



Art

8 Rising Asian American Women Artists to Watch

Mimi Wong | May 14, 2025 7:01PM

There was a time, not so long ago, when it was not unusual to wonder where all the Asian American artists were. This curiosity led Kathy Huang to curate a group exhibition for gallery Jeffrey Deitch, where she's managing director. Initially, she worried that finding 30 artists would be too big a task. She was wrong. The exhibition opened in May 2022 in New York, before traveling to Los Angeles.

Huang's interest in this area culminates this month with the publication of *Wonder Women: Art of the Asian Diaspora*. Many of the 40 women and nonbinary artists featured in the book—including Susan Chen, Dominique Fung, Chitra Ganesh, Sasha Gordon, and Maia Cruz Palileo—have become highly sought-after. "It's great to see names on a gallery roster that feels more inclusive," Huang noted, observing the recent shift in the industry.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Huang, who was then living in New York's Chinatown, relied on social media to do her research. Now in Brooklyn, she looks to local organizations such as The Here and There Collective, a nonprofit founded in 2021 by three Asian American art collectors, to discover new talent. "It's been a pleasure to see so many more Asian artists, and even being able to easily find Asian artists in general, practicing and on Instagram," she said.

To celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, Huang shared a list of emerging Asian diasporic artists she's currently most excited about. While *Wonder Women* focuses primarily on figurative works, she finds herself drawn to abstraction in this moment, as she feels representation doesn't need to be limited to making art about identity. For these artists, all of whom happen to be based in New York, art mirrors their multi-faceted experiences and the nuances of their everyday lives. Reflecting on her personal journey learning about Asian American artists, Huang said: "My world has really expanded."

Huidi Xiang

B. 1995, Chengdu, China. Lives and works in New York.

Known for: playful sculptural objects remixing pop culture motifs



Xiang Huidi, *leave the sewing to*, 2024. Courtesy of YveYANG Gallery

"Huidi uses cartoon-like forms and industrial materials to explore how labor, nostalgia, and consumer fantasy collide in both personal memory and capitalist systems. There's definitely a sense of humor embedded in her work, and there's almost this kind of Disneyfication that she is talking about. There's something really intriguing about the work, where you take an element from something that's very well-known and completely strip it of its context. I'm really drawn to it in that way, because she's able to make work that is really sculpturally, formally interesting. And then it's strange, but you feel like you've seen it before, you know what it is. It's like this feeling of nostalgia. So I think I'm really drawn to the feeling that I get when I see her work.

"Huidi most recently showed work at Independent 2025 in New York with YveYANG Gallery."