



## ART, IDENTITY, AND POWER: An Evening with MC Rocky Rivera and Muralist Audrey Chan

Friday, January 21, 2022, at 7 p.m.  
Live via Zoom  
USC Pacific Asia Museum  
University of Southern California

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Rocky Rivera is a rapper, performance artist, and author from San Francisco.
- Audrey Chan is a Los Angeles-based artist, illustrator, and educator.
- Adrian De Leon (moderator) is a historian, poet, multimedia educator, and assistant professor of American Studies and Ethnicity at USC.
- The USC Pacific Asia Museum is one of only a few U.S.-based institutions dedicated to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands.
- Self Help Graphics is a community arts center in Boyle Heights.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Rocky Rivera** is a rapper, performance artist, and author from San Francisco. Blending social justice, feminism, and West Coast-style hip hop, she has released two mixtapes, four albums, and nine joint projects with DJ Roza under the Rock & Roz series on Patreon. She was formerly a journalist, and has written a collection of autobiographical essays called *Snakeskin*.

**Audrey Chan** is a Los Angeles-based artist, illustrator, and educator. Her research-based projects use drawing, painting, public art, and video to challenge dominant historical narratives through allegories of power, place,

and identity. She was commissioned by LA Metro to create a large-scale public artwork for the future Little Tokyo/Arts District Metro Station. She has been a visiting artist at CalArts and the inaugural artist-in-residence at the ACLU of Southern California.

**Adrian De Leon** is a historian, poet, multimedia educator, and assistant professor of American Studies and Ethnicity at USC. He is the author and editor of three books, most recently the poetry collection *barangay: an offshore poem*. His research on the histories of Filipino migrant labor has been featured in numerous media outlets. De Leon is a co-host and co-writer of the PBS miniseries *A People's History of Asian America*.

### ROCKY RIVERA ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Rocky Rivera's book *Snakeskin* explores restorative justice, which Rivera has likened to a snake shedding its skin. Restorative justice is a non-punitive approach to justice, where the focus is on taking responsibility for harm caused, repairing harm, redemption, growth, and change.

"You can't expect somebody to be vulnerable, to be open, to make mistakes if you're not willing to do that as well. . . . until we can accept everything that we are, then we can never accept each other's humanity," Rivera said in an interview on the KQED podcast *Rightnowish*.





## THE USC PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM

The USC Pacific Asia Museum is one of only a few U.S. institutions dedicated to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The museum was established in 1971.

The USC PAM collection holds more than 15,000 objects spanning more than 4,000 years and the region extending from Persia to the Pacific Islands. USC PAM has presented several groundbreaking exhibitions, including the first North American exhibitions of contemporary Chinese art after the Revolution and the first exhibition of Aboriginal art in the United States.

USC PAM is housed in a historic building in Pasadena that has been a center for art and culture since its construction in 1924. The building was formerly the home of the Pasadena Art Museum and the Pacificulture Foundation. Designed by renowned Pasadena architectural firm Marston, Van Pelt & Maybury, it is a designated Cultural Heritage Landmark of the cities of Pasadena and Los Angeles, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and has been declared a Historical Landmark by the State of California.

In 2013, USC partnered with the museum to form the USC Pacific Asia Museum.

## SELF HELP GRAPHICS

USC students who attend this online event will be able to register to receive a screen printed poster by Self Help Graphics & Art, a community arts center that offers workshops, a mobile art studio, printmaking opportunities for artists, and more. Founded amid the Chicano movement in the early 1970s, Self Help Graphics was an important incubator of the Chicano art movement and remains a significant locus for Chicana/o and Latinx art in LA. Self Help Graphics is located in Boyle Heights and is committed to fostering the creativity and development of local artists, and working at the intersection of arts and social justice.

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- How do the artists link art and social justice? How do they address power through art?
- Did the artists say anything you found particularly inspiring or provocative?
- What did you think of the interweaving of music, visual art, and other media in this event?

## IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- The artists on social**  
[@audreychan.studio](https://www.instagram.com/audreychan.studio), [@rockyrivera](https://www.instagram.com/rockyrivera), [@aadeleon](https://www.instagram.com/aadeleon)
- Self Help Graphics**  
[selfhelpgraphics.com](https://selfhelpgraphics.com)
- Upcoming Visions and Voices events**

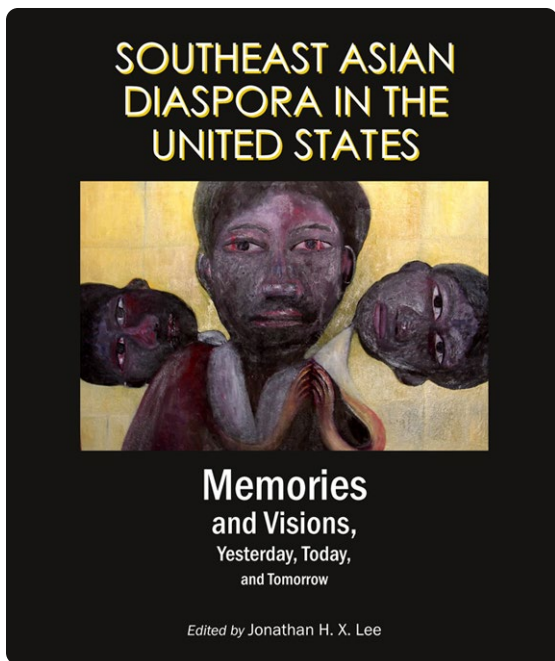
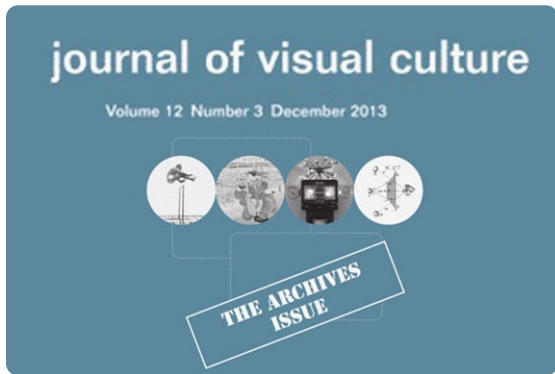
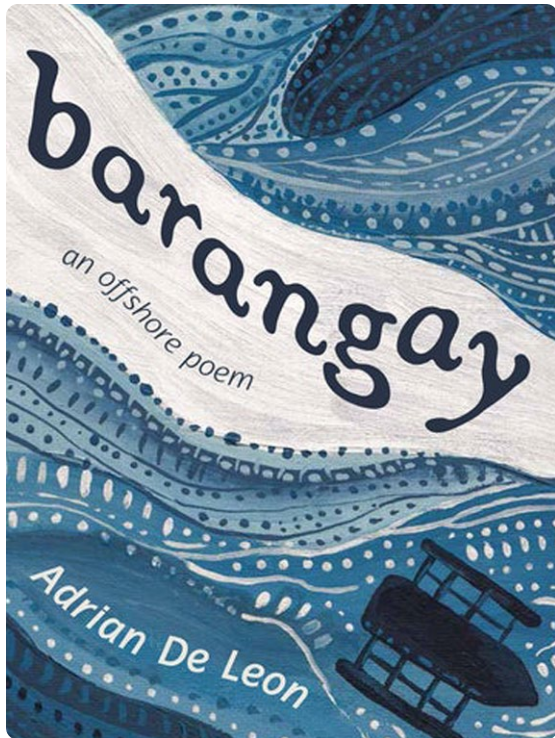
**TBA** [Ku'er Worlds: Queering Chinese American Identities in Art and Film](#)

**2/26** [Roving Studio Triptych with Artist Kite](#)

**3/3** [Archival Intimacies: Queering South/east Asian Diasporas](#)

**4/1** [Belonging as Survival: Creativity, Activism, and Community](#)

**4/29-4/30** [South of Expo: Art, Artists, and Cultural Spaces Since the 1960s](#)



## DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

ALVARO QUEZADA of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at [libraries.usc.edu](http://libraries.usc.edu) but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

### BOOKS

- ◉ Audrey Chan, [\*Conseil Juridique et Artistique\*](#) (Self-published, 2011).
- ◉ Adrian De Leon, [\*barangay: an offshore poem\*](#) (Mawenzi House Publishers Ltd., 2018).
- ◉ Jonathan H. Lee, [\*Southeast Asian Diaspora in the United States: Memories and Visions, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow\*](#) (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015).
- ◉ Gary Y. Okihiro, [\*Margins and Mainstreams: Asians in American History and Culture\*](#) (Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2014).

### DATABASES

- ◉ [Arts & Humanities Citation Index](#)
- ◉ [Bibliography of Asian Studies](#)
- ◉ [Ethnic NewsWatch](#)

### JOURNALS

- ◉ [Journal of Asian American Studies](#)
- ◉ [Journal of Popular Culture](#)
- ◉ [Journal of Visual Culture](#)

