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SUN MAR 10 6:15PM / MON MAR 11 7:00PM



ANCESTORS IN AMERICA

Presented with KQED

In person: director Loni Ding

KQED will host a reception before the screening, at 4:00PM

\$10 ticket includes pre-screening reception and screening

ASIAN AMERICAN
FF 196

DIR. Loni DING

USA, 1996, Video, 90 min., World Premiere

PROD/WRITER Loni DING

EDITOR Eric LADENBURG MUSIC Zhou LONG

Veteran documentarian Loni Ding retells and reframes Asian American history in a thoroughly engaging and thought-provoking way in her strong new work, ANCESTORS IN AMERICA.

The first in a planned four-part series, ANCESTORS tackles the story of Asian migration to the Americas, beginning from the first instances of Filipinos to Louisiana in the early 1600s and, in this piece, focusing on Chinese movement to the Americas. ANCESTORS shows the liberatory possibilities of uncovering many myths and truths through film and video. It also provides a much needed recontextualization of Asian American history and places notions of "Asian America" in a global socio-economic framework that's very timely in these times of transnational capital and labor.

ANCESTORS takes the viewer to locations all over the world, tracing pivotal moments such as the devastating opium wars in the late 1800s when the West waged war on China when she resisted the influx of opium upon her citizens by the West. England, the U.S. and other Western powers seized this opportunity and, fueled by the rhetoric of Chinese impertinence towards the West, forced open Chinese ports to trade and secured that very valuable commodity, tea. Following this came the slavery and forced migration of Chinese coolies to the Americas.

Dramatically narrated by a distinctive voice of an imaginary figure of a timeless Asian American, ANCESTORS IN AMERICA also takes an inter-disciplinary approach to telling history, pulling from historical events, economics such as the trade of porcelain trade, cultural debates and the rhetoric of race theories and presents a rich, complex and uncompromised history of Asian movement. By recovering historically pivotal moments in the experiences of different groups of Asian arrivals, the film seeks to reveal histories forgotten, denied and marginalized.

—P. Yi

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