

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **RENE YUNG: *...nges & disappearances***

At the new Euphrat Museum of Art

February 17 - April 16, 2009

Reception Wednesday, March 11, 5:30-7:30pm



[Cupertino, CA] Artist Rene Yung's interactive installation *...nges & disappearances* is featured in the new Euphrat Museum's inaugural exhibition. The installation engages viewers in contemplating the shifting role of memory in the lives and legacy of immigrants, and their invisibility as laborers and builders in our society.

*...nges & disappearances* centers around a wall built with nearly 400 bars of soap, each stamped with the word "REMEMBER." Viewers use the soap to wash towels imprinted with words of official identities or personal memories, and hang the towels on a clothesline stretching across the installation space. After repeated washings, the memory words on both soap and towels are worn away. As soap bars are removed from the wall, a life-size charcoal drawing based on a historical image of a 19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese laborer is revealed.

The installation is designed to slowly change through viewer interaction over the duration of the exhibition, in subtle re-enactment of the linked processes of recall and erasure in communal memory. Originally commissioned for a traveling exhibition about the lost history of 19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese immigrants in the American West, *...nges & disappearances* also speaks to the immigration controversy today.



Rene Yung is a San Francisco-based artist, designer, and writer. A native of Hong Kong, Yung has exhibited nationally and internationally and conducted numerous community cultural development projects.

*...nges & disappearances* is highlighted in “Looking Back, Looking Forward,” the inaugural exhibition of the brand new exhibition space of the Euphrat Museum of Art in Cupertino. Weaving together the stories of artists and the stories of Silicon Valley residents and groups in an effort to understand the fascinating community, the exhibition includes Paul Pei-Jen Hau, Agnes Pelton, Thai Bui, Angela Buenning Filo, Consuelo Jimenez Underwood, and others.

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**Euphrat Museum of Art**

De Anza College  
1250 Stevens Creek Boulevard  
Cupertino, CA, 95050  
(408)864-8836



The new Euphrat Museum of Art is in the front of De Anza College’s new Visual and Performing Arts Center, in the northeast section of campus facing Stevens Creek Boulevard. For directions visit <http://www.deanza.edu/map/>

**Museum Hours:**

Monday - Thursday, 10AM - 4pm

<http://www.deanza.edu/euphrat/inthemuseum.html>

**For Additional Information:**

Please contact Rene Yung at 415 826 7746 or [reneyung@mindspring.com](mailto:reneyung@mindspring.com)

High resolution images available on request.

**Images:**

*...nges & disappearances, 2004. Interactive mixed media installation, dimensions variable.*

*installation detail: viewer washing ...nges & disappearances towel with REMEMBER soap*

*installation detail: saponified fat, turmeric, 5-spice powder*

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