

LEESE STREET STUDIO

The logo for Leese Street Studio features a large, stylized blue letter 'A' that is partially obscured by a blue wave-like shape. Below the 'A' is a blue wave-like shape that resembles a stylized 'L' or a wave.

Named for the work space of Filipino American artist, educator, and activist Carlos Villa (1936–2013), Leese Street Studio presents interdisciplinary visual work by artists of the Filipinx diaspora.

Alon is thrilled to feature some of the visual work of Jenifer K Wofford—a skilled educator and interdisciplinary artist. So much of her work is infused with a collaborative spirit, especially evident in her many years as one-third of the performance group, Mail Order Brides/M.O.B., where they play with conventions and cultural commitments to gender, sexuality, corporate identity, and popular culture. There is in Wofford’s work a vibrant sense of humor and play—where strict definitions cannot hold—as well as a deep appreciation for traditions of Asian American artmaking. You’ll see this especially in her mural which adorns a wall at San Francisco’s Asian Art Museum—the names of ancestors call out to you on the sidewalk. Gone but not forgotten. Wofford helps us stay anchored while our imaginations take flight.

Jenifer K Wofford

Jenifer K Wofford is a San Francisco-based artist and educator whose work investigates hybridity, history, calamity, and global culture, often with a humorous bent. She is also 1/3 of the Filipina-American artist trio Mail Order Brides/M.O.B. Her work has been exhibited in the San Francisco Bay Area at the Asian Art Museum, Berkeley Art Museum, Oakland Museum of California, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA), San Jose Museum of Art, Southern Exposure, and Kearny Street Workshop. Wofford’s work has appeared at New Image Art (Los Angeles), Wing Luke Museum (Seattle), DePaul Museum (Chicago), Silverlens Galleries (Philippines), VWFA (Malaysia), and Osage Gallery (Hong Kong).

Wofford is a 2023 YBCA 100 Honoree and a recent recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant. Her other awards include the Eureka Fellowship, the Murphy Fellowship, and grants from the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Art Matters Foundation, and the Center for Cultural Innovation. She has also been artist-in-residence at The Living Room (Philippines), Liguria Study Center (Italy), and KinoKino (Norway).

Wofford teaches in the Fine Arts and Philippine Studies programs of the University of San Francisco. She has also taught at UC Berkeley, Mills College, SFAI, California College of the Arts, and San Francisco State University. She holds degrees from the San Francisco Art Institute (BFA) and UC Berkeley (MFA). Born in San Francisco and raised in Hong Kong, Dubai, Malaysia, and the Bay Area, Wofford has also lived in Oakland and Prague in addition to San Francisco. A committed and active member of the Bay Area art community, Wofford currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors of Southern Exposure. For more information, visit www.wofflehouse.com.

PORTALS + BATTLEFIELDS (2022)

Jenifer K Wofford

Portals + Battlefields (2022)

Paintings: acrylic on canvas
as exhibited at Silverlens Gallery, Manila

Six paintings included in “Aquifer,” an exhibition with MM Yu and Dina Gadia at Silverlens Gallery, Philippines. These paintings evolve Wofford’s “Rupturre” project which speaks to history and crisis. This recent work is less about abrupt rupture while still being about change and other unstable, mutable energies shifting beneath the surface. Images or terms that have informed this work, and the shapes and patterns within them: Energy. Mysteries. Spells. Portals. Power. Protection. Containment. Liminality. Neuroplasticity. Electricity. Psychedelia. Vision. Rage. Grief. Loss. Calamity. Battlefields. Flow vs break. Fluidity vs rigidity.



Battlefield I



Battlefield II



Portal I: Vas Hermeticum



Portal II: The Humors



Portal III: The Humors



Portal IV: Protection Spell

Pattern Recognition (2020-2022)

Mural (acrylic paint on aluminum panel), 2020

Digital mural (print on textile), 2022

Speech bubbles shout out the names of nine early Asian American artists who lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay Area.

These familiar cartoon graphics combine with recognizable Asian decorative patterns and a festive 1980s design vocabulary to celebrate Asian American immigrant histories and cultures.

Motifs were found in works in the collection of the Asian Art Museum as well as traditional designs drawn from Asian cultures represented in the museum's surrounding communities. Originally commissioned for and displayed on the museum's rear wall in San Francisco, later reproduced digitally, printed and displayed on the front exterior of the Asia Society building in Houston, Texas.



[Sekimachi] Pattern Recognition (detail)



[Obata] Pattern Recognition (detail)



[Wong] Pattern Recognition (detail)



[Asawa] Pattern Recognition (detail)



[Villa] Pattern Recognition (detail)



[Bing] Pattern Recognition (detail)



[Okamura] Pattern Recognition (detail)



[Kim] Pattern Recognition (detail)



[Valendor] Pattern Recognition (detail)



Jenifer K Wofford on "Pattern Recognition"