

ARTIST Q&A

PART 3 OF 3

Philadelphia-based artists Colette Fu, Claes Gabriel, and Hiro Sakaguchi share their thoughts and experiences as they continue to make artwork during the uniquely challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic.



COLETTE FU



CLAES GABRIEL



HIRO SAKAGUCHI

TRACING ORIGINS

ROWAN UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY



HIRO SAKAGUCHI

What are the biggest changes you've seen in the arts over the past decade, and how have these changes influenced your work?

Artist's with diverse cultural backgrounds and female artists have been very visible over the last decade, more so than decades prior. I am happy to see this diversity in expression and idea.

Since I myself am a transplanted artist, it is inspiring to see this shift.

What do you want viewers to take away from your art?

I hope that viewers might relate to my images with some kind of emotional response and/or connection.



Image detail courtesy of Hiro Sakaguchi



Image of artwork courtesy of Hiro Sakaguchi, 2020

How are you staying creative through COVID-19?

Luckily, my studio is in my house so I do not have to travel to be here. During sheltering in place, I have been spending time organizing and going through sketchbooks, references, and past art works. I am throwing away so much extra stuff, baggage. This organizing process hopefully will help me understand myself and give me ideas for my future art works.

Where are you finding inspiration right now?

My old notes or sketch books and some pictures I took in the past. I am working on a large painting (76 inches x 114 inches) in my garage studio which I thought I had finished three years ago. I took it back to its original beginning state and am re-working it again... Also I am working on a miniature drawing/painting project.

What is your favorite aspect of the arts community in Philadelphia?

I love how diverse our community is. The talent pool between younger and established artists is massive and there are new surprises all the time. Also, artists in Philly work together to build their community which makes it that much stronger.

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Studio image courtesy of Hiro Sakaguchi