

**Diversity Forum 2021 at UW-Madison**

# **Healing and Harmony for the Socially Homeless: Asian Women Scholars in the U.S. Academy**

**Moderated by Stacy Hoult-Saros**

**Panelists: Michelle Batacan Alexander, Pamela Saylor, Mary Szto, Yeohyun  
Ahn, Shin Yeon Jeon, Sangeeta Swamy**

# **Introduction**

**Stacy Hoult-Saros**

# **Brief history and distinctive features of AWS**

**Mary Szto & Yeohyun Ahn**





# **Mental Health Care and Emotional Resilience**

**Michelle Batacan Alexander**



# **Social Work and Vulnerable Populations**

**Pamela Saylor**

**Clinical Assistant Professor**

**Director, Social Work Program**

**Purdue University Northwest**





"She only got this job because  
she's Oriental."

*Unnamed Tenured Faculty*

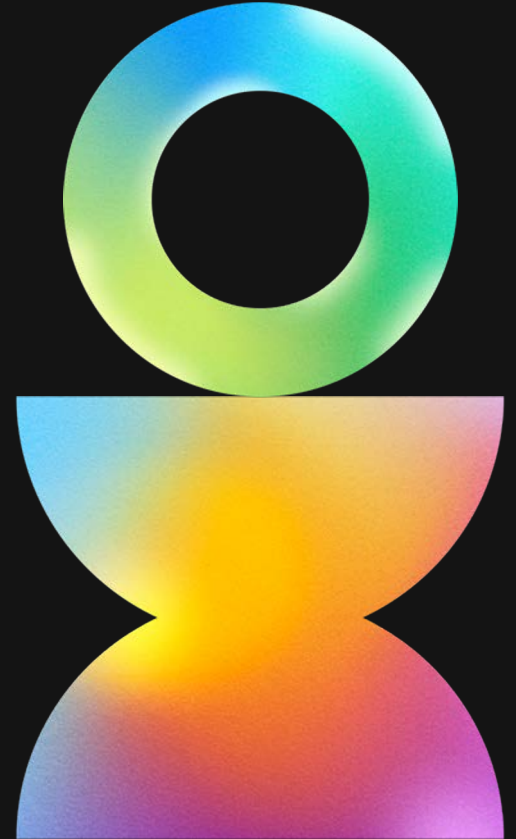
# Journey to PNW Social Work Program & Accreditation

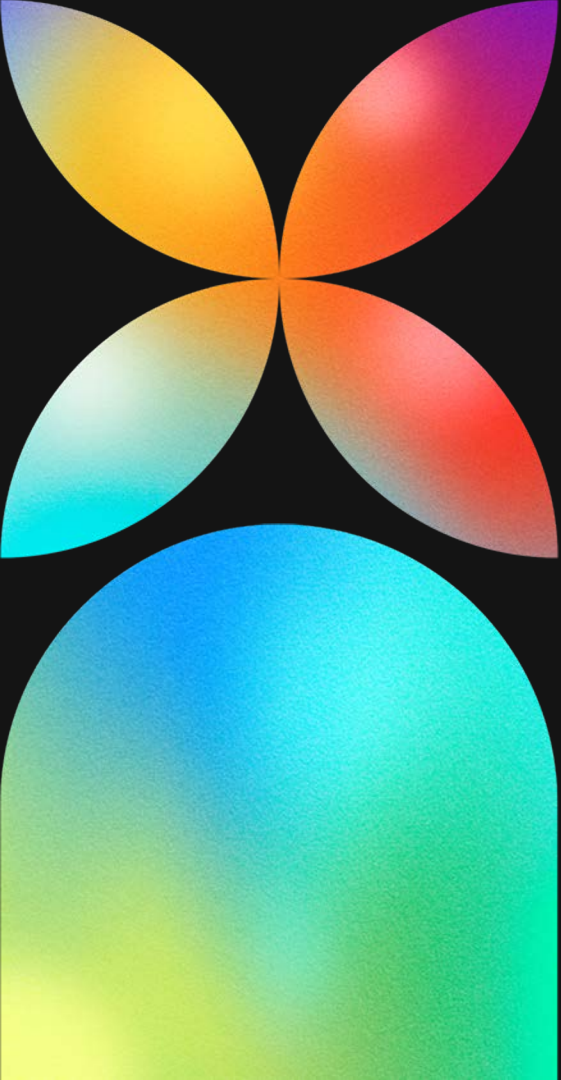
- Valparaiso University, Social Work Department
- Purdue University Northwest College of Humanities, Education & Social Sciences, Social Work Program



# My role in Academia

- Share lived experience as Filipina-American Educator/Social Worker in the Midwest
- Educate future social workers in competency-based degree program
- Experiential Learning & Program Development





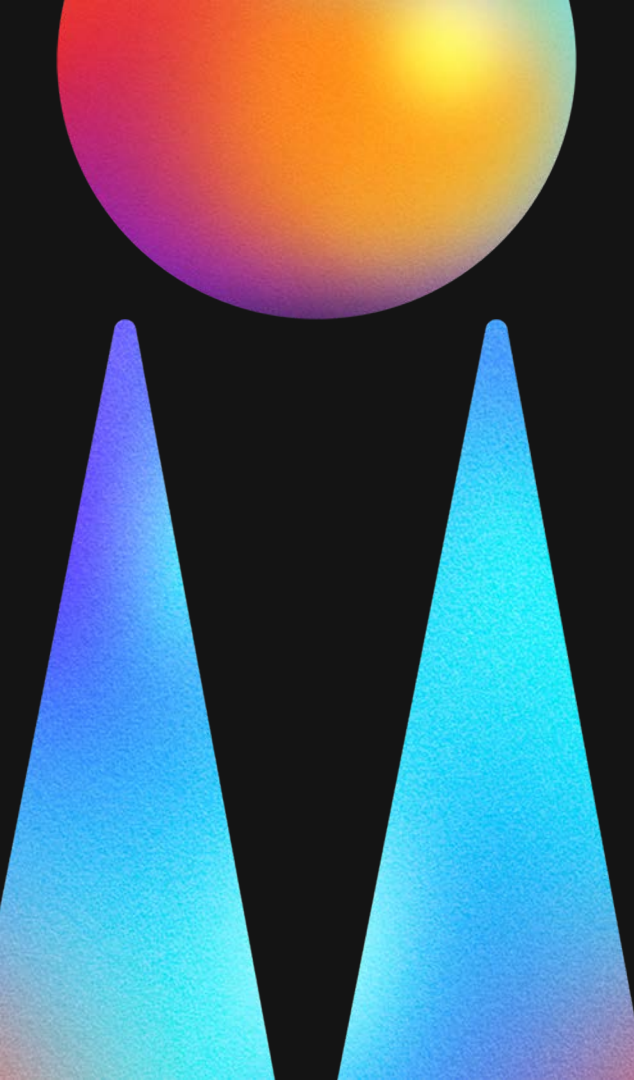
## **Social Work Program**

### **Director**

- Lead accreditation process (3 years)
- Program Assessment
- Administration
- Community Engagement

## **Clinical Assistant Professor**

- Teach Foundational Courses
- Develop Education Abroad, Macro Practice & Social Justice
- Service



# What are social issues faced by disadvantaged and oppressed populations?

- Student Self-Reflection & Discussion on Positionality & Cultural Sensitivity
- Social Work Lens addressing social, economic, and environmental justice
- Social Work Grand Challenges:
  - Individual & family well-being
  - Stronger social fabric
  - Just society

# Individual & family well-being



- ensure healthy development for youth
- close the health gap
- build healthy relations to end violence
- advance long & productive lives



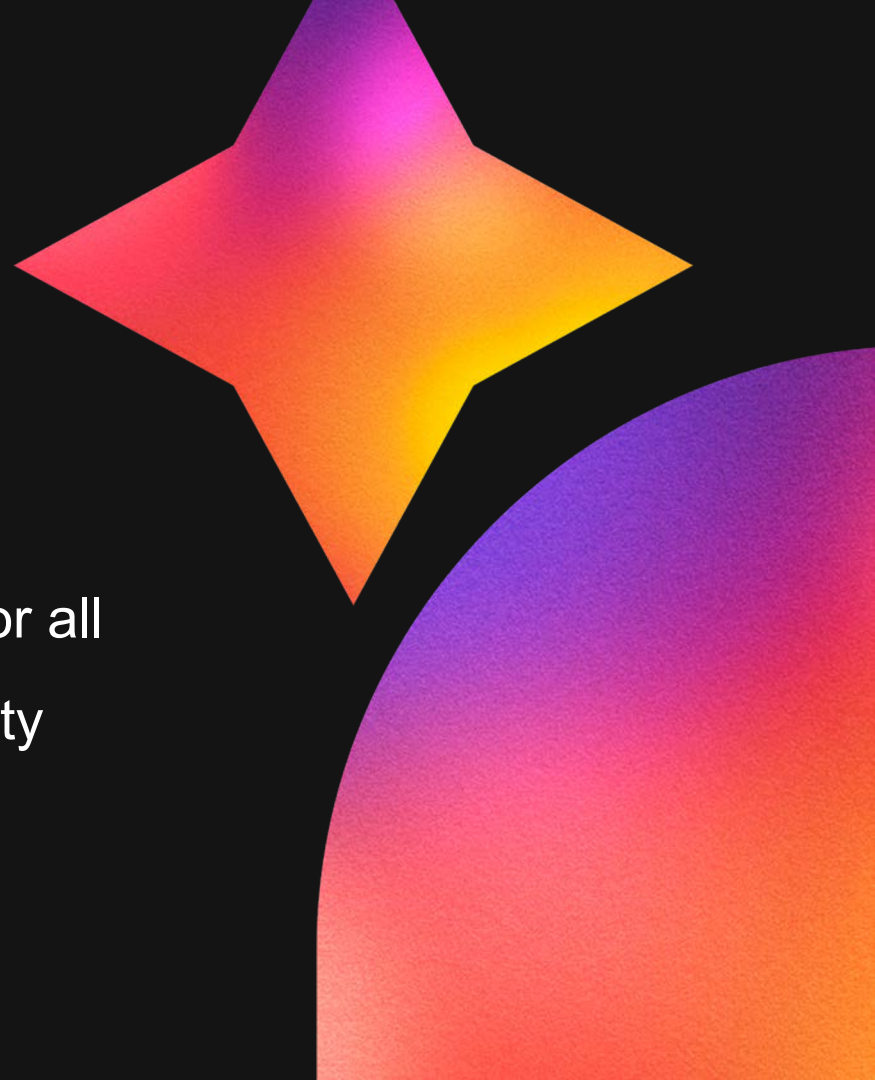
# Stronger social fabric

- Eradicate social isolation
- End homelessness
- Create social responses to a changing environment
- Harness technology for social good



# Just society

- Eliminate racism
- Promote smart decarceration
- Build financial capability & assets for all
- Reduce extreme economic inequality
- Achieve equal opportunity & justice





# **Restorative Justice and Racial Awareness in Law School**

**Mary Szto**

**Teaching Professor**

**Syracuse University College of Law**

# FROM VICTIM TO VICTOR

Overcoming Anti-Asian  
Harassment Trauma

Part 1 –  
What is Trauma?



# OVERVIEW

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**01** What happened? What is trauma?

**02** Have I experienced previous trauma?

**03** Bigger picture of anti-Asian racism in the US I

**04** Bigger picture of anti-Asian racism in the US II

**05** Healing the Wounds

**06** How can We be Victors

# WHAT IS TRAUMA?

## Our response to distressing injury.

Physical, emotional, and spiritual damage as individuals, families, and communities.

**ACUTE TRAUMA** – one event e.g., a car accident.

**CHRONIC TRAUMA** – repeated events e.g., domestic violence.

**COMPLEX TRAUMA** – several events, e.g., a pandemic, unemployment, and a car accident



## HOW DOES TRAUMA AFFECT ME, MY FAMILY, AND MY COMMUNITY?

### COMMON REACTIONS:

*Shock, Denial, Confusion,  
Anger, Fear, Anxiety, Shame,  
Sadness, Hopelessness,  
Numbness, Pain, Depression*



# WHAT IS ANTI-ASIAN HARRASSMENT?

## FOR BEING ASIAN



Yelled at  
Cursed at  
Blamed for the coronavirus  
Coughed at  
Spit on  
Laughed at  
Denied service in stores  
Shunned for ride-shares  
Vandalism of property  
Physical attack  
Customers boycott

# **Human Emotion and Self- Expression through the Arts**

**Yeohyun Ahn**

**Assistant Professor of Graphic Design and Interactive Media**

**Art Department at University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**A selfie is a form of art. Over 1 million selfies are now taken every day. Selfies are not always as spontaneous as they seem. They can be a visual communication tool purposely to express inner troubles and feelings of anxiety.**



**"Studies show that women faculty of color may be the most marginalized faculty on US campuses. Challenging areas are isolation, high attrition, student evaluations, peer perception, additional service responsibilities, etc."**

Women of Color Faculty at the University of Michigan: Recruitment, Retention, and Campus Climate (2008, Aimee Cox for the CEW) by Aimee Cox, PhD, Research Investigator Center for the Education of Women University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



**The computational processes expand the concepts of traditional self-portraits to generative selfies conveying specific thoughts or feelings.**



SCREEN IN PROCESSING

```
import processing.video.*;
```

```
// Size of each cell in the grid
int cellSize = 20;
// Number of columns and rows in our system
int cols, rows;
// Variable for capture device
```

## Capture video;

```
void setup() {
  size(480, 640);
  frameRate(30);
  cols = width / cellSize;
  rows = height / cellSize;
  colorMode(RGB, 255, 255, 255, 100);

  // This the default video input, see the GettingStartedCapture
  // example if it creates an error
  video = new Capture(this, width, height);

  // Start capturing the images from the camera
```

## video.start();

```
background(0);
}
```

```
void draw() {
  if (video.available()) {
```

## video.read();

```
video.loadPixels();

// Begin loop for columns
for (int i = 0; i < cols; i++) {
  // Begin loop for rows
  for (int j = 0; j < rows; j++) {

    // Where are we, pixel-wise?
    int x = i*cellSize;
    int y = j*cellSize;
    int loc = (video.width - x - 1) * y*video.width; // Reversing x to mirror the image
```

```
float r = red(video.pixels[loc]);
float g = green(video.pixels[loc]);
float b = blue(video.pixels[loc]);
// Make a new color with an alpha component
```

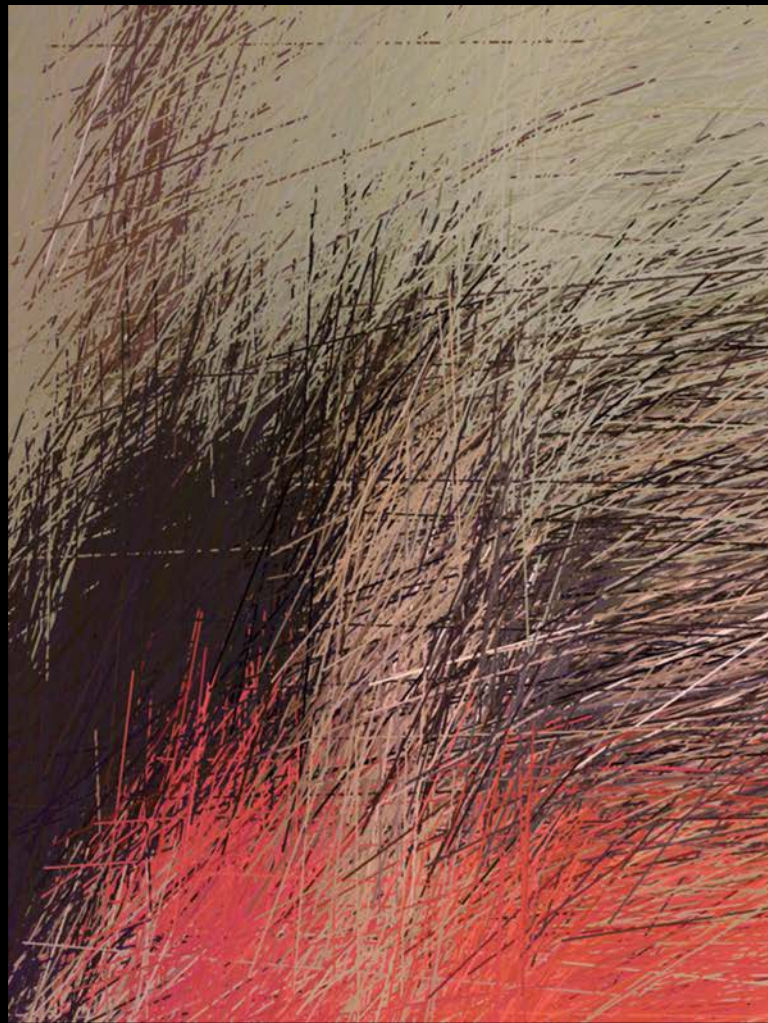
## color c = color(r, g, b, 75);

```
// Code for drawing a single rect
// Using translate in order for rotation to work properly
pushMatrix();
translate(x+cellSize/2, y+cellSize/2);
// Rotation formula based on brightness
rotate(2 * PI * brightness(c) / 255.0);
rectMode(CENTER);
fill(c);
noStroke();
// Rects are larger than the cell for some overlap
```

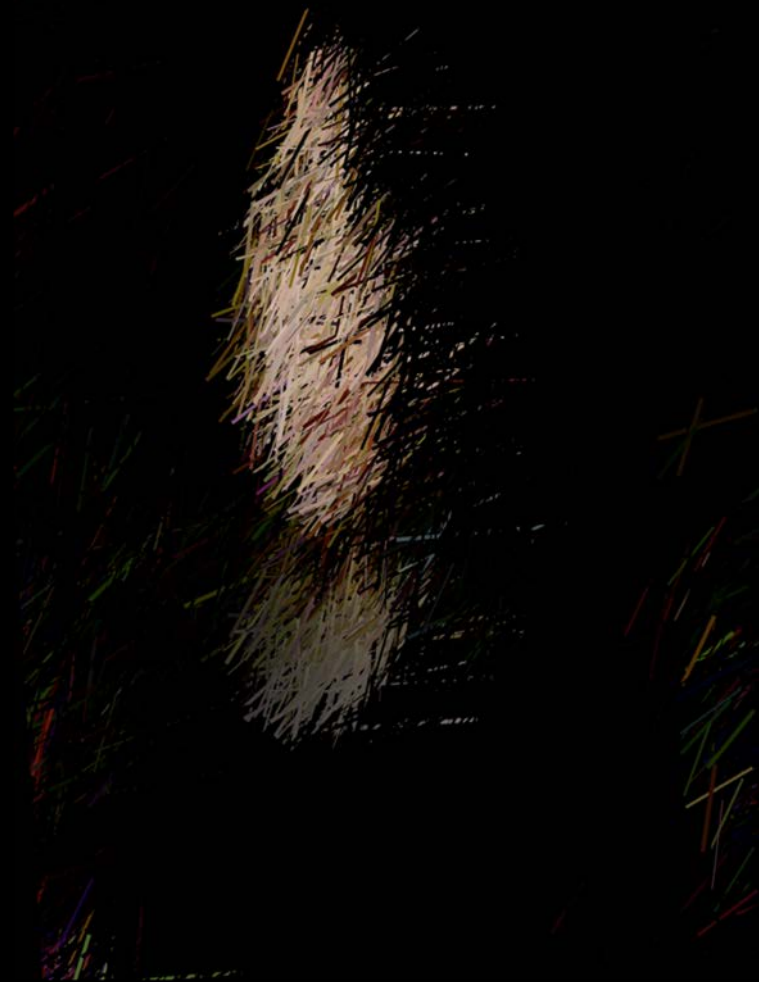
## rect(0, 0, cellSize+6, cellSize+6);

```
popMatrix();
}
}
}
```







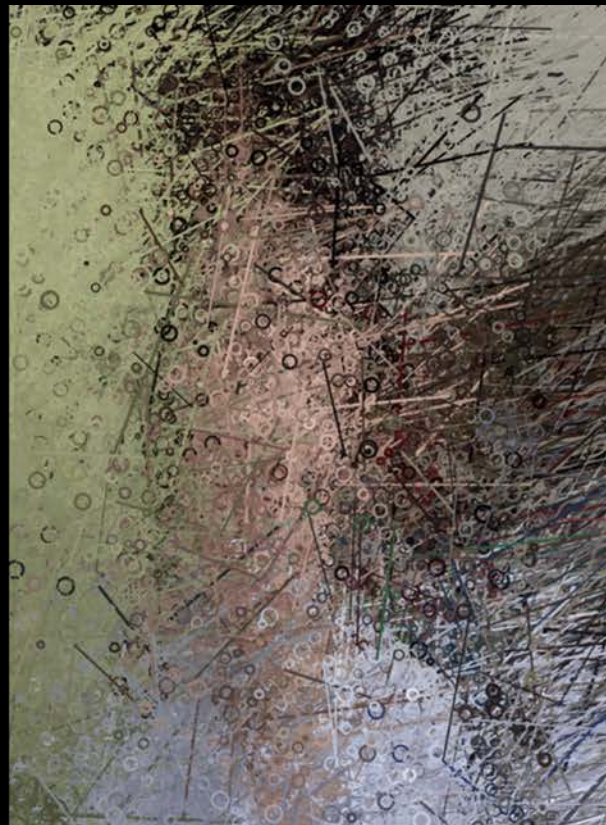








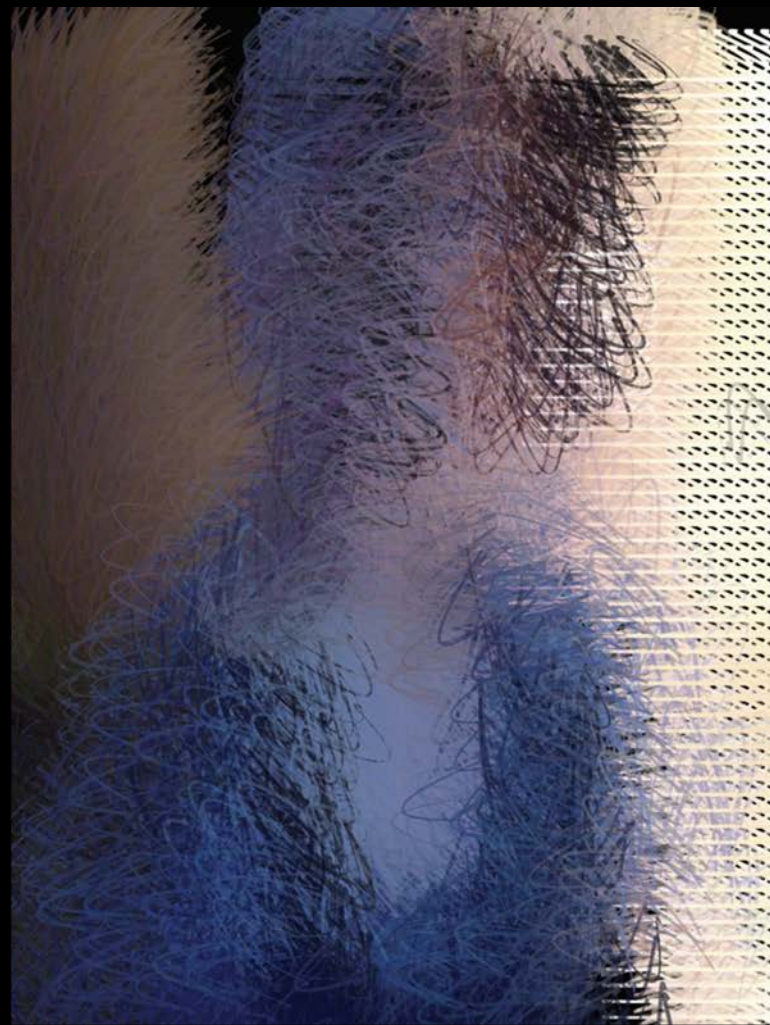
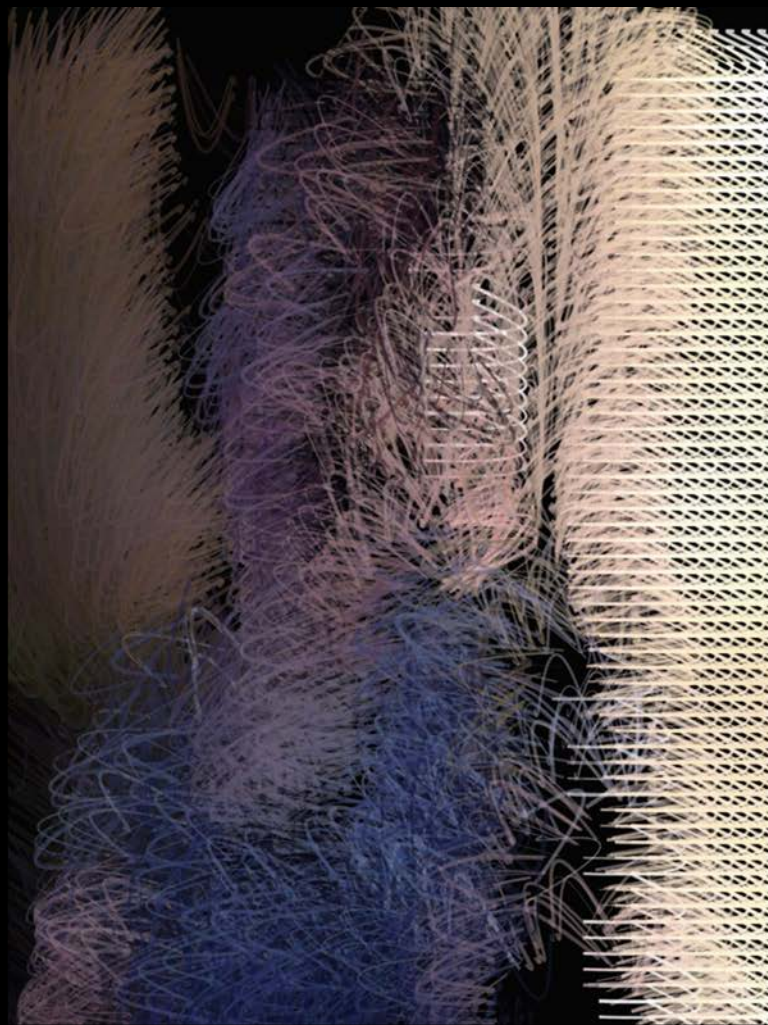
















**In 2016, I started taking my generative selfies at a predominately white institution. It has been shared by social media. The virtual supporting system at Facebook, "Like", by my diverse mentors and friends, helped me to persist and survive in a regionally exclusive community. Eventually, It has brought my psychological reconciliation and healing to succeed in dealing with difficulties.**



# **Music Therapy and Asian identity**

**Sangeeta Swamy, PhD, MT-BC**

**Director of Music Therapy, Valparaíso University**

# Culturally Centered Music & Imagery

- Technique that uses recorded music and visualization
- Addressed acculturation and ethnic identity stressors in Asian women
- Music connects to the 'inner world' through symbols and metaphor
- Involves 1) relaxation 2) focused listening and drawing, and 3) verbal processing





New positive American self



Japanese/Korean self—trapped  
and depressed



Japanese self—confused



Childhood self—surrounded by darkness, unable to reach for help



Integrated self—using negative experiences to encourage others



# Human Emotion and Self Expression through the Arts

Shin Yeon Jeon





# Brief Biography

- Earned her MFA in Studio Art, Concentration in Ceramic Sculpture from Towson University
- Received her B.F.A in Oriental Painting from Ewha Womans University
- Artist, Educator and Researcher
- Has taught various courses including Ceramics, Introduction to Photography, Elementary and Secondary Art Education, 3D Design, Figure Drawing, Figure Clay Sculpture and Sculpture for 15 years
- Has written over 68 articles that have been published in journals and magazines such as Monthly Ceramic Art in Korea, Ceramics TECHNICAL in the US, Ceramics: Art and Perception in Australia and New Ceramics: The European Ceramics Magazine in Germany
- Originally came from South Korea and has lived in MD, OK and currently in Oregon



# Artist Statement

“Always driven by the invisible aspects of human life, I feel that emotions are the least visible and the most ephemeral elements of a human being. My goal is to depict the transient aspects of human emotions in solid ceramic sculpture, transforming them into a permanent state. Instead of a literal description of the human form, I attempt to suggest feelings by use of ambiguous facial expressions. The psychological presence and the emotional content in the work keep the vitality and integrity of artistic expression in my sculpture.”

## *Self-Portrait*

Earthenware, 16½×7 ¾×6½, 2005



*Woman & Woman II*, Earthenware,  
19"×9½"×8½", 2005





*Two Heads*, Stoneware,  
23"×14½"×12½", 2007



*Disturbed Woman*, 2008





*Wavy Woman*, Wall  
piece, Multiple Fired,  
Earthenware,  
14"×14"×3½", 2009







*Beyond Time, Beyond  
Thought, Beyond Feeling  
(Detail), 8 ft×3 ft, 2007*



*Beyond Time, Beyond  
Thought, Beyond Feeling,*  
8 ft×3 ft, 2007



*Crowd-I, Fired Clay, 2009*









*Crowd - II*

Stoneware and Earthenware  
with Stain and Terra Sigillata,  
24½"x 28"x 24½", 2010



*Beyond Memory-II,*  
23"×13"×11", 2009



*Portrait - V*  
Stoneware, 5"×10½"×8"  
2011







*Recollection,*  
Stoneware and Glaze,  
12"×11"×8½", 2012







*Head Totem IV*, 38" tall, 2012

*Head Totem VI*, 38" tall, 2013



*Head Totem - I, V,*  
30"×15½"×12½", 32"×13"×12",  
2012, 2013





*Head -VI*

Raku Fired Stoneware  
with Slips and Glazes, 13"×9"×7", 2014



*Head Totem*

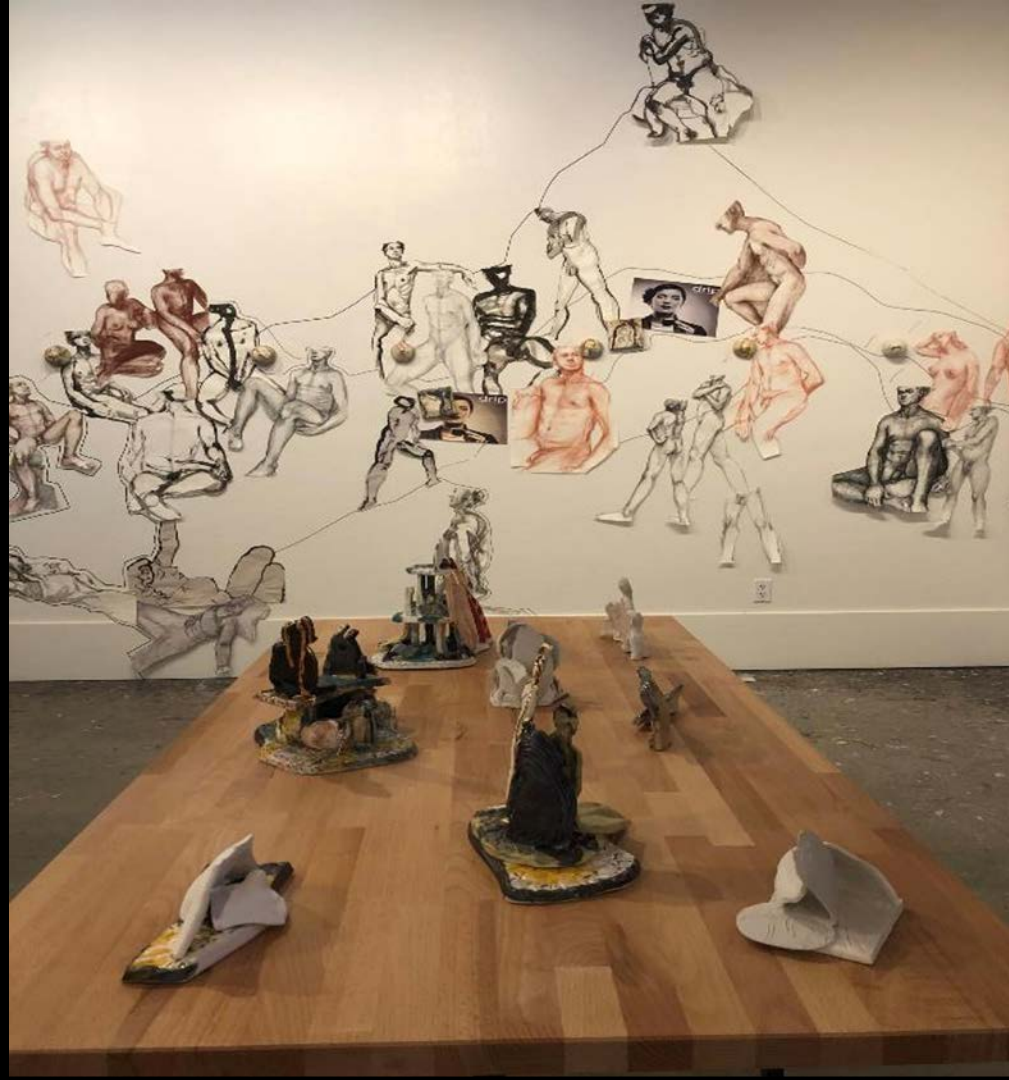
28.5" tall

2017



My artworks right before and  
during pandemic

# Artist in Residence at Caldera, Feb 2020







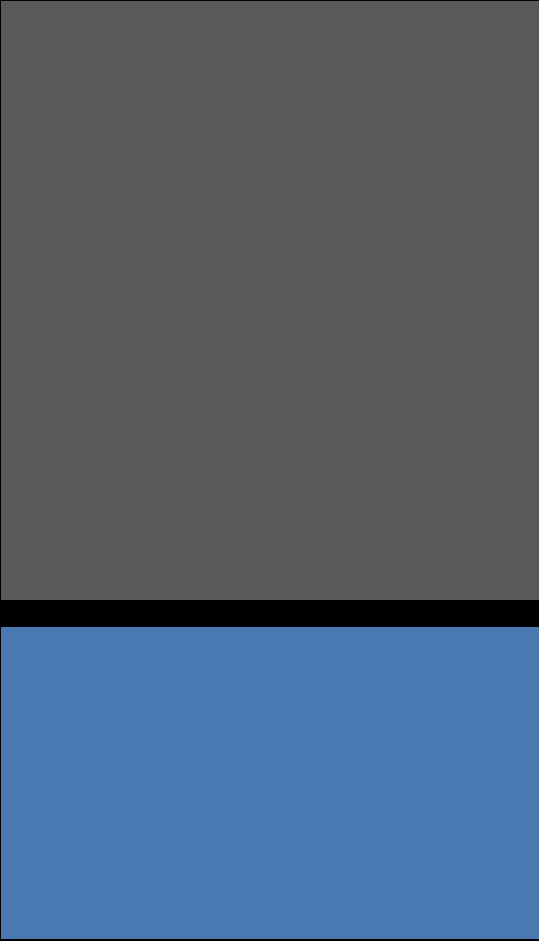
Cut-Out in Clay and Paper;  
Floating Women, Men and  
Drips, The Campbell Studio





Wavy Woman  
Portrait  
2020



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- My email – [shinyeon@gmail.com](mailto:shinyeon@gmail.com)
  - My web-site – [www.shinyeon.com](http://www.shinyeon.com)