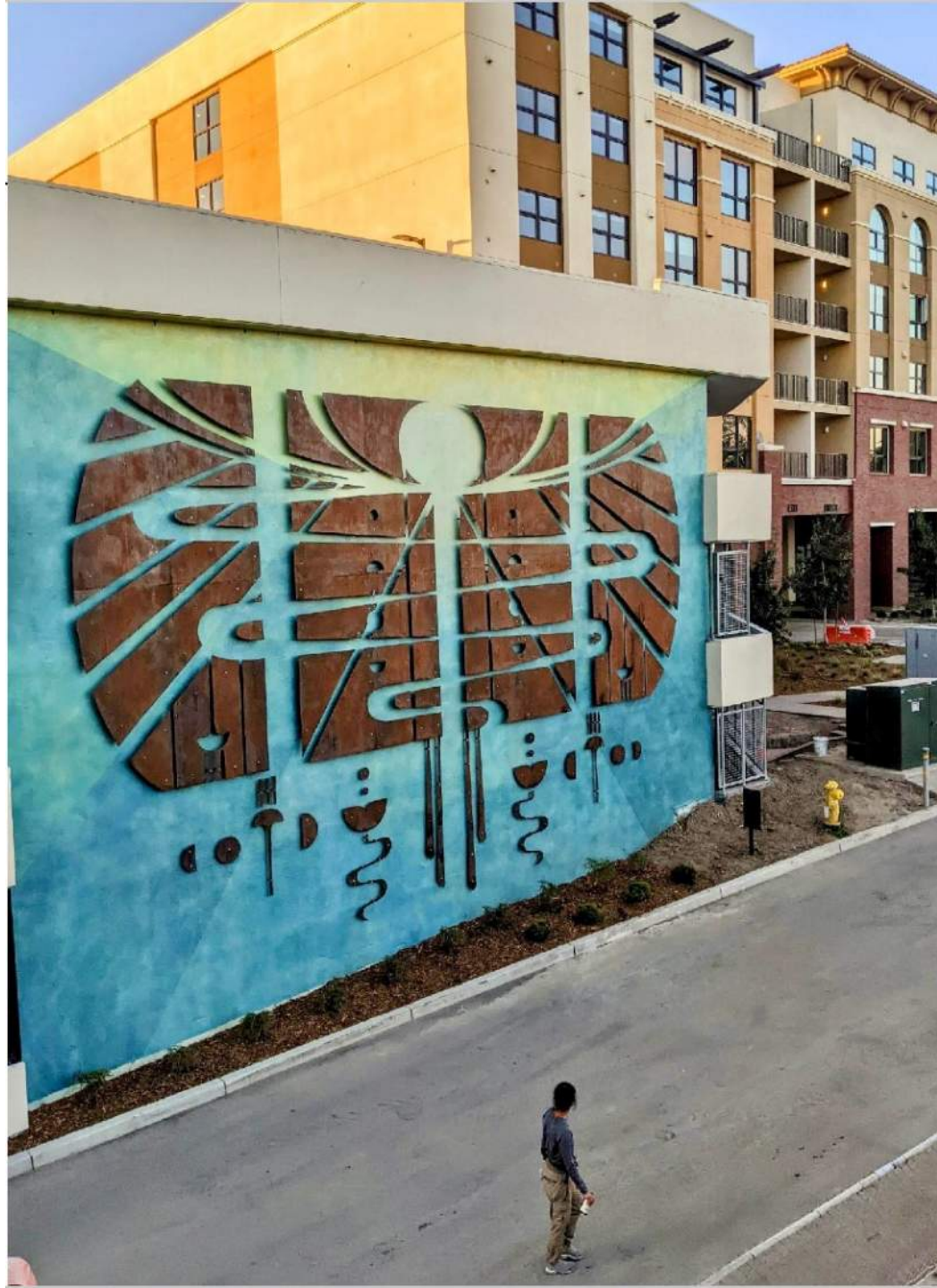








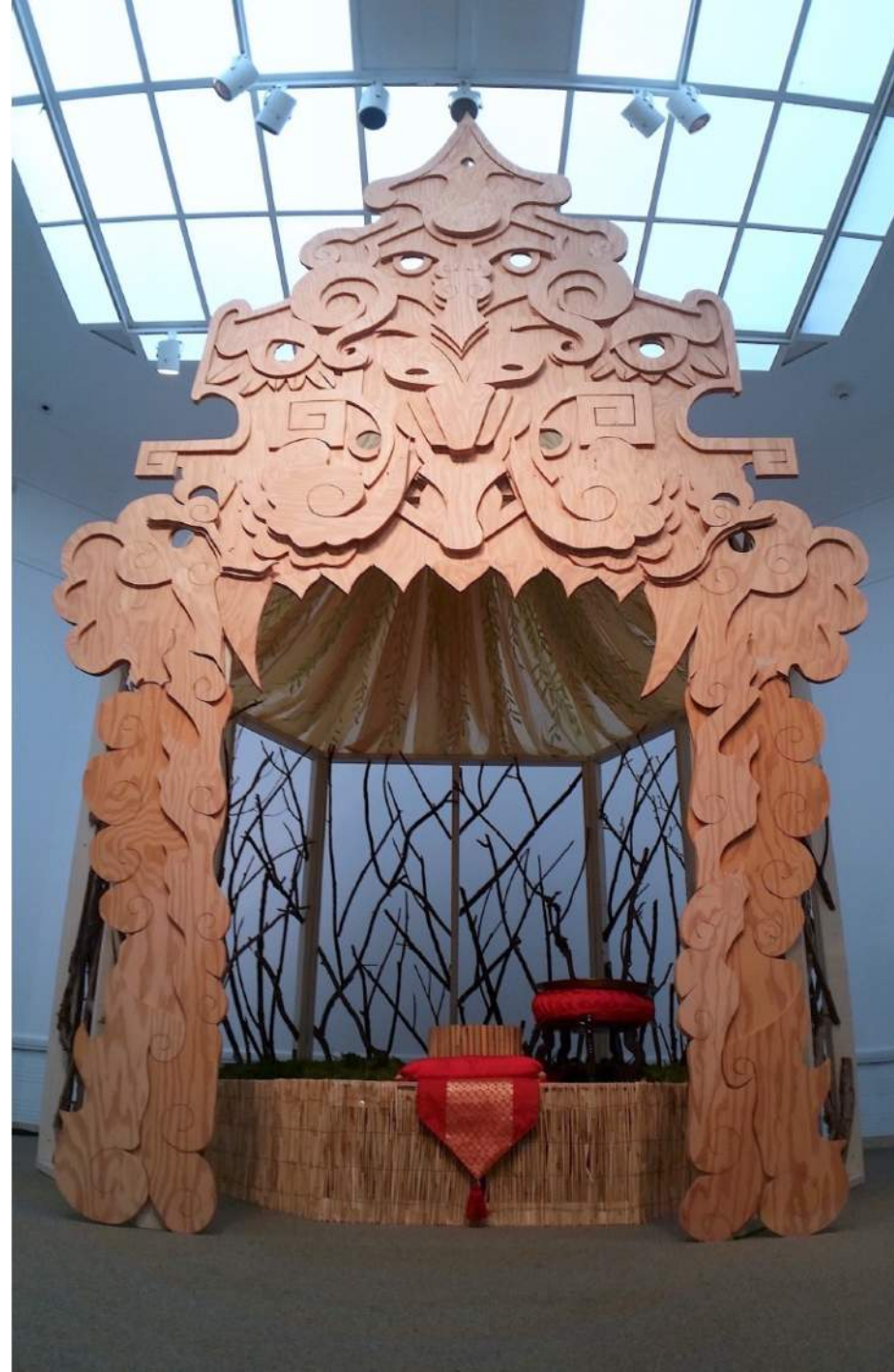














Concept Proposal

Following the theme of Collective Memory, our concept is to adapt a traditional Chinese pillar called a Huabiao, as an act of cultural remembering. The unique shape of the Huabiao pillar is not only an immediately recognizable Chinese icon and emblem, it is also a symbol of remembrance. As a wayfinding totem, it was traditionally erected to help travelers remember their way. It later evolved to memorialize promises made by ancestors and the emperor, being erected in front of royal palaces as well as tombs and temples.

The Huabiao has three distinct elements: a decorative column is often carved with a coiled dragon and other auspicious nature symbols. Near the top, the column is crossed by a board of carved clouds protruding horizontally from both sides of the pillar. Finally, a mythical creature called a Hou sits at the very top of the pillar, who is meant to connect people to their ancestors and provide protection, peace and prosperity.

We propose to create an adaptation of the Huabiao design using modern materials while maintaining its iconic shape and elements, which were traditionally carved out of wood or marble. The central column would be patinated metal, with intricate, papercut like patterns of a coiled dragon as the central image. In lieu of the theme of remembrance, the background to the coiled dragon will show the landscape of the Central District when the settlers and the first Chinese migrant workers arrived in the area - a landscape populated by douglas fir forests, with eagles and blue heron above, and waters below teeming with salmon, trout and bivalves. There is also potential to use the pattern of the dragon scales to visually embed significant dates, figures and historic moments that make up the collective cultural memory.

The dragon lives both in the skies and the water, capable of traversing enormous scales of time and space, which is analogous to the immigrant experience. It is also a composite creature with the horns of a deer, scales of a snake, talons of an eagle, and jaws of a lizard. It represents the capacity to change shape while staying true to itself. Despite its ability to shapeshift, it maintains its uniqueness and status as the cultural symbol of China. Thus it honors the immense adaptability required to survive as immigrants in a foreign country, while still staying connected to one's

roots and culture. Similarly, it references the Central District's ongoing history of change and adaptation as a home for many peoples and communities through its history.

We have extensive experience creating cutout designs in various types of metal, which we will work with the fabricator to roll and weld into a standing pillar. With permission from the rest of the design team, these shapes could also be lit from the inside, creating a dramatic glowing lantern effect of light and shadow at night. You can view our work samples for previous examples of this.

The horizontal clouds near the top of the pillar could be made of cast resin, producing a beautiful translucency that will allow for textures and some light to pass through. This would also enhance the lantern-like effect, as well as capture sunlight and glow during the day. You can see our past installation of cast resin clouds in our work samples.

Given our personal connection to the CD and having created work with similar themes and design elements, we are immensely excited to bring our experience and vision to this opportunity. We create work that is welcoming and inviting for people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to appreciate. Our design will be visually engaging in all directions far and near, as well as utilize durable materials and safe construction that will stand the test of time. We aim to create site-specific and culturally significant work that engenders a sense of connection and belonging, providing inspiration for years to come.