

WING LUKE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, May 24th, 2022

From: Wing Luke Museum

Contact: Max Chan, Marketing Manager - 206.623.5124 ext 127 / max.chan@wingluke.org
Cookie Trout, Marketing Associate - 206.623.5124 ext 119 / cookiet@wingluke.org

Wing Luke Museum to Open New Art Exhibition Exploring the Intersection of Immigration, Healing, and Innovation

Seattle, WA: Wing Luke Museum is scheduled to open a new art exhibition on Friday, June 10th, featuring the innovative work of four Asian and Pacific Islander artists. The exhibition, titled *Reorient: Journeys Through Art and Healing*, is curated by Lele Barnett (<https://www.lelebarnett.com/about>) and focuses on themes of history, immigration, cultural pain, and the process of finding sanctuary and healing in artistic practice. The featured artists, Victor Kai Wang, Suchitra Mattai, Jean Isamu Nagai, and Tuan Nguyen work in non-traditional media to share personal stories of history and heritage.

When artist Victor Kai Wang arrived in the United States in 1980 from China, he felt alone and adrift, struggling to comprehend his new surroundings. Suchitra Mattai's ancestors navigated a bewildering and dangerous journey across the Atlantic to the Caribbean. Balancing between two cultures unsettled Tuan Nguyen and Jean Nagai. In childhood, they felt a need to adapt to survive. Each of these artists turned to creative innovation to change their focus and direction.

At its heart, *Reorient* is not just a story of resilience and perseverance in the face of trauma, but also an illumination of art as a path forward to life beyond past pain. The artists' use of reclaimed materials embodies the spirit of rejuvenation - taking what had existed before and transforming it into something entirely new to assign new meaning.

We have all felt a sense of disorientation since the COVID-19 pandemic began. We have had to adjust and find our way in a new reality. What does it take to reorient yourself to joy? Creating art, of any kind, is an active meditation. Creative innovation leads to joy, and joy brings healing.

The full title of the exhibit is ***Reorient: Journeys Through Art and Healing***, opening Friday, June 10, 2022 and will be on display through May 14, 2023.

For more information about the exhibit, visit <https://www.wingluke.org/exhibit-reorient>

The **Wing Luke Museum's** mission is to connect everyone to the rich history, dynamic cultures and art of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences to advance racial and social equity. As a Smithsonian Affiliate, National Park Service Affiliated Area, and the only pan-Asian American museum in the nation, The Wing Luke Museum is a national treasure, preserving and sharing the personal stories of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. www.wingluke.org