



"Remembrances and Passages"
An American Urban Grid - Placemaking As Memory
Personified

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"*Remembrances and Passages*" combines architecture painting, video, and a performance reading. The performance narrative addresses how the experience of private aspects of migration and refuge becomes visible through the creation of public spaces and constructions. Seemingly fixed, the gender, sexuality, and ethnicity of the narrative's characters becomes transposed, thereby affecting the construction of public place and space through which the story unfolds.

When we engage in public space- a city street, a cafe, a table for quiet talk- within the private intimacy of that moment that is within a public space we are both participants and observers. It is that tension of being both 'participant' and 'observer', in our daily habits, our interrelationships, and our planned and unplanned movement through the larger environment that underscores the overall content of the work.

"*Remembrances and Passages*" takes place in Denver, Colorado, in the city's alleyways. Through the consequence of my own walking Denver's alleys, I accidentally unearthed their history. Eight city blocks historically identified as the 'Chinese community, or 'Hop Alley' existed within the urban grid of Denver's commercial district; the expanse of which has been nearly forgotten. The narrative is based on historical accounts of a Chinese community that lived in the back alleys of the city between 1870 and 1947. The Chinese immigrant's story in the American West is an enveloping canvas that drives the narrative.

While "*Remembrances and Passages*" is an acknowledgement of a broader cultural space within which Americans experience their lives, moment to moment, it begins from the personal identification we may have with one another, simply those very human qualities that demark our common ground and that are shaped by culture. Common events can be borne from the very ordinary such as a gesture, or the intimacy of a glance, to the extraordinary events of history that we may find ourselves in knowingly or unknowingly as participants.



Top: Aerial Photograph / Site Diagram, "Hop Alley", Denver, Colorado
Middle and Lower Photographs: 'Hop Alley', Denver, Colorado
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Video Still: "Remembrances and Passages" Self Portrait in Character, "The Mandarin's Mask"