

Spring 2026 Arts of Asia Lecture Series
Asia Reimagined: Mapping Cultures Beyond Borders
Sponsored by the Society for Asian Art

Chapters in San Francisco's Asian American Art History: The May's Photo Studio

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THE MAY'S PHOTO STUDIO

Chinese American Photography in San Francisco Chinatown

Four interrelated Google Arts and Culture Stories about the May's Photo Studio

- 1) 1920s Chinatown Insiders: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/lwXRBY4KUNMCDA?hl=en>
- 2) May's Photo Studio: A Time Capsule of Interiors: https://artsandculture.google.com/story/4AVx5ngCZ_UT9g?hl=en
- 3) Investing in the Local Community: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/9gXRnWR4iiYdkw?hl=en>
- 4) A Tale of Two Opera Houses: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/9QVh33qWyHy1Hg?hl=en>

OTHER RESOURCES

Stanford Spotlight: *Wylie Wong Collection of May's Photo Studio*:
<https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/10737527>

Film: *Vanishing Chinatown*, directed by Emiko Omori (2018: Ephemera Pictures, LLC)

Marci Kwon, *The Evasive Bodies of May's Photo Studio: Images from Chinatown* (2017: Stanford/The Bill Lane Center for the American West): <https://west.stanford.edu/events/artswest/evasive-bodies-mays-photo-studio-images-chinatown>

19TH CENTURY CHINATOWN PHOTOGRAPHY

Jack Kuo Wei Tchen, *Gentle's Photographs of San Francisco's Old Chinatown* (1984: Dover).

Medium Blog: Doug Chan, *Portraits with Purpose: Chinatown Photo Studios Respond to Exclusion*:
<https://medium.com/@dougchan/responding-to-exclusion-early-chinese-american-studio-portraiture-14446bbbdd63>

Medium Blog: Doug Chan, *The "Wong Fong" Parades of Old Chinatown*: <https://medium.com/@dougchan/the-wong-fong-parades-of-old-chinatown-db61b3a86459>

LATER CHINATOWN PHOTOGRAPHY

Medium Blog: Charles Russo, *The Chronicles of Kem Lee: Remembering Chinatown's most well-known forgotten photographer*: <https://medium.com/the-san-franciscan/the-chronicles-of-kem-lee-remembering-chinatowns-most-well-known-forgotten-photographer-fd048c433ba1>

Irene Poon and Charles Wong, *Read the Photograph* (2015: Velvet Lens Cap)

Film: *Who is Michael Jang*, directed by Michael Jacobs (2025: Independent Lens)

JAPANESE AMERICAN PICTORIALIST PHOTOGRAPHY AT THE GETTY Google Arts & Culture

Japanese-American Photographs, 1920-1940: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/japanese-american-photographs-1920-1940-the-j-paul-getty-museum/4gVxAeLpbld-Jw?hl=en>

CANTONESE OPERA IN SAN FRANCISCO

Nancy Rao, *The Fantastic Worlds of Chinese Opera Theater in North America* (2017: Library of Congress): <https://www.loc.gov/item/2021690590/>

Shirley Ng, *Cantonese Opera/San Francisco, 1850-2020* (2023: Publishing 3.0; note: text in Chinese language)

OTHER TOPICS IN ASIAN AMERICAN ART HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gordon Chang, Mark Dean Johnson, Paul Karlstrom: *Asian American Art: A History, 1850-1970* (2008: Stanford University Press)

Mark Dean Johnson and Fan Jeremy Zhang, *Chang Dai-chien: From Heart to Hand* (2019: Asian Art Museum)

Ba Tong and Mark Dean Johnson: *Chang Dai-chien and the Development of an International Chinese Painting Style* (1999: San Francisco State University)

Dakin Hart and Mark Dean Johnson, *Changing and Unchanging Things: Isamu Noguchi and Saburo Hasegawa in Post War Japan* (2019: UC Press)

Dakin Hart, Mark Dean Johnson, and Matt Kirsch, *The Saburo Hasegawa Reader* (2019: UC Press)

Mark Dean Johnson and Trisha Lagaso Goldberg, *Carlos Villa: Worlds in Collision* (2022: UC Press)

Stanford Spotlight: The Martin Wong Catalogue Raisonné (2022: Stanford Libraries): <https://spotlight.stanford.edu/martin-wong>