



**MEDIA CONTACT**  
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For Immediate Release

## **Experience Art Inspired by Food at the Palo Alto Art Center This Winter** *In Feast or Famine* Explores Diverse Perspectives on Food Through Art



Chelsea Ryoko Wong, *A Modern Feast*, 2022, acrylic on canvas, 60 x 48 in., Courtesy of Pat and Kimberly Lin

**PALO ALTO, CALIF.** — The Palo Alto Art Center is pleased to present the exhibition *In Feast or Famine*, Jan. 20-April 6, 2024. Featuring the work of 24 artists from throughout the region and country produced in a wide range of media, the exhibition celebrates the power of food to connect us to identity, culture, and each other.

Part of a 2023-24 series highlighting artistic approaches to the subject of food, guest curator Marianne McGrath describes *In Feast or Famine* as exploring food as story, symbol, and sustenance. The exhibition investigates the intersection of food and art, as well as our human inclination to assemble around food with family and friends. Beyond the dining table, working together with food is essential in every community, from the fields and farms to the marketplace and kitchen. McGrath shares, “In the kitchen, for non-artists and artists alike, preparing food is mode of creativity that almost everyone practices daily. Food might be our first introduction to “making” something with a process, specific materials and intended outcome, like art. A recipe, menu or meal can be a medium to open the door to self-expression, shared community, and new cultures.”

*In Feast or Famine* presents drawings, paintings, printmaking, photography, sculpture, collage, installation and video. Artists consider our connections with food within the contexts of history

and memory, identity and community, food equity, agriculture, and our environment. From connecting us to our sources of food, to creating awareness about unique cuisines, culinary accoutrements, and customs, artists help us learn about each other, gain appreciation for our differences, and grow closer through our shared nourishment from both food and fine art.

Artists in the exhibition include: **Eva Aguila, Abiam Alvarez, Suhas Bhujbal, Christy Chan, Kim Cogan, Frederic G. Cooper, Reniel Del Rosario, Colette Fu, Alonsa Guevara, Liz Hernandez, Stefanie Herr, Jeanne F. Jalandoni, Narsiso Martinez, Thien Pham, Cooper Salmon, Gregg Segal, Leslie Lewis Sigler, Lucy Stark, Kirsten Stolle, Wayne Thiebaud, Chelsea Wong, Connie Zheng.**

*In Feast or Famine* is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.



#### **COMPANION MEETING ROOM EXHIBITION:**

In conjunction with *In Feast or Famine*, the Art Center will present a companion exhibition, *We Are What We Eat*, in our Meeting Room space from Feb. 3- March 31, 2024. This presentation highlights food traditions from Palo Alto's eight sister cities, through photography, drawing, and more. The exhibition is presented in collaboration with Palo Alto's Neighbors Abroad, a nonprofit, all-volunteer, civic organization affiliated with Sister Cities International and the City of Palo Alto.

#### **ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS:**

**Friday Night at the Art Center Opening Celebration—Friday Jan. 26, 6-8 p.m., FREE, Palo Alto Art Center**

Celebrate *In Feast or Famine* at a special opening celebration featuring hands-on art activities and specialty cocktails at a cash bar provided by the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation. Palo Alto Art Center Foundation members may join early for a preview at 5 p.m.

***In Feast or Famine* Virtual Artist Panel—Thursday, Feb. 22, 6-8 p.m., FREE, Zoom**

Hear from artists in the *In Feast or Famine* exhibition about how they find inspiration from food and join them in conversation with community food leaders about how food helps to build community.

**Family Day—Sunday, March 24, 2-4:30 p.m., FREE**

Join us for a day filled with family-friendly art activities inspired by food and the current exhibition *In Feast or Famine*.

**About the Palo Alto Art Center:**

The Palo Alto Art Center is your place to discover art, activate your creativity, and expand your community. Created by the community, for the community in 1971, the Palo Alto Art Center provides an accessible and welcoming place to engage with art. We serve approximately 150,000 people every year through a diverse range of programs.

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