



ASIAN ARTS INITIATIVE

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Photographs Alive with History and Identity in New Exhibit *We Are Tiger Dragon People* Opens at Asian Arts Initiative

October 20 - December 23

Opening Reception: Friday, November 6, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Asian Arts Initiative, 1219 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA

We Are Tiger Dragon People, a new exhibit of photographs and pop-up books by Philadelphia-based artist Colette Fu, debuts at Asian Arts Initiative, 1219 Vine Street, Philadelphia, with an opening reception Friday, November 6, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

A collection of images that literally leap from the page, ***We Are Tiger Dragon People*** provides a glimpse into Fu's ancestry and the cultural richness of the ethnic groups of southwestern China. The exhibit chronicles Fu's journey of self-discovery and identity. In search of her ancestral roots, Fu traveled to China's most southwestern Province, Yunnan, to teach English. "After 3 years, I moved back to the U.S. with a precise purpose," Fu explains, "To develop my artistic and technical skills so that I might one day return and document the evolving lives of my ancestors, the Yi, and their neighboring tribes."

With a Fulbright Scholarship, Fu did return to document the 25 ethnic minority groups residing in Yunnan Province. ***We Are Tiger Dragon People*** is the triumphant culmination. Fu comments, "I use my skills as an artist to spread knowledge and provide just a brief portrait of their existence, in a small way helping to preserve their identities and ways of life."

Fu's vibrant pop-up art books transform her photographs and bring life to her subjects. Fu will share her skills in a pop-up bookmaking workshop for the public,

Friday, November 13, at 4:00 p.m. at Asian Arts Initiative.

The exhibit, part of Asian Arts Initiative's Community Curators program, is co-sponsored by Community Partner The Art Institute of Philadelphia. MangoMoon will provide opening reception catering.

Opening Reception for *We Are Tiger Dragon People*, Fri., Nov. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Asian Arts Initiative, 1219 Vine Street, Philadelphia, PA, 215-557-0455, www.asianartsinitiative.org.

We Are Tiger Dragon People, Oct. 20-Dec. 23, Asian Arts Initiative, 1219 Vine Street, 215-557-0455, www.asianartsinitiative.org, Gallery Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Pop-Up Bookmaking Workshop with Colette Fu, Fri., Nov. 13, 4:00 p.m., Asian Arts Initiative, 1219 Vine Street, 215-557-0455, www.asianartsinitiative.org

About the Artist: Colette Fu received her MFA in Fine Art Photography from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 2003. She has bachelor's degrees in photography from Virginia Commonwealth University, and in French Language and Literature from the University of Virginia. In 2008 she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to create a photographic pop-up book of the 25 ethnic minorities of her mother's hometown of Yunnan Province, China. Since 2003, she has attended artist residencies, working on making pop-up books from her photography. She has been a resident fellow at the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, Sacatar, Robert M. MacNamara Foundation, Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Visual Studies Workshop, the Millay Colony, Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts and the Alden B. Dow Center for Creativity. Colette was a Fleisher Memorial Challenge recipient in 2007, where she exhibited enormous 2x3 feet pop-up books all created from digital photographs. She has also received awards from the Sovereign Foundation, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia Commission for the Arts, Constance Saltonstall Foundation, The Butler Institute of Art, En Foco, the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, Photographer's Forum, Nikon, the Puffin Foundation, and the Society for Photographic Education. Her work is published in Gestalten Press's recently released book "Papercraft, Design and Art with Paper", and on her website www.fusansan.com. Colette finds creating to be a healing process that she wishes to share.

Asian Arts Initiative is a community-based arts center in Philadelphia that engages artists and everyday people to create art that explores the diverse experiences of Asian Americans, addresses our social context, and imagines and effects positive community change. We host a range of activities including an annual season of performances, our gallery and exhibition series, and our Youth Arts Workshop and other education programs. Recently relocated due to the expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Asian Arts Initiative is now in a new home at 1219 Vine Street where we are contributing to the revitalization of Vine Street and Chinatown North. For more information about Asian Arts Initiative, please call (215) 557-0455 or visit www.asianartsinitiative.org.

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