

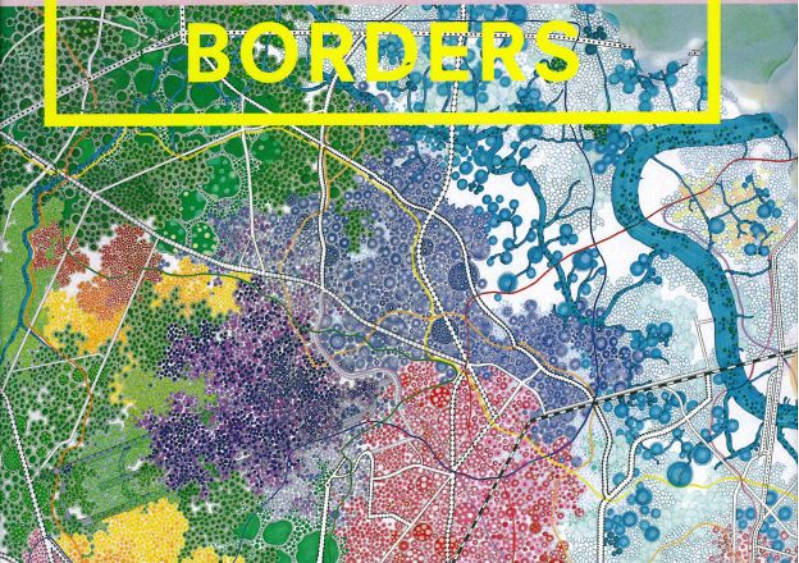
# An Anthology of Art and Literature by Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora

Edited by

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## TROUBLING BORDERS





## I Demand Respect

Kyom mun treuyka luoy bong the' cha (I don't need your money honey)  
 Rean banh kpouh kom suksa (I got my higher education and dedication)  
 Thenh laun haey ptey kloun ainh (Bought my car and house on my own)  
 Ne kyom meun uouth they kom bayht chraininh (I'm not bragging so don't be jealous)  
 Kroun tha prap prouyh chang ouhy bong youl (I'm just telling so you can understand)  
 Aleuv nung cheyvout kyom mean sompheap bongkul (Right now my life has joy)

Munmain mouvh sroul the (It didn't come easy)  
 Chuoyhkal aht ban deyth kom trasahe' (Sometimes didn't get sleep working hard to write)  
 Mayrean hay tverh kha bhey kralainh (Homework and workin' three jobs)  
 Chuoykal kmean paeyl choul ptey sambainh (Sometimes didn't have time to step into my home)  
 Ne hay ban kyom aht tloup (This is why I'm not used to)  
 Neuv chramouy manouh psengh besdong munngeah choup (Being with somebody else, this heart don't get stuck easily)

Prohs mouk sa'aht hay reang sungha (Pretty-faced men with nice bodies)  
 Mun krop kroun the' ouy chivha (Aren't enough for this lady)  
 Moi ne thovuh yo prapoun sroul wvenh dung (Maybe it's easier to have a wife)  
 Cha lue trovuh hay menh kom auh pralung (Yes you heard right don't be startled)  
 Manugh yung aihl sralangh neary hay borohs (People can love both women and men)  
 Munmain prabah the' bauk pneight and kouhkal pranhou (It's not that hard just open your eyes and mind)

Kom prouy barom kom bangh klaighth (Don't worry don't be scared)  
 Manugh Khmer yung maun sroul baighth (Khmer people won't be gone)  
 Pe phouplok ne ouy thay kom phlet tha kloun mauh phenhah (From this world, just don't forget where you came from)  
 Kyom som umvah som lok neah maytha (I beg and plead for mercy)  
 Juoy thaing auh khneah toukh sereaypheap (Help us all keep freedom)  
 Ne hay cheah Khmer mean sakamapheap (This right here is Khmer in Action)

GRACE KONG, 2009

PREVIOUS PAGES—

TIFFANY CHUNG

*Here We Go*, 2008

Digital chromogenic print, edition of 5 + 2 AP

39 x 59 in.

Courtesy of the artist and Tyler Rollins Fine Art



TIFFANY CHUNG

*Bubble Shooter and Friends*, 2008

Digital chromogenic print, edition of 5 + 2 AP

39 × 59 in.

Courtesy of the artist and Tyler Rollins Fine Art

# ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS AND EDITORS

## CONTRIBUTORS

**MELBA L. ABELA**, a Filipino American immigrant, was born in Capiz, Philippines. She received a BSE in history from the University of the Philippines, where she also matriculated in postgraduate studies in education and library science. She has had solo exhibitions at Diego Rivera Gallery, San Francisco Art Institute, and Washington Square Gallery/Togonon Gallery in San Francisco and participated in group shows throughout the United States. Melba has been an artist in residence at the Asian Art Museum, Asia Alive Program, in San Francisco and a fellow at the New Pacific Studio in Vallejo, California. Her artwork and writing have been featured in *Cheers to Muses*, *Paper Politics*, *Trepan*, *Santa Clara Review*, *Switchback*, *Tayo Magazine*, *Poets 11*, *Revolutionary Poets Brigade*, and *Occupy SF*.

**AZIZAH AHMAD** was born in San Francisco and is a second-generation Cham American. She received a BA in both religious studies and sociology with a minor in Asian American studies from the University of California, Davis. Azizah was one of the founding members of SickSpits Poetry Collective and was part of the first slam team at the University of California, Davis. She lives in Washington, D.C., where she is one of the lead organizers for the 2013 APIA Spoken Word and Poetry Summit ([apiaword.com](http://apiaword.com)). She works at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

**ANIDA YOEU ALI** is a first-generation Muslim Khmer woman born in Cambodia and raised in Chicago. She is a performance artist, writer, and global agitator. Since 1998, Anida has toured more than three hundred colleges and venues with the spoken word ensemble I Was Born With Two Tongues and the multimedia collective Mango Tribe. The Tongues' pioneering live performances and critically acclaimed debut CD *Broken Speak* ignited a new generation of Asian American voices. She is a founding member of Young Asians With Power!, Asian American Artists Collective—Chicago, the National APIA Spoken Word & Poetry Summit, and the fine arts journal *Monsoon*. Anida has received grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, the

Fulbright U.S. Student Program, the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Illinois Arts Council.

**ELIZA O. BARRIOS** is an interdisciplinary artist and curator for the Luggage Store Gallery's Projection Series based in San Francisco. She received her BA from San Francisco State University and her MFA from Mills College in Oakland, California. In addition to her individual practice, she has been in cahoots with Reanne Estrada and Jenifer K. Wofford in Mail Order Brides/M.O.B. for more than a decade. Her work has been exhibited internationally and domestically. Eliza received an honorary fellowship (media arts/new genre) from the Djerassi Resident Artists Program and was awarded residencies at Banff Artist Residency in Canada, Fundación Valparaíso in Spain, and the Living Room in the Philippines.

**CHRISTILILY CHIV** is a second-generation Teo Chew (Chinese) Cambodian American born in Los Angeles. She received a BA in media and cultural studies at the University of California, Riverside. Since 2006, she has been a curator for the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Islander Film Festival Youth Program. In 2011–12, she was the project leader for the Urban Oasis Film Academy in Los Angeles, a program designed to enable inner-city youth to express themselves and share their stories through film.

**TIFFANY CHUNG** holds an MFA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a BFA from California State University, Long Beach. Her work has been featured at the Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland, Australia (2012); the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2012); Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri (2012); Singapore Museum of Art (2012); the Kuandu Biennale, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan (2012); Singapore Biennale (2011); Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, Kristiansand, Norway (2011); Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Spain (2010); International Incheon Women Artists' Biennale, Korea (2009); and

Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale, Japan (2005). Chung's recent solo exhibitions have been featured at Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York (2012), and Fukagawa Shokudo, Fukagawa Tokyo Modan Kan, Tokyo (2011).

**RACHEL QUY COLLIER** was born in Vietnam in 1974 and came to the United States in January 1975. She studied literature in college and currently works as a freelance writer, editor, and translator. She lives in the San Francisco Bay area. Her essays, poems, and translations have appeared in anthologies such as *Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption*, edited by Jane Jeong Trenka, Julia Chinyere Oparah, and Sun Yung Shin (2006).

**ANH THANG DAO** was born in Vietnam and grew up in Germany and Poland. She received her PhD in American studies and ethnicity from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Her dissertation, "Writing Exile: Vietnamese Literature in the Diaspora," conceptualizes a deterritorialized notion of exile through the example of Vietnamese diasporic literature in the United States, France, and Germany. Anh Thang's scholarly articles have appeared in *positions: east Asian cultural critique* and the *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*. She has also published poems in Vietnamese in a number of anthologies.

**PHUONG M. DO** is a Vietnamese American. She was born and grew up in Laos. Phuong and her family came to the United States as refugees in 1975 and settled in Denver, Colorado. She earned master's degrees in social work from Yeshiva University and studio art/photography from New York University. Phuong currently resides in Washington, D.C. Her photography has been featured in numerous exhibitions in the United States, in New York, Boston, and Los Angeles, and internationally, in Shanghai, Bangkok, Manila, Berlin, and London. Her solo show, *Made in Vietnam*, at the Wagner Gallery Space in New York, featured lacquered photographs that evolved out of her work in Vietnam as a Fulbright scholar. She is currently working on a collection of photographs left behind in Vietnam by families who left the country.

**REANNE ESTRADA** was born in Manila and is a Los Angeles-based visual artist. Her work has been exhibited at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, the Museo ng Maynila in Manila, Green

Papaya Art Projects in Quezon City, Philippines, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, and the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. Reanne is the recipient of a 2007–8 Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, a 2005 ARC grant from the Durfee Foundation, the 2002–3 Artist Fellowship Award for the Visual Arts from the California Arts Council, and the 2002 Wallace Alexander Gerbode Visual Art Award. Her work is included in the collections of the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Oakland Museum of California, and the Contemporary Museum, Honolulu.

**MARSHA C. GALICIA-MONROE**, a second-generation Filipino American, grew up in Norfolk, Virginia. She received a BS in chemistry from Old Dominion University in Norfolk and an MS in analytical chemistry from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She currently resides in Northern California, where she works as a chemist.

**LIAN GUOW** was born and raised in Java, Indonesia, during Dutch colonial times and immigrated to the San Francisco Bay area in the mid-1960s. She is the author of *Only A Girl*, a historical novel, and the founder of the California-based company Dalang Publishing, which specializes in English translations of work by Indonesian writers. It recently released its first title, *My Name Is Mata Hari*, the English-language rendition of Remy Sylado's *Namaku Mata Hari*, translated by Dewi Anggraeni.

**GRACE KONG** (or **KANHCHARAVATEY**) is a Khmer / Cambodian refugee born in the Kao-I-Dang refugee camp. She was raised in Seattle and currently lives in Oakland, California, with her partner. She received a BA in American ethnic studies and speech communication from the University of Washington and also earned a master of public administration degree from Seattle University. She has more than ten years of experience in government administration, working mostly with underserved and incarcerated youth populations.

**MARINE KY** was born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and moved to Paris as a refugee. She completed the honours in information and communication sciences program at the University of Paris X in 1992 and received her master of fine arts at the University of