

THE MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

ASIA/AMERICA:
IDENTITIES IN CONTEMPORARY ASIAN AMERICAN ART
JANUARY 13 - MARCH 24, 1996

Asia/America: Identities in Contemporary Asian American Art features the work of twenty foreign-born Asian American visual artists who, in their art, deal with the complex questions of identity faced by Asians living in the West. The exhibition, which includes paintings, sculptures, photographs, and mixed media installations, will be on view at the MIT List Visual Arts Center from January 13 - March 24, 1996, with an opening reception for the public from 5-7 pm on Friday, January 12.

According to Vishakha N. Desai, director of the Asia Society Galleries in New York, organizers of the exhibition, "The unprecedented growth of the Asian American population in the last three decades has prompted a reexamination of traditional assumptions about 'East' and 'West'."

To assemble the exhibition, guest curator Margo Machida, herself a third-generation Japanese American, traveled throughout the United States visiting studios and interviewing artists. The artists represented in the exhibition come from eight different areas of Asia: China, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. "While only a few works address the question of cultural identity through specific imagery," she said, "all are informed by the artists' struggles to define themselves as people of Asian descent living in America.

Only one of the artists, Masami Teraoka, who was born in Japan in 1936 and now lives in Hawaii, draws inspiration from a traditional Asian medium, woodblock printing. The other artists, most of whom came to America after 1965, express themselves in what might be called the common language of contemporary Western art.

Y. David Chung, who was born in 1959 in West Germany where his father was a South Korean diplomat, has created an installation entitled "Mega Morning Calm," especially for