

# Bockley Gallery

## *Pao Houa Her*

b. 1982, Laos / Lives and works Blaine MN, USA

### **Education**

- 2012 MFA Photography, Yale University School of Art, New Haven CT
- 2009 BFA Photography, Minneapolis College of Art and Design

### **Grants, Awards, & Residencies**

- 2023-24 Next Step Award, Aperture Foundation, Baxter St at the Camera Club of New York, and 7IG Foundation
- 2023 Guggenheim Fellowship, John Simson Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, NYC
- 2022 Biennial Grant, Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, NYC  
McKnight Visual Artists Fellowship, Minneapolis  
3rd Place, Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition, National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC
- 2019 Light Work Artist Residency, Syracuse NY
- 2016 McKnight Visual Artists Fellowship, Minneapolis
- 2013 Jerome Fellowship for Emerging Artist, Jerome Foundation, Minneapolis  
Minnesota State Arts Board Artists Initiative Grant
- 2012 Alice Kimball Fellowship, Yale University School of Art, New Haven CT
- 2009 Minnesota State Arts Board Artists Initiative Grant

### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2024 *Nim ye*, Bockley Gallery (May 16–Jun 22)  
*And Other Illusions*, Baxter St Camera Club of New York (Feb 7–Mar 20)
- 2023 *Pao Houa Her*, Nemeth Art Center, Park Rapids MN (May 4–Jun 25)
- 2022-23 *Paj quam ntuj / Flowers of the Sky*, curated by Victoria Sung, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis MN (Jul 28–Jan 22)
- 2020 *Emplotment*, curated by Godfre Leung, Or Gallery, Vancouver, Canada (Jun 2–Jul 18)  
*Pao Houa Her: Selections 2006-2018*, Bockley Gallery (Jan 29–Mar 28)
- 2019 *After the Fall of Hmong Tebchaw*, The Catherine G. Murphy Gallery, St. Catherine University, St. Paul MN (Nov 2–Dec 14)  
*The Fruits of My Mother's Labor*, Eastside Freedom Library, St. Paul MN (Feb 22–Mar 17)  
*My grandfather turned into a tiger*, PLATFORM Centre, Winnipeg, Canada (Jan 11–Feb 22)
- 2018 *My grandfather turned into a tiger*, Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis (Feb 10–Apr 7)
- 2016 *My Mother's Flowers*, Bockley Gallery, Minneapolis (Jun 23–Jul 30)
- 2015 *Attention*, Minneapolis Institute of Art (Apr 16–Jun 7)  
*The King's Seven Daughters*, The Bindery Projects, St Paul (Mar 21–22)

- Focus: Pao Houa Her*, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, East Lansing MI (Jan 30–Jun 7)
- 2013 *Desires*, Center for Hmong Studies, Minneapolis (Mar 15–May 4)  
*Pao Houa Her*, Franklin Artworks, Minneapolis (March–May)
- 2012 *Somebody*, The Gordon Park Gallery, curated by Wing Young Huie, St. Paul MN (September)

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2024-25 *Spirit House*, Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, Stanford CA (Sep 4–Jan 19), catalog
- 2024 *It moves forward, always*, Carolyn Campagna Kleefeld Contemporary Art Museum, California State University Long Beach (Feb 13–May 9)  
*Together To Gather*, Weinstein Hammons Gallery, Minneapolis MN (Feb 9–Apr 20)  
*Deathpower*, Law Warschaw Gallery, Macalester College, St. Paul MN (Feb 10–Mar 20)
- 2023-24 *Actual Fractals, Act I*, Sculpture Milwaukee, (Summer 2023–Fall 2024)  
*Cloth as Land: HMong Indigeneity*, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI (Nov 18–Jun 16)
- 2022-24 *The Outwin 2022: American Portraiture Today*, National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC (Apr 30, 2022–Feb 26, 2023); Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill NC (Nov 3, 2023–Jan 21, 2024); Michele and Donald D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield MA (Feb–May, 2024); small catalog
- 2022-23 *Home*, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison WI (Jul 30–Feb 19)
- 2022 *Whitney Biennial 2022: Quiet as It’s Kept*, Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC (Apr 6–Sep 5), catalog  
*Shifting Perspectives: Landscape Photographs from the Collection*, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee WI (Mar 18–Jul 3)  
*Mother*, Mason Exhibitions, George Mason University, Arlington VA (Apr 1–May 28)  
*Snake whisky still life and other stories*, curated by Todd Bockley, Various Small Fires, Los Angeles (Jan 15–Feb 19)
- 2021-22 *The Regional*, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati OH (Dec 10–Mar 20); Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City MO (Jun 2–Sep 11)
- 2020 *Midway Off-Site: Pao Houa Her and Tetsuya Yamada*, Midway Contemporary Art at the HomgTown Marketplace, St. Paul MN (Oct 10–Dec 19)  
*Phantoms and Aliens | The Invisible Other*, curated by Loredana Paracciani, Richard Kho Gallery, Singapore (Mar 6–28)  
*The American War*, ARTS at King Street Station, Seattle WA (Feb 6–Mar 21)
- 2019-20 *Rethinking Histories: Works from Mia’s Collection*, Minneapolis Institute of Art (Aug 24–Jan 19)  
*Artists Reflect: Contemporary Views on the American War*, Minneapolis Institute of Art (Sep 29–Jan 5)
- 2018-19 *Depths, Elevations Laos Biennial*, curated by Erin Gleeson, Sin Many, i:cat Gallery, Ban Simeuang, Vientiane, Laos (Nov 9–Jan 16)  
*EXit/ EXile/ EXodus: Voicing the Diaspora in Southeast Asian Contemporary Art*, curated by Loredana Pazzini-Paracciani, MAIIAM, Chiang Mai, Thailand (Mar 4, 2018–Mar 3, 2019)
- 2018 *in(di)visible*, Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston TX (Feb 3–Apr 22)
- 2017 *On Attachments and Unknowns*, SA SA BASSAC, curated by Erin Gleeson, May Adadol Ingawanij, Ben Valentine, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (May 19–Aug 19)
- 2016 *Reframe Minnesota: Art Beyond a Single Story*, All My Relations Gallery, Minneapolis (Jun 24–Sep 16)

- 2015 *Migration Series #1*, Telemark Art Center, Skien, Norway (Sep 26–Nov 1)  
*What Remains*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago (Jan 26–Mar 22)
- 2014 *The 2014 Jerome Fellowship Exhibition*, Minneapolis College of Art and Design  
 (Oct 3–Nov 9)
- 2013 *Swerve and Fracture*, Camera Club of New York, New York City (Sep 14–Nov 2)
- 2012 *After the Fall*, Garis and Hahn Gallery, New York City (Jan 11–Feb 16)  
*Group Portrait*, Edger Varala Gallery, New York City (Sep 8–Oct 14)  
*Group Portrait*, Ana Tzarev Gallery, New York (Jun 28–Jul 21)  
*Yale MFA Thesis*, Green Hall Gallery, New Haven CT (May)
- 2010 *Foot In The Door*, Minneapolis Institute of Art (Feb 19–Jun 13)
- 2009 *New Direction in Hmong Arts*, Homewood Gallery, Minneapolis (July)  
*Relative Distance*, Center for Independent Artists, Minneapolis (January)
- 2008 *Journey Through The Lense*, Hennepin Government Center, Minneapolis (October)  
*All Things Relative*, A4 Gallery, Boston (October)  
*Remix: Intergenerational Hmong Art Exhibition*, Homewood Gallery, Minneapolis (July)

### Publications (selected)

- Russ White. “2022 McKnight Visual Artist Fellow: Pao Houa Her.” [MPLSART.COM](https://mplsart.com). May 8, 2024.
- Jacinda Tran. “Pao Houa Her’s Elusive Illusions at Baxter Street.” [The AMP](https://theamp.com). March 5, 2024.
- Harley Wong. “Pao Houa Her’s Photographs Reframe the Homeland Illusion.” [Frieze](https://frieze.com). February 20, 2024.
- Camilla Mareses. “Photobook Review: My Grandfather Turned Into A Tiger... And Other Illusions by Pao Houa Her” [PhMuseum](https://phmuseum.com). February 13, 2024.
- Pao Houa Her, et al. *My grandfather turned into a tiger ... and other illusions*. New York: Aperture, 2024
- Ruby Jeune Tresch. “Figure in the Landscape: Pao Houa Her’s Paj quam ntuj / Flowers of the Sky” [Sixty Inches from Center](https://sixtyinchesfromcenter.com). January 20, 2023
- Marcus Civin. “Review Pao Houa Her: Paj quam ntuj / Flowers of the Sky.” *Camera Austria International*, no. 160 (2022): 85-86
- Alex V. Cipolle. “A Minnesota Exhibit Framed Around Longing for Home.” [The New York Times](https://nytimes.com), October 22, 2022.
- Alicia Eler. “From Laos to Minnesota, international artist Pao Houa Her captures the Hmong American experience.” [Star Tribune](https://startribune.com), July 26, 2022
- May Lee-Yang. “About Hmong people, for Hmong people: photographer Pao Houa Her’s new show opens at the Walker.” [Saban Journal](https://sabanjournal.com), July 25, 2022
- Erik Tormeon. “Pao Houa Her’s Photography Finds Greater Truths.” [Minnesota Monthly](https://minnesotamonthly.com), July 13, 2022
- Ted Loos. “In the Moment.” [Galerie Magazine](https://galerie.com), Summer 2022 Issue
- Mark Jenkins. “A portrait competition that stretches the definition of a likeness.” [The Washington Post](https://washingtonpost.com). May 12, 2022
- Steve Marsh. “Pao Houa Her’s Photograph immortalizes Hmong Culture.” [MSP Magazine](https://msp.com). May 2022: 21-24
- Alicia Eler. “North stars: Artists Pao Houa Her and Dyani White Hawk represent Minnesota—and their own communities—at New York’s prestigious Whitney Biennial.” [Star Tribune](https://startribune.com). April 15, 2022
- Peter Schjeldahl. “A Coherent and Bold Whitney Biennial.” [The New Yorker](https://nytimes.com), April 11, 2022 Issue
- Elizabeth Maline. “The Whitney Biennial Opens After Year-Long Delay.” [NY City Lens](https://nycitylens.com), April 6,

2022

- Marley Mariua. "A Glimpse Into This Year's Whitney Biennial." *Vogue*, April 2, 2022
- David Breslin and Adrienne Edwards, ed. *Whitney Biennial 2022: Quiet as It's Kept*. New York: Whitney Museum of American Art, 2022
- Kong Pheng Pha. "Pao Houa Her: My grandfather turned into a tiger." *Aperture*, Issue 244 Fall 2021: 108-115
- Sheila Regan. "Pulling Back the Curtain: Pao Houa Her." *ArtAsiaPacific*, Issue 124 Jul/Aug 2021: 38-39
- Erin Gleeson. "Shared Desires and Active Waiting: Pao Houa Her and Tetsuya Yamada." *ArtAsiaPacific*, December 2020
- Robbert Roos. *This is America | Art USA Today: Reisverslag van een Road Trip door de Verenigde Staten*, Publicaten KA, Amersfoort NDL, Series 33 (2020): 79-80
- Joni Low. "Pao Houa Her." *Vie des Arts*, no. 259 (Summer 2020): 40-43
- Alicia Eler. "Minneapolis museum show reflects on the Vietnam War, then and now." *Star Tribune*, September 27, 2019
- Marjorie Otto. "Photo exhibit features East Side Hmong-American experience." *LillieNews*, February 18, 2019
- Pao Houa Her. "after the fall of hmong teb chaw (2017)." *Amerasia Journal*, 44:2 (2018), 127-141
- Will Glaser. "Pao Houa Her." *Aint-Bad*, July 10, 2018
- Ben Valentine. "Upending Clichés About Nationhood, Asylum, and Living Through War." *Hyperallergic*, June 11, 2018
- Alicia Eler. "Eye of the tiger guides the viewer through a Hmong photo show in Minneapolis." *Star Tribune*, March 8, 2018
- Mia Lopez. "My Mother's Flowers." *INREVIEW*, Summer 2016
- Regan Golden. "Arranging More Than Flowers." *MnArtists*, July 27, 2016
- Nathan Young. "The Flower-Filled Photos of Hmong Women on Dating Sites." *Hyperallergic*, July 26, 2016
- Alexandra Alisuskas. "Pao Houa Her: My Mother's Flowers." *afterimage*, December 2016
- Nathan Young. "The secret history of sacrifice and survival behind Pao Her's 'Attention.'" *Minneapolis Institute of Art, Stories*, May 29, 2015
- Mason Riddle. "Minnesota Artist Exhibition highlights the cross-cultural and the unseen." *Twin Cities Daily Planet*, May 21, 2015
- Anna Pratt. "Hmong-American photographer is a pioneer." *Minneapolis StarTribune*, July 22, 2014
- "Between the Water." *Water Stone Review: Volume II*, September 2008

### Public Collections (selected)

Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Coon Rapids MN  
Catherine G. Murphy Gallery, St. Catherine University, St. Paul MN  
Davis Museum, Wellesley MA  
Des Moines Art Center  
Harvard Art Museums  
Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, WI  
MAIAM, Chiang Mai, Thailand  
Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Milwaukee Art Museum  
Minneapolis Institute of Art  
Minnesota Museum of American Art, St. Paul MN

Macalester College, St. Paul MN  
Oz Art, Bentonville AR  
Singapore Art Museum  
Smithsonian American Art Museum  
Thrivent Financial, Minneapolis MN  
Walker Art Center  
Whitney Museum of American Art