



the women's darkroom + gallery
36 waverly ave., #403
brooklyn, ny 11205
thursday-sat., 12-6 PM or by appt.

PRESS RELEASE: YAN KONG: METAL TO PAPER (Sculpture)
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Yan Kong: Metal to paper, spans ten years of sculpture.

The changing neighborhood of Brooklyn, where Yan resides, made a great impact on Kong's art. Kong takes light-weight aluminum metal left over from construction sites, manipulates the metal with a sledge hammer -to get a crushed and tightly bound effect. The metal is then shaped using simple mechanical tools. Once a desired form is obtained the metal gets sandblasted. Most of the metal pieces are embellished with spray paint, one has a blackening technique on the surface, while a few have delicate crayon drawing patterns over the paint.

Kong was born in Canton, China in 1948, when the communist regime took over China. Kong grew up in a family of 11 kids, 7 girls and 4 boys. One of Kong's chores as a child was to make sanitary napkins out of onion skin paper.

In her last year of Hong Kong high school Kong saw a student's painting on the school bulletin board, a depiction of a violin still life. The well-executed painting had filled her with admiration and she remembered saying to herself 'Yes I want to be able to paint like that.'

In 1969 Kong received a scholarship to attend college at Mount Saint Mary's in Newburgh, New York. Kong studied Biology and Chemistry. In 1971 she found a job as a Chemistry Professor's assistant at Purdue University, West Indiana, working on an expired student visa. Upon receiving an Immigration Deportation notice Kong was able to get a hospital in New York to sponsor her for a Green Card, with the condition that she worked at the hospital for a minimum of five years. In 1977, upon receiving her Green Card, Kong went to study at the New York Art Students League through 1980.

In 1998 Kong, Ellen Hsiao, Michelle Chung-jui Lui and Terumi Kaneyasu started the Asian American Women Alliance (AAWAA) to help organize and support Asian women artists by coming together to give each other spiritual and artistic support. Kong retired in 2010 from the organization and spends her time making her art.

Kong's work is included in many public and private collections both in the US and Hong Kong.

Lisa Martin

Director

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