



On view November 10, 2023 - March 9, 2024

Reception Friday, November 10, 6-9 PM / tallerpr.org/paisanos

Philadelphia, PA, October 18, 2023 - Taller Puertorriqueño is pleased to present Dorcas Tang's 邓佳颖 ***LOS PAISANOS DEL PUERTO: Portraits of the Chinese diaspora community in Puntarenas, Costa Rica***, on view in the Lorenzo Homar gallery at Taller Puertorriqueño, 2600 N 5th St, Philadelphia.

The exhibition showcases 70 prints and audio interviews with residents of Puntarenas. According to Rafael Damast, the curator, Tang's work evokes tension: "It tests our sense of belonging and understanding of race, nationality, and entitlement."

The word *paisano* refers to countryman, a term of endearment used between the Chinese community in Costa Rica to refer to one another, and *el Puerto* refers to the port town of Puntarenas. *Los Paisanos del Puerto* (2018 – ongoing) focuses on the living narratives of the Chinese diaspora in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. This exhibition presents a kaleidoscopic view of the community through portraits, vernacular photo albums, archival images from the state, and oral interviews. *Los Paisanos* explores a forgotten intersection of Chinese and Latine identities while seeking to question and redefine our understandings of both.

La palabra paisano se refiere a compatriota, un término cariñoso utilizado entre la comunidad china en Costa Rica para referirse entre sí, y el Puerto se refiere a la ciudad portuaria de Puntarenas. Los Paisanos del Puerto (2018 – en curso) se centra en las narrativas vivas de la diáspora china en Puntarenas, Costa Rica. La exposición presenta una visión caleidoscópica de la comunidad a través de retratos, álbumes de fotografías vernáculas, imágenes de archivo del estado y entrevistas orales. Los Paisanos explora una intersección



olvidada de las identidades china y latina mientras busca cuestionar y redefinir nuestras definiciones de ambas.

About the Artist

Dorcas Tang 邓佳颖 (she/they) is a third-generation Chinese-Malaysian photographer and artist working, thinking, and playing on unceded Gadigal land. She is interested in the crucial intersections of photography, history, and archival silences. As a daughter of the Chinese diaspora, at the core of her practice is caring for her communities while grappling with the intrinsic violence of the camera and archival practices.

Dorcas Tang 邓佳颖 (Ella / elle) es una fotógrafa y artista china-malasia de tercera generación que trabaja, piensa y juega en las tierras no cedidas de Gadigal. Está interesada en las intersecciones cruciales entre la fotografía, la historia y los silencios dentro de los archivos. Como hija de la diáspora china, el centro de su práctica es el cuidado de sus comunidades mientras lidia con la violencia intrínseca de la cámara y las prácticas de archivo.

About Taller Puertorriqueño

Founded in 1974, Taller Puertorriqueño is a community-based cultural organization whose primary purpose is to preserve, develop, and promote Puerto Rican arts and culture, grounded in the conviction that embracing one's cultural heritage is central to community empowerment. Taller is also committed to representing and supporting other Latino cultural expressions and our common roots.

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