



C O N T E M P O R A R Y

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NAVA Contemporary is pleased to present, *Of Stories Past*, a new online exhibition of paintings by Tracie Cheng.

The rice fields and fog covered mountains of Taiwan. The crisp tall grass, smokey alleys, and vibrant night markets. Memory, family, identity. In Tracie Cheng's newest body of work, these ideas distill into the search for narratives that form the artist. The results are complexly beautiful paintings full of soft and hard textures from a long line of powerful stories.

The pandemic has affected everyone in different ways, and for Cheng this period became a time of rediscovery, an embracing of ethnicity and a newfound affection of who she is and where she comes from. Carrying the grit and kindness of her grandmothers, and the precious stories of the grandfathers she never had the chance to meet, their reflections dance within the backgrounds and meander through the lines. These sacred memories can be seen in the eponymous piece of the exhibition (the largest painting in the show at 132 inches long), honoring the strength and warmth of all those that came before; lives that have shaped Cheng's own in ways she will never fully know, but is coming to understand the impact of more and more.

Much like bringing a camera lens into focus, there can be clarity and areas of haze when revisiting moments from the past. Within the lines of each painting there is a crispness to the image, while the background recedes and blurs, representing the tension that even the most important memories are fuzzy at best. Although reliving moments of the past can feel foreign and complex, they remain integral parts of who Cheng is, and she has never been more grateful to feel that in her bones.

Tracie Cheng lives and works in Connecticut. She holds a degree in architecture from the University of Texas at Austin. Cheng's work has been exhibited internationally including New York, Shanghai, Vancouver, and Miami. Her art was featured on the cover of Vanessa Huang's book, *Quiet of Chorus*, and has been included in Design Sponge, Luxe Interiors + Design, Design Milk and Vogue UK.