



Designs for *Year of the Snake*, courtesy of the artist.

***Year of the Snake* by Artist Misa Chhan is on display at
The Rose Kennedy Greenway**

*Chhan's new public artwork is on view in The Greenway's park space
at Chin Park beginning June 2025*

June 12, 2025 – BOSTON, MA – The [Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy](https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/), the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway, is pleased to announce that a new public art installation from Los Angeles-based artist Misa Chhan, *Year of the Snake*, will be on view to the public beginning June 11, 2025 at Chin Park. The artwork features a two-part installation composed of fabric flags and aluminum prints with photocollage elements that honor the legacy and resilience of Cambodian diasporic communities and the artist's own family.

To create each series of works, the artist drew upon a range of domestic materials, including curtains, doilies, archival family photo albums, and furniture from their family home, to continue their exploration of the color blue via indigo dyeing and cyanotype processes. Taken together, Chhan's installation explores how we make home and belonging through journeys from one

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country to another, from one realm to another, and in the everyday transitions and changes from one moment to the next.

Through 20 cyanotype and indigo-printed fabric flags, Chhan pulls material inspiration both from her father's practice as a craftsman and from Octavia Butler's iconic speculative fiction novel *Parable of the Sower* to explore ideas of blessings, luck, community, and change. Of particular note are 10 flags featuring a handmade indigo shibori-dyed spider web—a symbol of strength, community, and connection—all things that help us survive and thrive through change.

Misa Chhan, the artist, shared that their use of natural materials like textiles, fibers, clay, and soil asks us to “consider earth as a living entity rather than a territory to be owned.” The artist continues: “Utilizing ancient craft methods helps to establish links between past and present practitioners, allowing me to participate in premodern processes connected to human evolution,” they add. “This practice feels revolutionary in a society that glorifies hyperconsumption and disposability.”

Across the photcollage series, cyanotype prints made from vintage curtains wrap and partly cover the photographs in a hazy, dream-like way, nodding to the domesticity of trying to nest and find home through memories. These prints tell the story of Chhan's parents, who immigrated to the United States from Cambodia to escape the brutality of war under the Khmer Rouge regime. The artist selected images of their parents in refugee camps learning English as a Second Language, raising the artist and their sibling in Section 8 housing, and learning how to run a donut business. Like thousands of families in the Cambodian diaspora, Chhan's family joined the West Coast donut business community as a pathway to obtaining immigration sponsorship and making a living in the United States.



Audrey Lopez, The Greenway Conservancy's Director and Curator of Public Art, says: “Chhan's work comes to us at a critical moment when immigrant communities across the country are facing heightened surveillance, vilification, persecution, and violence. Chhan's artwork rehumanizes diasporic experiences by offering tender reminders of the quiet, everyday moments, hopes, dreams, challenges, and successes of families who come to the US, and the resilience created in community along the way.”

About Misa Chhan

Image credit for portrait: Courtesy of the artist.

Misa Chhan (they/them) is an artist and natural dyer who lives and works in Los Angeles. They work across natural dyes, textiles, fibers, kites, printmaking, and artists' books.

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Their background in book arts, printmaking, and papermaking was a starting point to explore natural dyes as a medium to stay engaged with and learn from the natural world. Understanding that humans are fundamentally dependent on nature for survival, Chhan's goal is to show how we work in collaboration with the environment and our interconnectedness to all living things. They spend their time gardening, practicing how to coax color from plants, composting, and researching natural dyes and minerals, and how to integrate them into their daily life. Chhan earned their BA in Book Arts at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2013.

A Special Thank You to Our Supporters

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About The Greenway and The Greenway Conservancy (rosekennedygreenway.org)

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston and one of the most visited attractions in the Commonwealth, welcoming millions of visitors annually. The Greenway is managed by the Greenway Conservancy, a non-profit responsible for the administration and care of the park. The majority of the Conservancy's annual budget is made up of generous donations from the community, and it is with their support that the Conservancy cultivates a gathering space where all are welcome and celebrated.

The Greenway Conservancy Public Art Program brings innovative and contemporary art to Boston through free, seasonal exhibitions that engage people in meaningful experiences, interactions, and dialogue with art, each other, and the most pressing issues of our time. Past Greenway exhibitions can be viewed on the Public Art Instagram (@greenwaypublicart) or the Conservancy's website.

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