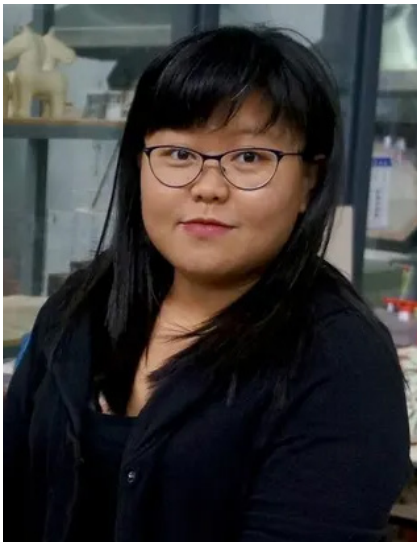


Soe Yu Nwe

(Lashio, Myanmar, 1989)



Soe Yu Nwe draws inspiration from Burmese folklore, vernacular arts, and Buddhist and animistic practices. Her sculptures often feature fragmented female bodies transformed into visceral, semi-botanical forms. Reflecting her own mixed Chinese-Myanmar heritage, Nwe's practice embraces hybridity to explore the multiplicity and fluidity of identity.

One of her recurring mythical motifs is the "Goddess of the Serpent", a metaphor for the self, rebirth, and femininity – a symbolic challenge to the conservative gender roles traditionally upheld in Myanmar's Buddhist doctrine. Another significant motif in this exhibition is the head of Guanyin (Goddess of Mercy). Inspired by her encounter with the Kannon (Guanyin) statues at Sanjūsangen-dō in Kyoto where the deity appears as male, unlike the typically female depictions in Myanmar, Nwe began exploring gender identity through this mythological figure, expanding the motif into a new body of work.

In her "Inspiration from Shan State" series, she explored her family's migration history from Yunnan to Myanmar. In her acquired work at the British Museum's Burma to Myanmar exhibition, Soe narrated her identity and emotional conflict through the Burmese Python symbol. Soe's work has been exhibited internationally including institutions such as Leeum Museum of Art (Korea), Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (Australia), Simose Art Museum (Japan), The New Taipei City Yingge Ceramic Museum (Taiwan), National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta (Indonesia) and ArtScience Museum (Singapore). Soe was named in 2019 Forbes 30 Under 30: Art & Style. Soe has been awarded the inaugural 2023 Advocacy for the Arts Fellowship from The Rockefeller Foundation and CARE USA.

Currently lives and woks in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai in Thailand.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2020 Hybridized Beings, Myanm/art, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2019 Rebirth | Enigmatic Bodies, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, USA
- 2018 Serpentine, Myanm/art, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2017 Soe Yu Nwe, Myanm/art Gallery, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2016 The Self Reconfigured, Munro Gallery, Albion College, Michigan, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2025 Making Kin, Humboldt Forum Museum, Berlin, Germany
 - Ambient, Environment, Circumstances -The Topography of Contemporary Art, Simose Art Museum, Hiroshima, Japan
 - Disobedient Bodies: Reclaiming Her, Sundaram Tagore, Singapore
 - Defying Boundaries: Female Vision, Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2024 Art Spectrum : Dream Screen, Leeum Museum of Art, Korea
 - Animal Garden, Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo
 - En route : Southeast Asia, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore, China
 - Ota Fine Arts at Art021, Shanghai, China
 - Benefit Auction, The Drawing Center, New York, USA
- 2023 I can spin skies, Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane, Australia
 - The Open World, Thailand Biennale, Baan Dam Museum, Chiang Rai, Thailand
 - Burma to Myanmar, The British Museum, UK
 - New Eden, ArtScience Museum, Singapore
 - How Many Worlds are We, Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand

Strength in Fragility: an Exhibition by the Women Artists in Myanmar, Goethe Institut, Yangon, Myanmar

Fighting Fear (Part 2), 16albermarle Project Space, Sydney, Australia

2022 Our Grandfather Road: The (gendered) body and place in contemporary southeast Asian art, 16albermarle Project Space, Sydney, Australia

C a r e, Goethe Institut, Myanmar

Universe One: Portal to an impossible City, Myanm/art, Myanmar

Shi , Goethe Institut, Myanmar

2021 To Rise To The Surface, ASEAN Culture House, Busan, Korea

This Time: Contemporary Watercolor, A+ Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Myanmar Voices: We Are Still Here, Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong

A Life Beyond Boundaries (the Geography of Belonging), JWD Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand

Fighting Fear: #whatshappeninginmyanmar, 16albermarle Project Space, Sydney, Australia

Reminiscence: A Southeast Asian Female Artists Exhibition, The 54th National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Concurrent Virtual Exhibition, USA

Vectors: The Artaxis Fellowship in its First Four Years, NCECA Concurrent Virtual Exhibition, USA

Temperature of Time: Contemporary Ceramic Art Exhibition, Shenzhen Creative Week, Shenzhen, China

2020 In the Forest, Even the Air Breathes, GAMeC, Bergamo, Italy

Essentialist Images, Richard Koh Gallery, Singapore

2019 A+ Entrees, A+Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ClayFest Northwest, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA, USA

Polyphony: Southeast Asia, The Art Museum of Nanjing University of the Arts (AMNUA), Nanjing, China

A+ Works of Art at Art Expo Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Resident Artists Exhibition, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA, USA

To Return, Na Space, Jingdezhen, Jiangxi, China

The Sovereign Asian Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Hart Hall at H Queen, Hong Kong

Ceramics Invitational, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA, USA

Seeing Through Buddhism: Myanmar's Contemporary Art Scene, Theertha Red Dot Gallery, Sri Lanka

2018 A Gifted Offering, Eutectic Gallery, Portland, OR, USA

East Side West Side: All Around the Town, ArtEAST, Issaquah, WA, USA

Working Relationship, North Seattle College Art Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA

Art in Context, The American Center of the U.S. Embassy, Yangon, Myanmar

ClayFest Northwest, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA, USA

Yavuz Gallery at Art Fairs Philippines, Manila, Philippines

Love Knots, Drive-by Projects, Watertown, MA, USA

2017 ClayFest Northwest, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA, USA

Clayfest Northwest Preview: A Survey of Contemporary Ceramics from Pottery Northwest, Bemis Arts, Seattle, WA, USA

Sculptured, Vol. 1, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

Artists Beyond Boundaries: Myanmar Artists Reflect on Art and the Future, The American Center of the U.S. Embassy, Yangon, Myanmar

Mud of Asia, RMA Institute, Bangkok, Thailand

Flux: Ceramics Triennial, Woods-Gerry Gallery, RISD, Providence, USA

2016 Selected Work: Group Exhibition, River Gallery, Yangon, Myanmar

Me and My Arrow, ZieherSmith, New York City, NY, USA

Nature Gone Wrong, Drive-By Projects, Watertown, MA, USA

- 2015 Dialectics of Self: Two Persons Exhibition with Jungmok Lee, A. Thomas Ferreira Gallery, California State University, Long Beach, CA, USA
- 12th Annual Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA, USA
- Spring Wound (Graduate Thesis Exhibition), Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI, USA
- Kinsey Institute Juried Art Show, The Grunwald Gallery of Art, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA
- Of Earth (locally generated NCECA exhibition), Anchor Providence, Providence, RI, USA
- Risky, Metcalf Galleries, RISD, Providence, RI, USA
- Paper Chasers, Memorial Hall Gallery, RISD, Providence RI, USA
- 2014 Steal This Art, Granoff Center, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA
- College Collective, Firehouse Gallery, Genesee Pottery, Rochester, NY (Jurors: Will Contino, Mitch Messina)
- Just Kiln Me, Sol Koffler Gallery, RISD, Providence, RI, USA
- 2013 Ceramics Triennial, Woods-Gerry Gallery, RISD, Providence, RI, USA
- Albion College Senior Art Major Exhibition, Albion College, MI, USA
- Michigan Small Colleges Art Exhibition, Alma College, Alma, MI, USA
- The Michigan Mud Juried Student Competition, Michigan Ceramic Arts Association, Delta College, MI, USA
- 2012 Michigan Ceramics: 2012 Biennial Exhibition and Competition, Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Robinson Gallery, Birmingham, MI, USA
- Michigan Small Colleges Art Exhibition, Olivet College, Olivet, MI, USA
2011
- 2011 Michigan Mud 2011 Juried Student Show, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
- Michigan Small Colleges Art Exhibition, Adrian College, Adrian, MI, USA

AWARDS

- 2023 Advocacy and the Arts Fellowship, The Rockefeller Foundation and CARE USA
- 2020 Young Alumni Award, Albion College, USA
- 2019 Forbes 30 Under 30: Art & Style, USA
Finalist, The 2019 Sovereign Asia Art Prize, Hong Kong
- 2017 Artaxis Fellowship at Haystack, Deer Isle, MA. USA
- 2016 First Prize, The 1st Taoxichuan Cup: Porcelain City Top Ten Youth, Jingdezhen Municipal Party Committee, Jingdezhen, China

Artistic Selection Award, Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2013 Outstanding Senior Art Major Award, Albion College, MI, USA
- 2012 Honorable Mention, Michigan Small Colleges Exhibition, Olivet College, MI, USA
- 2011 Outstanding Ceramic Entry, Runyon Pottery Award, Michigan Ceramic Art Association, MI, USA

COLLECTIONS

The British Museum, UK

Queensland Art Gallery Collection, Brisbane, Australia

New Taipei City Yingge Ceramic Museum, Taiwan

Artpark, NY, USA

Shangyu Museum, Zhejiang, China

Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Japan

DC Collection, USA

Tanoto Art Foundation, Singapore