

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

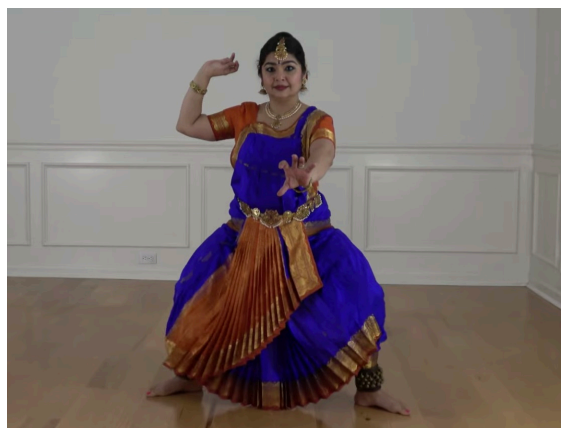
A model minority
Abusive work ethic
No respite in sight
Caring for others
Been running on empty
Don't remember for how long

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

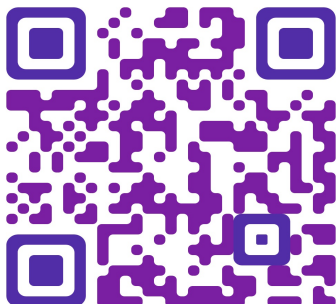
I'll then call you Paul
or Sophie, Mia, and any name you fancy at all
it's time to master a new language
remember, a sweet name like Judith
can go well with Iron-Goddess

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