

## ARTIST STATEMENT

The difficulty in communicating ideas, identity, and perceptions well, intrigues me. I strive to eliminate the disparity between my expression and what others understand of it. I create images in response to personal experiences of disregard and misrepresentation. I then connect these images with consciously chosen assertions, like a title to a painting or a change in writing mood, to complete my expression. Through this process, I have realized the importance of self-knowledge and abstention from self-censorship towards thoroughly communicating my ideas.

My visual expression can become muddled because it demonstrates a duplicitous nature. When I begin to blend my reactionary response with my rationality, difficulties arise as to which experience should take precedence. Throughout the creative process, this simultaneous conflict between reaction and reason occurs; Spirited colors and playfulness counter nasty vengeance. Funny characters mix with not-so-funny hurt feelings. And naiveté meets cynicism. These two ingredients struggle towards reaching a balanced cohesion that maintains the integrity of my original sentiment.

The delicacy required to articulate an idea with two different bases to its meaning is exemplified when I address the issue of my identity. My two-cultural background, that of a Chinese-American woman is often dismissed, reduced, or misrepresented. Preconceived stereotypes result in categorizations illustrated by statements such as, "Oriental girls are so exotic and passive". And while the Chinese and American influences on my cultural identity remain recognizable, it is impossible to discern where one ends and the other begins. My identity must then necessarily be expressed as an irreducible whole.

To achieve more precise communication of my identity and perceptions, I strive to maintain the idea of the parts inseparable from the whole. I seek active dialogue with others to help me sharpen the articulation of my ideas. I want to absorb new perspectives and ideas, and then implement them in experimentation toward the realization of my artistic vision.