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OAKLAND, CA

SLATE

CONTEMPORARY GALLERY

473 25th Street, Oakland, CA 94612
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SLATE Contemporary Gallery Presents: *Full Circle*, a solo exhibition by *Holly Wong*
Exhibition Dates: September 5, 2025–October 11, 2025

Oakland, CA – August 6, 2025. SLATE Contemporary Gallery is pleased to announce *Full Circle*, Wong's second solo exhibition with the gallery. The exhibition will be on view from Friday, September 5 to Saturday, October 11, 2025.

Full Circle features a new series of collaged paintings on shaped aluminum and wood panel, as well as mixed media drawings on paper that explore the process of healing through a spiritual lens. Companion works in the exhibition include wall-based fiber and LED light installations and a heat molded acrylic assemblage. This exhibition brings together the diverse methods of Wong's practice in a mid-career survey of her work.

The show's title references Wong's personal journey through trauma and her process of rewriting her history through a newly empowered self. The work examines the story of Wong's own healing through mining of her memories in the surface pattern of the work. In the process of making each piece, she delves into a visual world where she repairs psychological wounds by painting, drawing and sewing over and around them, creating

wholeness from disparate parts. It is a visual process of coming full circle and making whole.

In her collaged painting series titled *Mnemosyne Rising*, Wong sublimates the scars of trauma from a family history of violence, transforming wounds through a process of radical repair. The title of these works refers to the Greek goddess of memory as an homage to Wong's individualized practice of mysticism in recalling her past and then transforming it. Her process includes the use of oil paint, graphite, charcoal, and alcohol ink on canvas and paper. These materials are then hand cut and adhered to shaped aluminum dibond with archival adhesives. Utilizing plant life imagery, Wong incorporates how healing can be possible with the passage of time and the overgrowth of nature, as a process for mending.



Holly Wong: *Mnemosyne Rising 2*, Mixed media on aluminum panel. Photo: John Janca

Wong's series of mixed media works on paper and wood panel titled *Lethe's Garden* feature ornate collages in gouache, ink painting, colored pencil and graphite. These works feature richly colored, energetic patterning. Lethe refers to the Greek myth of a river flowing through Hades. Drinking from the river results in the forgetting of one's past lives. In these works, there is a lush density that at times functions as erasure, especially in the ghost like graphite that appears on the margins of the works.



Lethe's Garden 3, Mixed media on paper, Photo: John Janca

Thalassa is a wall-mounted assemblage of heat-molded, laser cut acrylic, which is hand colored with lightfast pencil, sewn and then attached directly to the wall. The flow of water factors significantly in Wong's work as she views this as a metaphor for change. Thalassa is the Greek primordial goddess. Wong also has a mature practice in fiber art, and we are pleased to include an example, *Deconstructed Quilt 1* in the exhibition. In this series, Wong uses a flat felled seam technique inspired by Korean bojagi with transparent fabric. Wong combines ephemeral materials such as silk and organza with LED strip lighting and diffusion film as a proxy for her deceased mother's spirit. The layers of pieced fabric are suspended over the LED light as a shroud or mourning cloth. Inspired by Chinese funeral customs, the quilt layers are metaphors for burial blankets that are offered by the children of the deceased and layered upon their loved ones. ss of the sea, and the work is named in Her honor.



Thalassa, colored pencil drawing on acrylic. Photo: John Janca

Two related pieces, *Deconstructed Quilt 2* and *Body of Light* (an 8x15 ft suspended installation), will also be installed for the month of October at Karl: The Art of Fashion, in San Francisco. This exhibition will feature artists who “harness the language of material—thread, cloth, dye, repetition, touch—to explore identity, labor, and the gendered histories of making. Their work challenges the hierarchies that have long divided “art” from “craft,” and invites viewers to consider the aesthetic and political power embedded in the textile tradition.” A public event with a fashion show and reception will be held at Levis Plaza, on October 3 from 6-9pm.



Body of Light, Textile and LED. Photo: John Janca

To accompany the exhibition, a new book has been published with essays by Elizabeth Wiet and Mira Dayal, and poems by Aya Karpińska, titled *Mending Body, Mending Mind*. The artist will be at the gallery in Oakland for a book launch and signing on the afternoon of September 20th.

Full Circle is the culmination of five years of learning and reinvention in Wong's life and studio practice. With this mature body of work, she demonstrates a return to herself and a revelation of her truth.

About the Artist:

Holly Wong was educated at the San Francisco Art Institute where she graduated with a Master of Fine Arts. Holly has participated in over 100 exhibitions including group shows at the de Young Museum, the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Contemporary Jewish Museum. A Presidential Scholar in the Arts, she has received grants from the California Arts Council (Established Artist category), the Puffin Foundation, the George Sugarman Foundation, and the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund.

PROGRAMMING

Evening Opening Reception:

Friday September 5, 2025, 6-8pm
SLATE Contemporary
473 25th Street Oakland CA 94612

Afternoon Reception and Book Launch:

Saturday September 20, 3-5pm
SLATE Contemporary
473 25th Street Oakland CA 94612

KARL: The Art of Fashion

Friday October 3, 6-9pm
KARL@ Levis Plaza
1255 Battery St. San Francisco CA 94111
KARL exhibition open other days by appointment.
info@slateart.net for appointments.

Artist Talk:

Saturday October 11, 3pm
Artist to be interviewed by Ariel Zaccheo
Curatorial Director, Museum of Craft & Design
Time and location to be confirmed
Email info@slateart.net for details

SLATE Contemporary Gallery Information:

Free and open to the public Saturdays 12:00pm – 5:00pm
First Fridays from 12:00pm – 8:00pm
Weekdays by appointment.

For more information, please contact info@slateart.net

[Link to Exhibition page](#)



Cover design for forthcoming book