

ASIAN IN AMERICA

a symbolic exhibition and dining experience





SUBSTITUTIONS

course one

what of me is interchangeable?

I never did ask, but you told me anyway

individualism is a majority privilege

maybe it is you who cannot taste nuance

because my memories can

“yellowtail” (lentil miso cured kanpachi)

“pork laap” (jackfruit)

“kombucha” (kombu-cha foam)

plated on faux chinoiserie



EGGS & BANANAS

cocktail one

french oak flash-aged bai jiu

fermented black bean & sichuan peppercorn syrup

oolong tea

amaro montenegro

salted whipped cream cheese

lao gan ma chili oil

Egg (noun): a white person that acts Asian

Banana (noun): an Asian person that acts white

This is an egg's cocktail take on the banana-inspired cheese tea craze.



YOU MAKE ASIAN FOOD, RIGHT?

[course two \(vr\)](#)

...putting it all together

I wonder if food is my way of being an individual

not just another minority

inching towards acceptance

I pipe in smoke at the last minute

curls of applewood that breeze through like a kiss

they have no deeper meaning

and you know what?

that's okay too



STEREOTYPES

course three

is it more painful when they are true
or false?

my mother demands
her own version of meekness from me
I remember our fights
when I buy dumplings
four to the dollar

not so spicy / Thai naem fermented shortribs
not so delicate / Japanese yam

not so greasy / Chinese pea vines
not banchan / plum with kimchi seasonings
not sesame / pressure cooked nigella seeds
not pho / bun mam



SKEWER

cocktail two

lamb fat washed brandy
charred garlic & chili pepper
shaoxing wine
Kummel
fennel syrup
MSG ice

Breathe in.

The smell of charred meats and spices fill the market air.

This is my way of distilling that sensation into a drink.

MODEL MINORITY

course four (vr)



...the star of this dish is veal sweetbreads

i find we have much in common

it's a lucky exception from the rule

that offals are distasteful

an aspiration for all minorities

searching for acceptance in fine dining kitchens

always reminded of its replaceability

dare it stray too far

...in the end,

being Asian American is a maze

a question about a hyphen

a contradiction

all bound tightly together in a feeling

of growing up somewhere but never belonging

S A V I O R S

course five

congratulations sandra oh
young jean lee
i've longed to hear your stories
the narrative not brought forth
by a white knight

andrew's persimmon mousse
andy's fish sauce caramel ice cream
rick's chapulines cake with mole sugar
gordon's small pear balls
bone marrow gel, grape leaf



REVISIONIST HISTORY

cocktail three

batavia arrack

sake

black tea

citrus syrup

Batavia Arrack is a palm sugar & red rice spirit made in Jakarta using Chinese distillation techniques. 'Batavia' was the name given to Jakarta by the Dutch, and to this day it is exported almost exclusively through the Netherlands. It is an Indonesian gift to the liquor world, yet this arrack is still only known by its colonial name.





FANCY BECAUSE IT'S FRENCH

[course 6 \(vr\)](#)

...this is not even a mooncake
but if call it such
I'm a chef, I shrug
if I misrepresented a few things
It's because I'm awakening my creativity

...truthfully I've forgotten
much of my own history
maybe that's why i've internalized another's
I grew up wishing I would wake up blonde
but I could never give up my love for soy milk
even if I drink it over ice



DOG FOOD IS A NECESSITY?

[bonus course \(ar\)](#)

what is more ironic
the fact you are eating something
I once created for my dogs
or
the lasting poverty we find unjust
while exclaiming their food disgusting
their actions inhumane
or
our neighbors going hungry
constrained by other's entitlement
no organs, no bones
or
a generation recognizing privilege
changing the world
with human-grade pet food