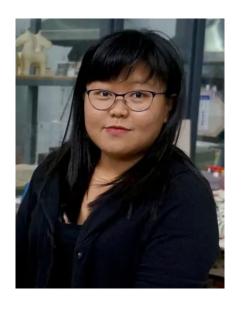
# Soe Yu Nwe

(Lashio, Myanmar, 1989)



Soe Yu Nwe draws inspiration from Burmese folklore, vernacular arts, and Buddhist and animistic practices. Her sculptures often feature fragmented female bodies transformed into visceral, semi-botanical forms. Reflecting her own mixed Chinese-Myanmar heritage, Nwe's practice embraces hybridity to explore the multiplicity and fluidity of identity.

One of her recurring mythical motifs is the "Goddess of the Serpent", a metaphor for the self, rebirth, and femininity – a symbolic challenge to the conservative gender roles traditionally upheld in Myanmar's Buddhist doctrine. Another significant motif in this exhibition is the head of Guanyin (Goddess of Mercy). Inspired by her encounter with the Kannon (Guanyin) statues at Sanjūsangen-dō in Kyoto where the deity appears as male, unlike the typically female depictions in Myanmar, Nwe began exploring gender identity through this mythological figure, expanding the motif into a new body of work.

In her "Inspiration from Shan State" series, she explored her family's migration history from Yunnan to Myanmar. In her acquired work at the British Museum's Burma to Myanmar exhibition, Soe narrated her identity and emotional conflict through the Burmese Python symbol. Soe's work has been exhibited internationally including institutions such as Leeum Museum of Art (Korea), Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (Australia), Simose Art Museum (Japan), The New Taipei City Yingge Ceramic Museum (Taiwan), National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta (Indonesia) and ArtScience Museum (Singapore). Soe was named in 2019 Forbes 30 Under 30: Art & Style. Soe has been awarded the inaugural 2023 Advocacy for the Arts Fellowship from The Rockefeller Foundation and CARE USA.

Currently lives and woks in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai in Thailand.

#### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)**

2020	Hybridized Beings, Myanm/art, Yangon, Myanmar
2019	Rebirth   Enigmatic Bodies, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, USA
2018	Serpentine, Myanm/art, Yangon, Myanmar
2017	Soe Yu Nwe, Myanm/art Gallery, Yangon, Myanmar
2016	The Self Reconfigured, Munro Gallery, Albion College, Michigan, USA

#### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)**

2025	Ambient, Environment, Circumstances -The Topography of Contemporary Art, Simose Art
	Museum, Hiroshima, Japan

Disobedient Bodies: Reclaiming Her, Sundaram Tagore, Singapore

Defying Boundaries: Female Vision, Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong

2024 Art Spectrum: Dream Screen, Leeum Museum of Art, Korea

Animal Garden, Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo

En route: Southeast Asia, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore, China

Ota Fine Arts at Art021, Shanghai, China

Benefit Auction, The Drawing Center, New York, USA

<sup>2023</sup> I can spin skies, Queensland Art Gallery & Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane, Australia

The Open World, Thailand Biennale, Baan Dam Museum, Chiang Rai, Thailand Burma to Myanmar, The British Museum, UK

New Eden, ArtScience Museum, Singapore

How Many Worlds are We, Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand

Yakishime- Earth Metamorphosis, The Japan Foundation, Yangon, Myanmar

Strength in Fragility: an Exhibition by the Women Artists in Myanmar, Goethe Institut, Yangon, Myanmar

Fighting Fear (Part 2), 16albermarle Project Space, Sydney, Australia

Our Grandfather Road: The (gendered) body and place in contemporary southeast Asian art, 16albermarle Project Space, Sydney, Australia

C a r e, Goethe Institut, Myanmar

Universe One: Portal to an impossible City, Myanm/art, Myanmar

Shi, Goethe Institut, Myanmar

To Rise To The Surface, ASEAN Culture House, Busan, Korea

This Time: Contemporary Watercolor, A+ Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Myanmar Voices: We Are Still Here, Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong

A Life Beyond Boundaries (the Geography of Belonging), JWD Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand

Fighting Fear: #whatshappeninginmyanmar, 16albermarle Project Space, Sydney, Australia

Reminiscence: A Southeast Asian Female Artists Exhibition, The 54th National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Concurrent Virtual Exhibition, USA

Vectors: The Artaxis Fellowship in its First Four Years, NCECA Concurrent Virtual Exhibition, USA

Temperature of Time: Contemporary Ceramic Art Exhibition, Shenzhen Creative Week, Shenzhen, China

In the Forest, Even the Air Breathes, GAMeC, Bergamo, Italy

Essentialist Images, Richard Koh Gallery, Singapore

2019 A+ Entrees, A+Works of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ClayFest Northwest, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA, USA

Polyphony: Southeast Asia, The Art Museum of Nanjing University of the Arts (AMNUA), Nanjing, China

A+ Works of Art at Art Expo Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Resident Artists Exhibition, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA, USA

To Return, Na Space, Jingdezhen, Jiangxi, China

The Sovereign Asian Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Hart Hall at H Queen, Hong Kong

Ceramics Invitational, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA, USA

Seeing Through Buddhism: Myanmar's Contemporary Art Scene, Theertha Red Dot Gallery, Sri Lanka

A Gifted Offering, Eutectic Gallery, Portland, OR, USA

East Side West Side: All Around the Town, ArtEAST, Issaquah, WA, USA

Working Relationship, North Seattle College Art Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA

Art in Context, The American Center of the U.S. Embassy, Yangon, Myanmar

ClayFest Northwest, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA, USA

Yavuz Gallery at Art Fairs Philippines, Manila, Philippines

Love Knots, Drive-by Projects, Watertown, MA, USA

2017 ClayFest Northwest, Pottery Northwest, Seattle, WA, USA

Clayfest Northwest Preview: A Survey of Contemporary Ceramics from Pottery Northwest, Bemis Arts, Seattle, WA, USA

Sculptured, Vol. 1, Yavuz Gallery, Singapore

Artists Beyond Boundaries: Myanmar Artists Reflect on Art and the Future, The American Center of the U.S. Embassy, Yangon, Myanmar

Mud of Asia, RMA Institute, Bangkok, Thailand

Flux: Ceramics Triennial, Woods-Gerry Gallery, RISD, Providence, USA

Selected Work: Group Exhibition, River Gallery, Yangon, Myanmar

Me and My Arrow, ZieherSmith, New York City, NY, USA

Nature Gone Wrong, Drive-By Projects, Watertown, MA, USA

2015	Dialectics of Self: Two Persons Exhibition with Jungmok Lee, A. Thomas Ferreira Gallery, California State University, Long Beach, CA, USA
	12th Annual Marge Brown Kalodner Graduate Student Exhibition, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia PA, USA
	Spring Wound (Graduate Thesis Exhibition), Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI, USA
	Kinsey Institute Juried Art Show, The Grunwald Gallery of Art, Indiana University, Bloomington IN, USA
	Of Earth (locally generated NCECA exhibition), Anchor Providence, Providence, RI, USA Risky, Metcalf Galleries, RISD, Providence, RI, USA
	Paper Chasers, Memorial Hall Gallery, RISD, Providence RI, USA
2014	Steal This Art, Granoff Center, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA
	College Collective, Firehouse Gallery, Genesee Pottery, Rochester, NY (Jurors: Will Contino, Mitch Messina)
	Just Kiln Me, Sol Koffler Gallery, RISD, Providence, RI, USA
2013	Ceramics Triennial, Woods-Gerry Gallery, RISD, Providence, RI, USA
	Albion College Senior Art Major Exhibition, Albion College, MI, USA
	Michigan Small Colleges Art Exhibition, Alma College, Alma, MI, USA
	The Michigan Mud Juried Student Competition, Michigan Ceramic Arts Association, Delta College MI, USA
2012	Michigan Ceramics: 2012 Biennial Exhibition and Competition, Birmingham Bloomfield Ar Center, Robinson Gallery, Birmingham, MI, USA
	Michigan Small Colleges Art Exhibition, Olivet College, Olivet, MI, USA 2011
2011	Michigan Mud 2011 Juried Student Show, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
	Michigan Small Colleges Art Exhibition, Adrian College, Adrian, MI, USA

#### **AWARDS**

2020	Young Alumni Award, Albion College, USA
2016	First Prize, The 1st Taoxichuan Cup: Porcelain City Top Ten Youth, Jingdezhen Municipal Party Committee, Jingdezhen, China
	Artistic Selection Award, Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA
2013	Outstanding Senior Art Major Award, Albion College, MI, USA
2012	Honorable Mention, Michigan Small Colleges Exhibition, Olivet College, MI, USA
2011	Outstanding Ceramic Entry, Runyon Pottery Award, Michigan Ceramic Art Association, MI, USA

#### **COLLECTIONS**

The British Museum, UK

Queensland Art Gallery Collection, Brisbane, Australia

New Taipei City Yingge Ceramic Museum, Taiwan

Artpark, NY, USA

Shangyu Museum, Zhejiang, China

Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Japan