

Leon

A NON-PROFIT ARTS ORGANIZATION



Artist Angie Eng challenges visitors to interrogate society's perpetual cycle of image creation, consumption, and destruction, in her upcoming installation exhibition at Leon, *ICONOCLASHGIFTSFELD*, or *the ambiguity of image destruction in a poison field*.

Opening reception: Saturday, July 17th, 2021 6pm - 10pm  
with breakdance performance by Michael Mestas and Isabella Rosa

All exhibitions are free and open to the public

Ongoing exhibition: July 17th – August 27th, 2021

Leon is honored to present Angie Eng's most recent iteration of her prophetic and timely, *Iconoclasmgiftsfeld*, or *the ambiguity of image destruction in a poison field*. Through their keen awareness and sensitive observations of the world, artists are often harbingers of future events, predicting or anticipating pivotal moments in world history. Originally produced in New York City in 2018 as a stage performance incorporating live video mixing, experimental music, and a Butoh dancer, *Iconoclasmgiftsfeld* synthesizes globalization anxiety, mass tourism, and public spectacle, with retro 80's pop video, as a humorous yet scathing indictment of modern iconoclasm and our continuing struggle with the problematic messaging it promotes.

Eng, an intermedia artist who has received worldwide recognition for her experimental video projects highlighting the downtown culture of 90's New York City, originally envisioned *Iconoclasmgiftsfeld* as an art action project in the form of a tourist souvenir kiosk. Her installation premiering at Leon promises to be a further realization of that concept. Orchestrating a number of immersive installation components, including video monitors and three-dimensional sculptural components, along with performative elements in which the visitor/performer is actively

engaged in the consumption of souvenirs, Eng cleverly positions the audience to ironically perpetuate the continuing cycle of re-representation.

### **Artist Statement**

I have this ongoing side agenda to push creativity beyond the conventional art object and space as a strategy to surprise people into loving art. My first professional art exhibit was a sound piece that took place in an elevator at Art in General, an alternative space for emerging artists in downtown New York City. *Iconoclashgiftsfeld, or the ambiguity of image destruction in a poison field*, was initially conceived of as a pop-up tourist shop to analyze the destruction of monuments and the power of the image. I took the position of an archeologist and hence dug up as many images on the internet regarding modern iconoclasm since 2001 marked by the Taliban blowing up of the Buddhas of Bamiyan. I then reproduced the images and video footage on tourist items (t-shirts, caps, mugs, postcards, and key chains) at tourist prices. It's not the most lucrative art sales model but completes my commitment to disseminating atypical readings on our contemporary social climate with non-traditional art forms.

### **Artist Biography**

Angie Eng was born in San Francisco, California, and recently relocated from Paris, France, to Boulder, Colorado, to pursue a Ph.D. on *Kosmorganic aesthetics* in the intermedia arts program at CU Boulder. Prior to Paris, she lived and worked in New York City for 15 years, developing a professional art practice on expanded media and installation art. Although known for her experimental video performance and installation, she was trained as a painter at UC Santa Barbara. Light, color, pattern, and gesture continue to inform her work manifested in many genres such as AV performance, video art, sound art, conceptual art, and new media. Earning her label as a peripatetic artist, this year she worked on a sound walk, an audiovisual mapping projection, an interactive sound poetry installation, a series of paintings highlighting 32 landmark civil rights cases, a public art project of recycled materials in conjunction with *Iconoclashgiftsfeld* for Leon Gallery. Her work has been presented worldwide in venues such as The Whitney Museum at Philip Morris, Lincoln Center, The Kitchen, New Museum of Contemporary Art, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Eyebeam Art and Technology Center, Roulette Intermedium, Bronx Museum, Artists Space, Anthology Film Archives, Le Cube, CNES, and Cité de la Musique. She has received numerous awards and commissions for her work from New Radio and Performing Arts, Harvestworks, Art in General, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York State Council on the Arts, Jerome Foundation, Alternative Museum, Experimental TV Center Finishing Funds, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, and the Boulder Arts Commission. Artist website- <http://www.angieeng.com>

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Gallery hours: Wed-Friday 10am - 6pm, Saturday-Sunday 12pm-5pm