

## Suggested order of visit

2

3

1

4

Front Entrance (Facing Lovett Hall)

**For our visitors' convenience, the inscriptions are typed out here to assist you navigate the installation. Please note that the poems and quotes are the intellectual property of the participating writers, narrators and of the Houston Asian American Archive oral history project, with the exception of those in the public domain.**

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## **Canvas 1**

*I.*

*All this year I thought I was the strong one,  
was above hitting rock bottom.  
Until rock bottom hit me,  
leveled me to the ground.*

*On the mornings I wake without crying,  
I peer inside at what pain has opened up  
and wonder —*

*What beautiful thing will be put together from the wreckage?*

*II.*

*What I look forward to most is the opportunity to once again see a stranger smile.*

**--- Wei-Huan Chen**

*"On the way home, I kept breaking down crying when I couldn't hold the sadness inside me... he asked if I was okay..."*

*"You really don't want to be okay, because you're afraid that if you're okay, it means your dad is really gone."*

*"It's different when death visits you intimately. It was strange feeling different, but even stranger not talking about it with anyone."*

**--- Karl Chang**

**"Life, Death and the Laws of War"**

*"But you can't redo history. So all I can do now is I can recognize when I should've spoken up and I didn't. Today, I'm a much different person. I think it's also a matter of maturing and your comfort level with yourself and who you are."*

**--- Donna Fujimoto Cole**

*Cry.*

**--- Matt Manalo**

## Canvas 2

*"Ups and downs are a normal part of life; do not get too attached to either. Try to leave a mark on society by serving mankind in whatever capacity you can."*

--- Poonam Salhotra

*"Positivity is my strength and I have given my view to your archive before also as a survivor."*

--- Nusrat Ameen

*"That's why I think it's important to keep giving and if you see something you can help someone with, because you never know that you can really change their lives."*

--- Mandy Kao

## Canvas 3

*I must choose to pour  
the crystalline water  
into my own roots and soil,  
bathe in sunlight  
of my own making*

*reminding myself  
of my gentleness  
of my wholeness  
of my birthright.*

*my mourning  
my newness  
and my might.*

--- Jenah Maravilla

"An Affirmation, A Call Upon (Me)"

*Sometimes the ocean is a bridge.*

--- Rachel Gonzales (artist)

In response to a quote by his late father  
which is inscribed on Canvas 4

*I want to live shameless, mischievously, and infectiously awake.*

--- Vivian Ziwei Guan

Rice student, late friend of Rachel Gonzales (artist),  
who passed away in 2013

*"I know that they still fighting with the war of Coronavirus up there. And I pray for them."*

--- Father Tam

#### Canvas 4

*My bones are in agony.*

*Meet me in silence.*

*Meet me where it hurts most.*

--- **Rachel Gonzales** (artist)

*This is how it feels on the inside.*

*How's it looking like on the other side.*

--- **Kevin Trinidad**

*Om mani padme hum.*

--- **Buddhist Mantra**

*We will cross the bridge together.*

--- **Jose Gonzales**

Late father of Rachel Gonzales (artist)

*"The Asian American community needs to not only stand up against that (the model minority myth), but they need to stand up for other communities. Because if Black lives don't matter, why would Asian lives matter?"*

--- **Glenda Joe**

*"Goldthread... the root of our culture, the bitterness that comes with being diaspora— the pain, the suffering. It's not just a sweet thing. It's healing, but it's not going to taste that good."*

--- **Dolly Li**

*"I truly believe that in many ways, artists are futurists; we are fortune tellers. We are the guides to a newer and better world."*

--- **Antonius Bui**

*"They provided kind of distraction, but also kind of hope in this situation. New life comes into the world and we know this pandemic will be over hopefully soon. But whatever situation we are in, we have to remember— life goes on."*

--- **Y. Ping Sun**

*"Our unity is our strength, and our diversity is our power. We reject the myth of us vs. them. We are in this together."*

--- **Kamala Harris**