



What Refuses to Disappear Holly Wong

Holly Wong's practice has long begun with damage: a torn surface, a scar, an image or a memory that refuses to remain intact. Her concept of "*radical repair*" does not seek to restore material to an imagined original condition. Instead, she cuts, joins and reassembles it until the evidence of rupture becomes part of something more complex.

With *Vanishing Act*, this enquiry moves into time-based media. The three-channel video installation extends Holly's earlier work in stitched fabric into projected image and sound, treating disappearance itself as a material to be examined.

Photo Credit: Zabrina Deng



Created in collaboration with her husband and fellow artist Al Wong, the footage is projected onto translucent panels constructed through Korean bojagi flat-felled seams, combining projection fabric, hospital gauze and cotton.

Light passes through the stitched surfaces, making the image resemble a form of skin: permeable, wounded and held together by visible thread. An original poem, distributed across the three channels, further introduces voice and memory into the installation.

Photo Credit: John Janca



The title refers to the experience of watching someone, or something, fade without entirely disappearing. Drawing upon Greek mythic figures associated with memory and forgetting, Wong extends this personal experience into a wider examination of erasure.

Political disappearance, forced deportation and anxieties surrounding democratic fragility enter the work alongside a feminist consideration of the female body as a site repeatedly subjected to medical, cultural and political forms of erasure.

*Photo Credit:
Left: Al Wong
Right: Holly Wong*



Photo Credit: John Janca

Yet *Vanishing Act* does not remain within disappearance. Its formal construction insists upon another possibility. The image may fade, the material may bear evidence of damage, and memory may become uncertain, but the seams remain visible. What has been fractured is not concealed.

The work therefore extends Holly's central proposition into a new medium: In *Vanishing Act*, light, fabric, sound and memory become ways of asking what might remain when something is made to disappear, and what new forms can emerge from the act of holding it together.

Repair is not a return to what existed before, but the creation of a structure capable of holding what has happened.