

CELLULAR TO STELLAR

LINDA OY HO

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4 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 2017

OPENING: FRIDAY 4 AUGUST 6PM - 8PM

St Heliers Street Gallery • Abbotsford Convent

# CELLULAR TO STELLAR

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It has been widely regarded that we are currently living in the heights of the Anthropocene, a period of time in Earth's history that has been significantly shaped by human activity. Although not currently formally designated as a geological epoch, the term has caught on as a buzzword outside of scientific communities to describe the ways that humans have profoundly changed the Earth's geology, atmosphere and biosphere – including the recent phenomenon of climate change and global warming. It is clear to us today that there is a correlation between human actions and changes in the natural world, and the speed of our current generation's actions in addressing this fact will no doubt be paramount to the Earth's future.

- Sophia Cai, arts writer and curator

**Linda Oy Ho's artistic practice** is invested in these human connections to the environment, and imagined through a particular narrative of spirituality and personal reflection. Ho has only been working as an artist since 2014, yet in this time she has quickly established her unique artistic style and methods. Her most recent series in this exhibition continues the artist's ongoing interests in the intersections between philosophy, spirituality, ecology and nature. The title of the show *Cellular to Stellar* suggests the interconnectedness between all things – from the very microscopic to the macrocosmic – that forms the basis for this approach.

## CELLULAR TO STELLAR

1400mm X 560mm X 125mm  
Stainless steel, enamel paint, glitter



'We are creatures of Earth, created of stardust, energised by the sun, carrying within us fragments of the first life-forms – evidence of our kinship with every other creature on the planet.' - David Suzuki



### INFINITE UNIVERSE WITHIN

1400mm X 1250mm X 125mm  
Stainless steel, glitter, enamel paint

Thirteen stainless steel bowls hold and form the sacred geometry 'Fruit of life' symbol known to be the 'blue print' of the universe which connects cells to life forms and to all that exists.  
- Linda Oy Ho

What is immediately striking about Ho's works are their suggestive potential, their ability to evoke a range of readings. The sculptures on display are visually appealing in their luminosity and ethereal beauty, but their power also stems from their ability to suggest something larger than the sum of their parts. Titles such as *Infinite Universe Within* and *Rivers in Our Veins* prompt the viewer to re-imagine their potential correlation to their experiences in the world, leaving an open-ended interpretation to their representation.



### RIVERS IN OUR VEINS

1.7m X 600mm X 130mm  
Stainless steel, glitter, enamel paint

Ho cites the writings of Canadian scientist and environmentalist David Suzuki as a major influence on her artistic practice. In the seminal text *The Sacred Balance*, Suzuki charts not only the human impact on nature but also demonstrates how dependent humans are on the Earth's ecology including its water systems, soil and vegetation. This co-dependency and interconnection between things is expressed in Ho's work through a visual focus on the circle, which also doubles as the shapes on which she paints. Ho arranges round stainless steel vessels together in a variety of configurations; suggesting rising landscapes, the elements of nature, human biological structures, interstellar constellations and moons. There is a clear regard for sacred geometry, order and balance expressed in these forms.



### I AM EARTH, AIR, WATER AND FIRE

800mm X 800mm X 100mm  
Stainless steel, glitter, enamel paint

'A bond exists between all things because they drink the same water and breathe the same air.'  
- Luther Standing Bear,  
My People the Sioux



The significance of the circle as a basis for all structures of life, from biological cells to planetary forms, is harnessed by Ho as a means to draw on the correlations between nature and human systems. *As Above, As Below, As Within* can be read visually as either tree branches and root systems, or perhaps the internal structure of the human lungs. In either case, lungs and branches have the same function delivering essential components of life through a guided channel. By conflating the two and demonstrating the similarities, Ho is prompting us to reconsider our human position in the natural world, a relationship that is not wholly single-sided but much rather co-operative.



**AS ABOVE, AS BELOW, AS WITHIN**

600mm X 1000mm X 100mm  
Stainless steel, glitter, enamel paint

The spherical form of the stainless steel vessels is emphasised through Ho’s physical application of paint to their surfaces. The pointilistic painting techniques to create highly detailed and patterned works that are a unique blend of abstraction and representational motifs. For Ho, the use of dots is a physical representation of ‘energy’ in its simplest and purest forms. Their application to surface is almost three-dimensional, as the convergence of dots suggests a sense of rhythm and movement. Working with a muted colour palette of gold and silver tones, the resulting surfaces suggest potential links to alchemy. Ho’s earlier works used hand-beading and textile techniques, and this meticulous attention to detail and process is evident in this body of work through Ho’s painterly application. Against the darkened base layer of the bowls as containers, the paint appears to radiate from its depths creating a sense of depth, time and space.



**TO LOVE AND TO BE LOVED**

1120mm X 1000mm X 125mm  
Stainless steel, enamel paint, glitter

From a cellular level, we are energy created from the laws of attraction uniting the universe. Love unites and nourishes life.

- Linda Oy Ho

### ALL IS ONE

920mm X 920mm X 125mm  
Stainless steel, glitter, enamel paint

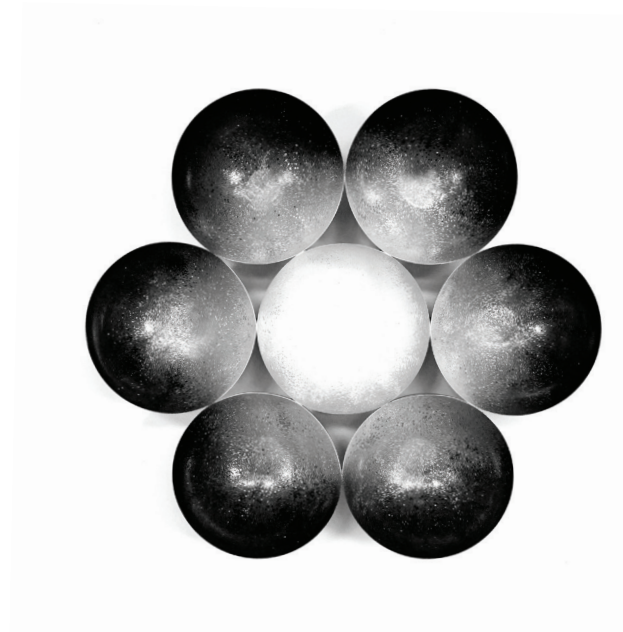
‘All existence survives, revolves and evolves  
from nature’s cycles such as inhalation  
to exhalation, photosynthesis,  
birth to death, day to night, tides,  
seasons, moon and sun.  
We are infinitely interconnected.’

- Linda Oy Ho



There are evident links in these works to Eastern philosophy and spirituality, as well as visual connections to traditions in Chinese landscape painting. Landscape painting in Chinese history has a revered tradition, and it typically presented an imagined, idealised version of a landscape, one that emphasised a harmonic relationship with the natural world. This format is similarly retained in Ho’s works, which arise from the artist’s impression and imagination.

Ideas of opposites, of ‘yin and yang’, darkness and light, are also expressed clearly in thematic approaches and depictions taken by Ho. *All is One*, for instance, expresses the cyclical nature of this by charting an infinite loop from brightness to darkness to brightness again. The use of white and black in this work can be interpreted as phases of a moon cycle, or suggestions of life and death or growth and decay.



### ETERNAL NOW

840mm X 840mm X 125mm  
Stainless steel, glitter, enamel paint

‘To see a world in a grain of sand  
and heaven in a wild flower.  
Hold infinity in the  
palms of your hand  
and eternity in an hour.’  
- William Blake

This exhibition prompts us to appreciate our very own limited capacity to see and understand the natural world. Ho’s works stem from her deep appreciation for nature, but they are also suggestive of abstracted ideals that highlight metaphorical and symbolic interconnections between all forms of life. Her sculptural paintings are like looking glasses that not only reflect back on us, but also invite us to look deeper beyond the surface.

**Sophia Cai**, arts writer and curator  
[sophiacai.info](mailto:sophiacai.info)

# BIOGRAPHY

Linda Oy Ho's ethereal, reflective and highly detailed sculptural artworks explore the human connections to the natural world.



Her practice unites concepts in philosophy, spirituality, ecology and nature. Luminous, polished and refined artworks combine unexpected mediums such as painting, metal, glitter, wood, fibre and textiles to reflect the intrinsic concept and narrative.

Since 2014, Ho has been a finalist in eight art awards. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design (RMIT), worked successfully as a graphic designer and now creates sculptural artworks in her bright Abbotsford Convent studio, Melbourne.

# THANK YOU

Many thanks to arts writer and curator

Sophia Cai for her insightful essay,

Robert Hook, St Heliers Street Gallery,

Cam's Cafe/Bar, the Abbotsford Convent

Foundation, CEO Colette Brennan, Catriona

Black-Dinham, Cam Miller, Brooke Daly,

Huw Cushing, Ralf Kempken, Matthew Quick,

the Convent arts community, Darcy Vescio,

Sarah Wilmott, Jerome and Alisha Pelletier

for their support of this exhibition.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## AWARDS

### 2017

Yering Station Sculpture and Exhibition Awards - Finalist

Wyndham Art Prize - Finalist

Toorak Village Sculpture Exhibition - Finalist

### 2016

Yering Station Sculpture and Exhibition Awards - Finalist

Brisbane Art Prize - Finalist

Toorak Village Sculpture Exhibition - Finalist

### 2015

Yering Station Sculpture and Exhibition Awards - Finalist

### 2014

The M Collection Art Award - Finalist

### 2013

Wild Things Wild Places - Mixed Media Art Award

## EDUCATION

### 1993

Bachelor of Arts (Graphic Design) RMIT

### 2001

Diploma of Teaching Hatha Yoga

Gita Yoga International, Abbotsford

## RESIDENCIES

### 2014 - 2017

Resident Artist at the Abbotsford Convent, VIC

### 2015

Winter Residency - Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Abbotsford, VIC

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

### 2017

Cellular to Stellar - St Heliers Street Gallery, Abbotsford, VIC

### 2004

All is One - Collingwood Gallery, Collingwood, VIC

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

### 2017

Yering Station Sculpture and Exhibition Awards

- Yering Station Winery, Yarra Glen, VIC

Wyndham Art Prize - Wyndham Cultural Centre, Werribee, VIC

Toorak Village Sculpture Exhibition - Toorak Village, VIC

### 2016

Yering Station Sculpture and Exhibition Awards

- Yering Station Winery, Yarra Glen, VIC

The Brisbane Art Prize - Judith Wright Centre of

Contemporary Arts, Fortitude Valley, QLD

Look Around You - Art Piece Gallery, Mullumbimby, NSW

Toorak Village Sculpture Exhibition - Toorak Village, VIC

Elemental - St Heliers Gallery, Abbotsford Convent, VIC

Contemporary Sculptors Assoc. Survey Show

- Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Abbotsford, VIC

Red Stocking - Red Gallery, Fitzroy North, VIC

All I Wish - Black Cat Gallery, Hawthorn East, VIC

### 2015

Yering Station Sculpture & Exhibition Awards

- Yering Station Winery, Yarra Glen, VIC

Winter Residency Show - Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Abbotsford, VIC

Annual Text Show - Upstairs at the Napier, Fitzroy, VIC

At the Beach - Masonic Hall, Sorrento, VIC

Bonanza Annual Exhibition (CSA Members)

- Yarra Sculpture Gallery, Abbotsford, VIC

### 2014

The M Collection Art Award - Gallery Smith, North Melbourne