

# Art Contest for UK AAPI Employees



## Event Background

With COVID affecting every population around the globe, we unfortunately saw and experienced a severe spike in Anti-Asian rhetoric, harassment, and violence here in the U.S. Lexington was no exception.

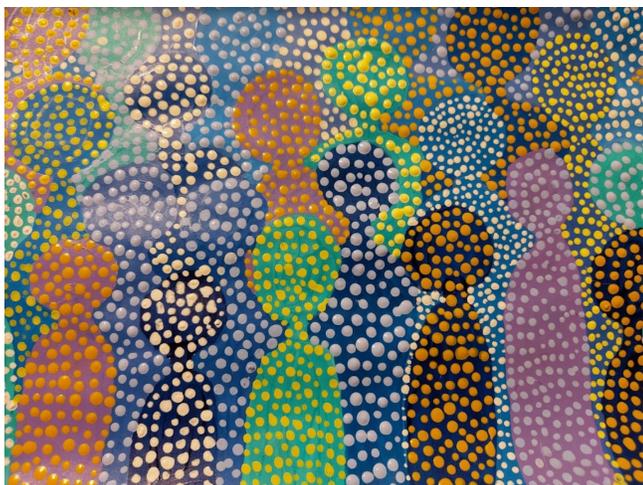
Out of the *pain* that many of our colleagues suffered came a feeling of *empowerment* to overcome difficulties and a renewed sense of *pride and joy* in our Asian-American/Asian heritage.

For the one-year anniversary of President Biden's signing into law the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, our Asian-American/Asian diaspora community at UK shared their experiences or stories in artistic form in the summer 2022.



Hand Craft – “500 masks and 50 extensions for donation”

**By Shuling Fister,**  
Scientist  
College of Medicine



Drawing – “Who here has Covid 19?”

By **Rita Basuray, Ph.D.**

Senior Academic Coordinator & Adjunct Assistant  
Professor Scientist  
College of Arts & Sciences



Painting – “From restraint to color”

By **JungHee Kang, Ph.D., MPH, RN**

Postdoctoral Scholar,  
RICH Heart Program  
College of Nursing

## Poem – My Foreign Home

My round face  
The tone of my skin  
And the shape of my eyes  
Serve me well... hiding the tears  
Muting my screams  
Being less than a tenth of this land

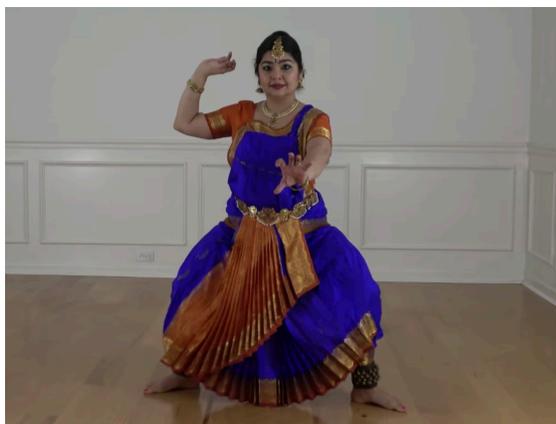
A model minority  
Abusive work ethic  
No respite in sight  
Caring for others  
Been running on empty  
Don't remember for how long

Culture won't let me  
Get any buffer  
It's baked into my genes  
But the land cares not  
This soil is foreign but it's also home  
Yes, my foreign home

I continue on  
Because the culture won't let me  
Think of an alternative  
I continue on  
With the hopes that my children  
Will find their home... not a foreign home

By **Dan Y. Han, PsyD, CELM, FANA**

Chief, Division of Neuropsychology  
Professor of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Physical Medicine  
& Rehabilitation  
College of Medicine



Dance – “Okarakarini: Invoking the female cosmic energy”

By **Aardra Kachroo, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Department of Plant Pathology  
College of Agriculture, Food & Environment



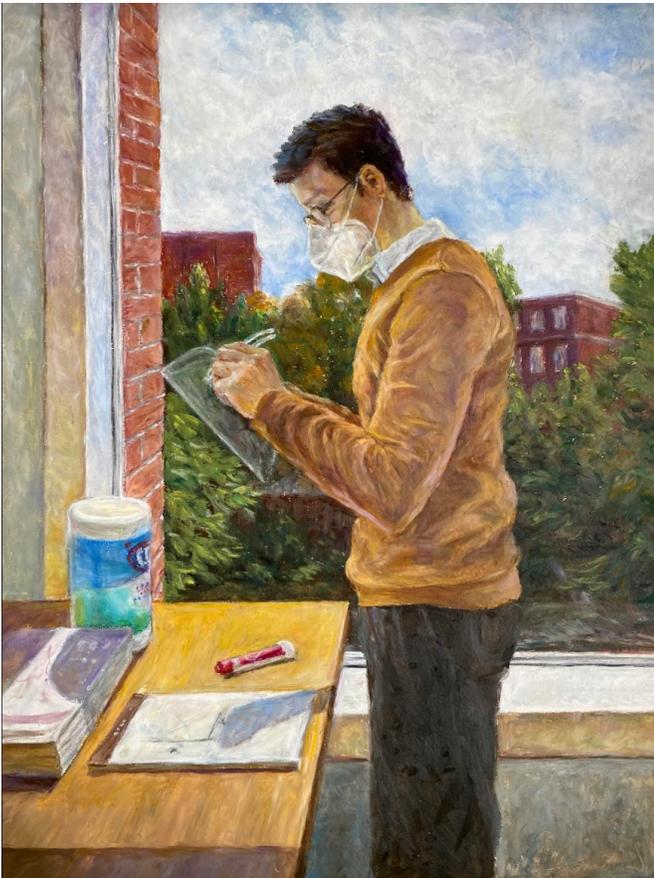
Photograph – “UK Rally on Stop Hate”

**By Shuling Fister,**  
Scientist  
College of Medicine



Sculpture – “Asian Face in the Era of Pandemic”

**By Jianjun He, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Chinese  
Director of FLIE Program  
College of Art & Sciences



Oil painting – “Gearing up before Teaching—My War against COVID”

**By Zhi Huang, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Gatton College of Business and Economics



Photograph – “Without prom nor HS graduation, Angie still stayed at positive as a heritage of AAPI”

**By Shuling Fister,**  
Scientist  
College of Medicine

## Poem – Training: A Discourse

Roll up your tongue  
come, let me teach you  
the correct way to pronounce the letter L  
so you can WALK on the street  
without any mistake

Shake hands while you bow  
you people always smile  
when you make me your spicy kung-pao  
please, no MSG  
but add extra sugar in my bubble tea

I will find my inner Zen in your rice bowl  
show me your wisdom on chopstick so it won't fall  
when your kimono is lured to dance by the breeze  
come, light up your thousand year incense  
you can tell me your secrets

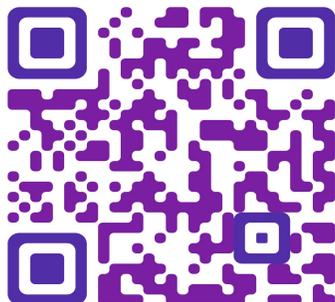
I'll then call you Paul  
or Sophie, Mia, and any name you fancy at all  
it's time to master a new language  
remember, a sweet name like Judith  
can go well with Iron-Goddess

Unlike the others, you never kvetch any complaint

Mysterious is a virtue, but don't be arrogant about  
your history  
as you will learn the art of writing the letter A  
no, not in Asian  
but in the word of American

**By Jianjun He, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Chinese  
Director of FLIE Program  
College of Art & Sciences

**See event details at:**



## Sponsors

Thanks to the generous contributions from *College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, College of Engineering, College of Medicine, and Gatton College of Business and Economics*, we are able to award monetary prizes as well as certificates of recognition to first-, second- and third-place winners who are UK employees from our Asian-American/Asian diaspora community.

**Special thanks to Dr. Mia Farrell's Office of Diversity in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and Ms. Kendriana Price for their key role and valuable support to make this event happen.**

## Organizing Committee

Special thanks to the Organizing Committee for all who contributed help or ideas:

**Jason Akhtarekhavari**, Arts in HealthCare Manager, UKHealthCare, UK Chandler Hospital

**Vanessa Grossl**, Policy Analyst, The Council of State Governments, UK graduate student, Arts Administration

**Gregg O. Hall**, professor in UK's Patterson School of Diplomacy

**Fuko Ito**, visiting art professor in the School of Art and Visual Studies

**Robert Jensen**, director of UK's School of Art and Visual Studies

**Tracy Lu**, associate professor in the Department of Retailing and Tourism Management, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

**Huajing Maske**, former executive director of UK's Office of China Initiatives

**Buck Ryan**, journalism professor and director of the Citizen Kentucky Project of the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center

**Sarah Tran**, a journalism graduate and now a graduate student in public health who worked at UK's Sanders-Brown Center on Aging

**Jennifer Wang**, doctor, Department of Radiology, UK Healthcare