

**Joyce Yu-Jean Lee: Unfolding Connections**  
**Opens March 10th at New Media Artspace,**  
**Baruch College, CUNY**



Joyce Yu-Jean Lee, *Travelogue 9.7.11: Man with Cell Phone on Aberdeen Street, Hong Kong*, Photo, 2012.  
Image courtesy of the artist..

NEW YORK, NY - February 28, 2025 – The New Media Artspace is proud to present *Joyce Yu-Jean Lee: Unfolding Connections*, a solo exhibition of new and old works by Joyce Yu-Jean Lee. The exhibition is curated by Dennis Delgado, Assistant Professor in the Fine and Performing Arts Department in the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, Baruch College, CUNY and is produced by the New Media Artspace Student Docent Team.

*Joyce Yu-Jean Lee: Unfolding Connections* will be on view March 10 through May 1, 2025 at the New Media Artspace website, [tinyurl.com/unfolding-connections](https://tinyurl.com/unfolding-connections), and at the New Media Artspace gallery in Baruch's Library and Information Building, 151 E. 25th Street. The New Media Artspace will host Joyce Yu-Jean Lee for a public artist lecture on Wednesday, April 2 from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at the Baruch Performing Arts Center's Engelman Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Please register [here](#) to attend.

The New Media Artspace will host casual discussions with the artist for Baruch students from 10-11 a.m. on March 27, 4-5 p.m. on April 2, and 10-11 a.m. on April 7 in the New Media Artspace and room 415 in the Library and Information

Building. A virtual discussion will be held via Zoom from 6:05-7:05 p.m. on March 24. Members of the public who wish to attend may RSVP to [newmediaartspace@gmail.com](mailto:newmediaartspace@gmail.com)

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The title for this exhibition is selected from a constellation of works by the Asian-American artist Joyce Yu-Jean Lee. The first unfolding comes from the artist's desire to excavate her family's history. In *Unfolding Nai Nai* (fourth floor) the artist reaches out to her aunts, uncles and father to learn more about her paternal grandmother. An émigré who was displaced by the Communist Revolution in 1949, Nai Nai took her four children and flew first to Shanghai, then eventually out of China. The work's own opacity mirrors the challenge in reconstructing the life and personality of a family member through the lens of those surrounding her. By the time Nai Nai is interviewed a sense of her indomitable personality and penchant for artistic creation is already established. She shares her experience of rearing children and demonstrates her focus and skill at transforming discarded paper into functional objects and crafty representations. Through these scenes we recognize an immediate connection to her own granddaughter's creative output. *Unfolding Connections* tracks a contemporary artist's search for knowledge, identity, and understanding as she unravels the web of mediations that obscure and contain her families' roots in China.

The piece *What It's Like, What It Is* on the top (fifth) floor brings us back to the recent history of the 2020 pandemic. The global health crisis unleashed a local thinly-veiled xenophobic hostility toward Asian-Americans as misinformation on the COVID-19 virus' origin began to spread throughout the internet. Asian-Americans found themselves a target in their own communities. The simplicity of the work shows the mobility and power words have to shape, reassert or attack notions of what it means to be Asian and American in New York City. The animated quality of the words flashing on and off on each screen (in rapid intervals) reflects the speed at which these notions and words circulate in the public domain. From piecing together her matriarchal roots, to utilizing art to dispel erroneous misconceptions, the artist turns her attention to the Internet.

*Unfolding Connections* culminates in the artist's work, *FIREWALL Cafe*, on floors two and three. *FIREWALL* looks at China's primary search engine, Baidu and allows you to compare it simultaneously to our own most widely used search engine, Google. The comparison of image search results reveals how some keyword searches are curated or at least directed toward a specific area. The project remains as relevant today as the year it debuted. Lee's work displays in real time how politics interfere with our ability to seek truth and understand the greater world we live in. Should state policy govern how we shape our notions through accessible media? *Unfolding Connections* takes us through that complex process of forming our own identity, and understanding how notions of truth are shaped by media and our socio-political environment.

#### **(EXCERPT FROM CURATORIAL STATEMENT BY DENNIS DELGADO)**

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**Artist Bio:** Joyce Yu-Jean Lee is a visual artist who combines video, new media, glass sculpture and installation with social practice and institutional critique. Her artwork examines how media, technology and culture shape notions of truth and understanding of the "other."

She recently exhibited at The Delaware Contemporary and Kreeger Museums; and her artwork has been covered in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Hong Kong Free Press, Huffington Post, Hyperallergic and on BBC Radio. She received grants from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council; Arts Mid-Hudson, Asian Women Giving Circle; Franklin Furnace Fund, Maryland State Arts Council and The Walters Art Museum; and fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center, Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower and Hamiltonian Artists.

Her project about Internet censorship, *FIREWALL Cafe*, garnered backlash from Chinese state authorities in 2016 and has been presented at the Hong Kong Center for Community Cultural Development, Austrian Association of Women Artists (VBKÖ) and the Oslo Freedom Forum in New York, Norway and Taiwan.

Joyce received her BA from the University of Pennsylvania and her MFA from Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). She is currently an Assistant Professor of Art at Pratt Institute in NYC. She has also taught at Marist University (formerly Marist College), Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), MICA, Corcoran School of the Arts & Design and New Jersey City University.

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**Gallery Location:** New Media Artspace at Baruch College, Library and Information Building, 151 E. 25th Street, New York, NY 10010

**Gallery Hours:** The New Media Artspace is open to the CUNY community during regular library hours. Members of the public may visit the virtual exhibition on the gallery website, [www.newmediartspace.info](http://www.newmediartspace.info), or contact [newmediaartspace@gmail.com](mailto:newmediaartspace@gmail.com) to arrange an in-person visit by appointment. For updated information, please check the gallery website or dial a docent at 646-312-1664.

The New Media Artspace is a teaching exhibition space in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Baruch College, CUNY. Housed in the Newman Library, the New Media Artspace showcases curated experimental media and interdisciplinary artworks by international artists, students, alumni, and faculty.

**About Baruch College:**

[Baruch College](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/) is a senior college in the [City University of New York \(CUNY\)](http://www.cuny.edu/) with a total enrollment of more than 17,000 students, who represent 160 countries and speak more than 100 languages. Ranked among the top 15% of U.S. colleges and the No. 4 public regional university, Baruch College is regularly recognized as among the most ethnically diverse colleges in the country. As a public institution with a tradition of academic excellence, Baruch College offers accessibility and opportunity for students from every corner of New York City and from around the world. For more about Baruch College, go to <http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/>.

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