

# SIJIA CHEN

[www.sjiachen.com](http://www.sjiachen.com) | Instagram: [@sjiachenart](https://www.instagram.com/sjiachenart) | [sjia@sjiachen.com](mailto:sjia@sjiachen.com)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am expressing my interest to produce an artwork that is responsive to your project's goals and intent.

As a contemporary multi-disciplinary artist, I explore the intersection of personal identity, diversity, and self-determination, and how it manifests in the perpetual friction and equilibrium between individuality and community, creativity and convention, and ambition and humility. Through layered collage paintings and public artworks, I contemplate the complexity and richness of the convergence of cultures, and how that shapes our aspirations and viewpoints.

My process involves interpreting and reconstructing natural objects, landscapes, and architectural elements, and infusing them with private and public-sourced materials and information. For my paintings, the materials I use retain little intrinsic value but significant personal currency – immigration forms, restaurant menus, magazines, and personal photos and memorabilia. I interweave them into my works to articulate individual narratives within a multicultural labyrinth, and to present a diverse cross-section of voices and perspectives.

My interest in your project is to produce an expansive, site-specific work that distills and represents the spirit, history, and heritage of the Veterans Memorial Park site and the City of Carlsbad. My concept will touch on the themes of public service and preservation of our natural resources, and how these worthy endeavors can come in myriad forms. I believe this project is an exceptional opportunity to express an inclusive vision of public art, and how public participation and engagement can elevate the health and strength of a community.

My public artworks have been placed in transportation hubs and public spaces to serve as welcome points and gateway markers. I have extensive experience working with local municipalities, government agencies, and transportation authorities. In addition to my in-house design and fabrication team, I've worked with landscape and commercial architects, engineering firms, general contractors, designers, and conservators.

Through actively engaging and partnering with residents, stakeholders, and community organizations, my public works are transformed into compositions that reflect the values, history, and ethos of local communities. This collaboration in my previous projects have encompassed site visits, workshops with students ranging from middle school to undergraduate educational institutions, and community-driven open forum events. In the student workshops and community events, I presented educational content and instruction on papercut art, which is part of my cultural heritage, and is an essential element found through my artistic practice. I've also supplemented this in-person engagement by creating project specific websites, through which I've requested and collected from the public personal photographs, memorabilia, documents, their responses to a curated list of questions to develop a deeper understanding of personal values and cultural heritage. original artistic designs, and responses to a curated list of questions to develop a deeper understanding of personal values and cultural heritage. I then incorporated their submissions and responses directly into in the final design of the work.

This direct community participation and contribution to my artwork's development ensures that they are representative and site-specific. I've adopted this process for my public works SWA, Bloom, and Blossom, and my current projects for the local municipalities of Wichita, KS and Portsmouth, NH. I believe this collaboration promotes ownership, encourages dialogue, sparks creativity, and generates value to the community in investing in the creative arts. The project becomes more than an artistic composition, it is the culmination of a community movement.

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As part of my current co-exhibition *Dual Visions* at the William D. Cannon Art Gallery at the Carlsbad City Library, I had the privilege of meeting with the theater and art curriculum students and faculty at La Costa Canyon and Sage Creek High School, and community volunteers in the Carlsbad Cultural Arts department. During these workshops I presented the themes, materials, and processes that went into creating the works for the exhibition, along with hosting a guided workshop for creating papercut designs. The enthusiasm and level of engagement from everyone was extremely rewarding and humbling, and reinforced my fundamental belief that a community focused and driven process will be the enduring legacy of this project, and will serve as a guiding framework for future projects in Carlsbad.

I welcome and hope for the opportunity to present and expand further on my concept for your project, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sijia Chen

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## EDUCATION

- 2011 **Master of Fine Arts**, Painting, Drawing & Sculpture, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010 **Printmaking Apprenticeship Training Program**, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA
- 2009 **Bachelor of Fine Arts**, Painting, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, China

## PUBLIC ARTWORKS & COMMISSIONS

- 2023 **Cloud Field**, Northwest Water Facility, Wichita, KS(currently in progress)
- 2023 **Endeavor**, Bohenko Gateway Park, Portsmouth, NH(currently in progress)
- 2023 **Twin Peaks**, Seattle Tacoma International Airport, Seattle, WA
- 2020 **Blossom**, Central Railway Station, Shantou, China
- 2019 **Bloom**, Richards Park, North Kansas City, MO
- 2019 **Voyage Beyond**, Times Square Park, Shantou, China
- 2018 **Arbor**, Claremont City Hall, Claremont, CA
- 2017 **SWA**, Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport, Jieyang, China
- 2017 **Tea and Tree**, Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport, Jieyang, China

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 **Sijia Chen**, Chan Clan Museum, Guangzhou, China
- 2020 **Light and Shadow**, Canton Cultural Center, Guangzhou, China
- 2016 **Art and Sustainability**, Net Impact Los Angeles, Culver City, CA
- 2014 **Sijia Chen**, South Bay Contemporary, San Pedro, CA
- 2014 **Playground**, Fei Gallery, Guangzhou, China
- 2013 **Home - New Work by Sijia Chen**, Art Museum of Shantou University, Guangzhou, China
- 2011 **Wander-Land**, Temple University Gallery, Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
- 2011 **Wet Paint Two: Sijia Chen**, Zhou B. Art Center, Chicago, IL

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 **Dual Visions**, William D Cannon Art Gallery, Carlsbad, CA
- 2023 **Mountain**, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom
- 2023 **Disparate Alleys**, Gallery 70, Tirana, Albania
- 2023 **Collective Memory**, Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 **Revel In Your Time**, Small Projects, Tromso, Norway
- 2022 **Transmogrified**, Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 **Terra Firma**, New Museum Los Gatos, Los Gatos, CA
- 2022 **Tieze**, Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022 **Quaranta**, bG Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 **Qualitative Variables**, Jupiter Museum of Art, Shenzhen, China
- 2021 **Stop AAPI Hate**, 33 Contemporary Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2021 **Nomad**, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA
- 2021 **Power on the Horizon: Part 2**, Jupiter Museum of Art, Shenzhen, China
- 2021 **Power on the Horizon: Part 1**, Chaozhou Museum of Art, Chaozhou, China

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- 2019 **Escapism from Los Angeles**, SOIL Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2019 **From Out of the Western Sky**, Ekkisens Gallery, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2018 **Conversation**, Red Gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- 2018 **Asian Wind and Finnish Woods**, Gallery Kookos, Helsinki, Finland
- 2018 **Collectivity**, Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 **Dragnet:832**, Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 **Kan**, Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 **Odd Convergences: Steps/Missteps**, Korean Cultural Center, Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 **Inverted Realities**, Oxnard College, CA
- 2017 **Entangled Loci**, HilbertRaum Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2017 **The Collectives**, Brand Library, Glendale, CA
- 2017 **Formats**, Shugu Museum, Shenzhen, China
- 2017 **Round Two**, Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 **The Newbies**, Durden and Ray, Los Angeles, CA
- 2016 **Start**, the Abstract Art of China, Art Xiamen, Xiamen, China
- 2016 **Mas Attack X**, Fine Art Complex, Tempe, AZ
- 2015 **Chang Jiang International Photography and Video Biennale**, Chongqing, China
- 2015 **Stay Under Sea**, N+ Space, Shantou, China
- 2015 **Art Bamboo 146**, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 **Beyond the Ocean**, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA
- 2014 **Transforming Feminism, South** Bay Contemporary, San Pedro, CA
- 2014 **TBD**, University of Wisconsin, White Water, WI
- 2013 **Red Point**, Art Basel Miami, FL
- 2013 **Homing Pigeon**, Gallery Lara Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
- 2013 **Chengdu Biennial**, Chengdu, China
- 2013 **Art Nova 100**, Beijing, China
- 2013 **Symbiosis Cultural Part Two**, 33 Contemporary Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2013 **Symbiosis Cultural**, Tijuana, Mexico
- 2013 **Top of Fashion-the Invited Female Artist Exhibition**, Enjoy Museum, Beijing, China
- 2013 **Synergy**, Art Space 191, Vienna, Austria
- 2012 **Art-Energy-Future**, Regional Museum of Natural Science, Turin, Italy
- 2011 **Baling Hou**, Red Point Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2011 **Baling Hou Continues: Next Generation of Asian Art 2011**, Goldbach Center, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2011 **Woot!** Crane Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2011 **National Wet Paint Exhibition 2011**, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2011 **Juried Gallery Show**, F&N Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010 **I Heart Art**, Wassaic Project, New York, NY
- 2010 **PDA/PDS: Graduate Student Exhibition**, Presser Hall, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
- 2009 **Chengdu Biennial**, Chengdu, China
- 2009 **Today National Art Student Annual Awards**, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2008 **Left and Right China International Art Festival**, Left Right Art Zone, Beijing, China
- 2007 **Second Art Exhibition by New Generation of Artists in Guangzhou**, Guangdong Museum of Art,

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Guangzhou, China

2007 **Pingyao International Photography Festival**, Pingyao, China

## INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS

- Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom
- Museum of Contemporary Art, Chengdu, China
- Inside Out Museum, Beijing, China
- Goldbach Center, Zurich, Switzerland
- Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
- Art Museum of Shantou University, Shantou, China
- University City Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, China

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 **Guest Lecturer**, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
- 2022 **Speaker**, Cal State University Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
- 2022 **Speaker**, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 2021 **Speaker**, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- 2016 **Speaker**, Art and Sustainability, Net Impact Los Angeles, Culver City, CA
- 2015 **Speaker**, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 **Speaker**, University of Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 **Curator**, Exchange Exhibitions, Torrance Art Museum, Los Angeles and Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, China
- 2013-2014 **Curator**, 33 Contemporary Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2011-2014 **Guest Curator**, Ucity Art Museum, Guangzhou, China
- 2013 **Adjunct Professor**, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China
- 2013 **Artist in Residence**, Inside Out Museum, Beijing, China
- 2013 **Lecturer**, Cheung Kong School of Art and Design, Shantou University, China
- 2012 **Speaker**, International Photographers Association of Los Angeles
- 2011 **Speaker**, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
- 2009 **Exhibition Assistant and English/Chinese Interpreter**, "Cai Guoqiang-Fallen Blossom," Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA

## GALLERY AFFILIATIONS

- **Durden & Ray**, Los Angeles, CA

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## ARTWORK PORTFOLIO

SWA, 2017, stainless steel, acrylic, LED light tubes, 18' height, 64' width, 33' depth, Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport, Jieyang, Guangdong Province, China, 500,000 USD, commissioned by Shantou, Chaozhou, Jieyang Airport Corporation.



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Tea and Tree, 2017, fiberglass, acrylic, 24' height, 18' width, 18' depth, Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport, Jieyang, Guangdong Province, China, 100,000 USD, commissioned by Shantou, Chaozhou, Jieyang Airport Corporation.



Arbor, 2018, stainless steel, 11' height, 11' width, 11' depth, City Hall, Claremont, CA, 25,000 USD, commissioned by City of Claremont.



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Voyage Beyond, 2019, stainless steel, acrylic, 14' height, 37' width, 9' depth, Central Park, Shantou, Guangdong Province, China, 100,000 USD, commissioned by City of Shantou.



Bloom, 2019, stainless steel, acrylic, 14' height, 17' width, 15' depth, Richards Park, North Kansas City, MO, 70,000 USD, commissioned by North Kansas City.





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Blossom, 2020, stainless steel, acrylic, 15' height, 45' width, 15' depth, Shantou Regional Railway Station, Shantou, Guangdong Province, China, 200,000 USD, commissioned by Guangdong Railway Authority.



Endeavor, December 2023 est. installation, stainless steel, 18' height, 10' width, 8' depth, Bohenko Gateway Park, Portsmouth, NH, 175,000 USD, commissioned by PNH400 and City of Portsmouth.



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Twin Peaks, 2021, immigration forms, magazines, photographs, restaurant menus, acrylic, canvas, 3'4" height, 6'8" width, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, \$30,000 USD, purchased by Port of Seattle.



Where Waters Converge, 2023, personal documents, immigration forms, photographs, magazines, restaurant menus, tissue paper, canvas, 6'7" height, 22' width.



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## PUBLIC SECTOR WORK EXPERIENCE

**Cloud Field**, Northwest Water Facility, Wichita, KS (currently in progress)  
**Endeavor**, Bohenko Gateway Park, Portsmouth, NH (currently in progress)  
**Blossom**, Central Railway Station, Shantou, China  
**Bloom**, Richards Park, North Kansas City, MO  
**Voyage Beyond**, Times Square Park, Shantou, China  
**Arbor**, Claremont City Hall, Claremont, CA  
**SWA**, Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport, Jieyang, China  
**Tea and Tree**, Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport, Jieyang, China

SWA was commissioned by Jieyang Chaoshan International Airport, and was completed in 2017. I partnered with local Chaoshan region papercut practitioners to develop the designs for SWA, and with the assistance of project administrators, surveyed the public on what they wanted to represent of Chaoshanese culture.

Description	Amount
Design, Fabrication, Finishing Labor	\$150,000
Stainless Steel	\$50,000
Acrylic Base Paint & Top Coat	\$2,000
LED lights	\$1,000
Concrete supports	\$10,000
Ceramic Tiles	\$10,000
Electrical, Utilities, Structural Engineering	\$25,000
Excavation	\$30,000
Foundation	\$50,000
Site Construction Costs & Labor	\$30,000
Landscaping	\$5,000
Travel, Insurance, Administrative Costs	\$10,000
Artist Fee	\$90,000
Contingency & Maintenance	\$37,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

Nanchen Zeng, Director of Nanyang Cultural Development Ltd  
Commissioning body for *SWA*, *Tea and Tree*, *Voyage Beyond* public art projects  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Huaxing Building, 97 Changping Road, Shantou, China  
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Endeavor is a currently in progress public sculpture, and was commissioned by PNH400, Inc. and the City of Portsmouth, and is planned for final installation in December 2023. I met with the students at Portsmouth Middle School, Portsmouth High School, and University of New Hampshire, Durham, during which I presented my artistic practice, my concept Endeavor, and hosted paper workshops. I also hosted several community events with the assistance of the Portsmouth Public Library and the Portsmouth Arts & Nonprofit Committee, and presented my concept and engaged in collaborative dialogue with community volunteers and administrators at the Strawberry Banke Museum, Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth Historical Society, and Chamber of Commerce. I also created a project specific website, [www.endeavorforportsmouth.com](http://www.endeavorforportsmouth.com), so that the public could respond to a curated list of questions, submit visual materials such as photos of local landmarks and original artistic designs, and view updates and content about the project's concept and progress.

Description	Amount
Design, Fabrication, Finishing Labor	\$60,000
Stainless Steel	\$25,000
Shipping	\$10,000
Site Construction Costs & Labor	\$5,000
Engineering Review	\$2,000
Travel, Insurance, Administrative Costs	\$3,000
Excavation	\$10,000
Foundation	\$15,000
Geotechnical Survey	\$10,000
Site Engineering	\$15,000
Artist Fee	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>

Ernie Greenslade, Chair of PNH400 Legacy Task Force  
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Cloud Field is a currently in progress public sculpture, and was commissioned by Nine Dot Arts and the City of Wichita, and is planned for final installation in early summer of 2024. I met with the students at four Wichita high schools, during which I presented my artistic practice, my concept for the project, and hosted paper workshops. I also met with the faculty and student aids at Wichita State University, and we are planning for me to participate in several guest lecturer sessions with their undergraduate and graduate level programs. I also hosted a community event with the assistance of Wichita City Arts, and presented my concept and engaged in collaborative dialogue with community volunteers and administrators at Wichita Art Museum, Kansas Aviation Museum, and the Project Steering Committee with the City of Wichita. I also created a project specific website, [www.cloudfieldwichita.com](http://www.cloudfieldwichita.com), so that the public could respond to a curated list of questions, submit visual materials such as photos of local landmarks and original artistic designs, and view updates and content about the project's concept and progress.

Description	Amount
Design, Fabrication, Finishing Labor	\$110,000
Stainless Steel	\$40,000
Shipping	\$20,000
Site Construction Costs & Labor	\$4,000
Engineering Review	\$3,500
Foundation	\$20,000
Electrical & Lighting	\$13,000
Travel, Insurance, Administrative Costs	\$6,000
Artist Fee	\$40,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$256,500</b>

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