

The ASIAN ARTS INITIATIVE issues a CALL FOR ARTISTS:
TRANSPLANTS EXHIBITION
November 2008 – January 2009

TRANSPLANTS is a dual site multi-artist exhibition organized by the Asian Arts Initiative and curated by Sean Stoops. The exhibition will be based at the Asian Arts Initiative's new home at 1219 Vine Street in Philadelphia, with a video art installation at the International House Video Lounge, a space programmed by InLiquid Art & Design Network. The exhibition is scheduled to be open from November 2008 through January 2009.

Exploring experiences of migration and displacement, those both chosen and imposed, *Transplants* will examine life-changing journeys made by artists and communities 'transplanted' from one place—whether physical or conceptual—to another, revealing the critical and creative roles that culture, immigration, exile, and home play in our ideas of ourselves and our world. *Transplants* will show the complexities and particularities of communities' and individuals' stories and representations of movement through space and time.

The theme of *Transplants* is particularly close to home for the Asian Arts Initiative, who in June 2007, due to the expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, alongside several other arts and cultural organizations was forced to move from our former home in the now-demolished Gilbert Building. In a struggle to survive and grow despite the displacement, the Initiative moved to a temporary space and then was forced to move yet again from the unheated space during the winter. Now we are looking forward to our final move into our newly renovated home at 1219 Vine Street in Philadelphia's Chinatown neighborhood.

TRANSPLANTS will be the inaugural exhibition at the Asian Arts Initiative's new gallery.

THE CALL

The Asian Arts Initiative invites submissions of visual and media art work for the 'Transplants' exhibition. We are accepting proposals for existing or new work, including site specific installations created for the exhibition.

Selected artists will be provided with curatorial guidance. This call is open to artists regardless of where they reside. A limited shipping or supply budget may be available depending on the artwork proposed.

This call for artists is open to all artists including but not limited to Asian Americans.

The exhibition at the Asian Arts Initiative will include dimensional art and installations. The InLiquid video installation at the International House Video Lounge will be a curation of single-channel video art and video still prints.

The exhibition is scheduled for November 2008 to January 2009.

Submission deadline: August 15, 2008

For more information contact:

Sean Stoops, Transplants Curator or Sabina Neem, Program Manager
Asian Arts Initiative
1219-1223 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 557-0455 gallery@asianartsinitiative.org

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

For consideration, please submit the following no later than August 15, 2008:

- 1) Your name and contact information, including mailing address, phone number/s, and e-mail address.
- 2) An artist statement that describes what motivates your current work and why you want to participate in Transplants.
- 3) A description of the work to be considered. If you are proposing to create new work or a site-specific installation, please be sure to discuss other relevant projects or experience that will enable you to complete the project described.
- 4) An artistic resume and/or bio (no more than 3 pages).
- 5) Up to 20 images of your work labeled with titles, medium, and dimensions, date and location displayed. Video documentation of past projects may also be submitted, if appropriate. All work should be on a dvd or emailed in digital format.
- 6) If desired, also include a self-addressed stamped envelope with necessary postage for return of materials.

All materials must be received by August 15, 2008.

Please send to:

Asian Arts Initiative

Attn: Transplants Exhibition

1219-1223 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

215-557-0455 gallery@asianartsinitiative.org

THE SITES & SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

The **Asian Arts Initiative** was created in response to community concerns about racial tension, the Asian Arts Initiative began programming in May 1993 with Philadelphia's first-ever Asian American Arts Festival: "Live Traditions/Contemporary Issues" at the Painted Bride Art Center. The Asian Arts Initiative has since expanded to become a community arts center that offers performances, exhibitions, workshops, and training for artists and everyday people who share our mission of community-based arts. We are grounded in the belief that all people have the right to creative expression, and that the arts can provide an important voice for Asian Americans and other groups whose lives and stories are marginalized in our society.

As one of the very few Asian American community arts centers in the country, the Asian Arts Initiative is a unique and vital meeting place where artists and everyday people can think critically and creatively about the experiences of Asian Americans.

International House: Founded almost 100 years ago in 1910, International House Philadelphia is an independent, non-profit organization housing nearly 400 students, scholars and interns from over 65 countries. To support both its residents and the Greater Philadelphia community, International House Philadelphia has long been a premiere presenter of international arts and cultural programs.

InLiquid, a Philadelphia based nonprofit organization, shows an extensive online collection of work by local, national, and international artists to the public, while serving as a comprehensive hub for visual arts information and resources. InLiquid also nurtures its creative community through a continuing series of non-virtual art exhibitions and events.

Sean Stoops is the Exhibition Coordinator at InLiquid and is the former Gallery Coordinator of the Asian Arts Initiative.