

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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***MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION EXPLORES LAYERED IDENTITY,  
EMPOWERS WOMEN & MARGINALIZED GROUPS***  
at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft October 2, 2021 – January 8, 2022

***Later, Longer, Fewer: The Work of Jennifer Ling Datchuk***

**October 2, 2021 – January 8, 2022**

Main Gallery

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

**Hours & Admission**

Current hours: Thursday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission is free. Visitors must wear masks and practice social distancing. Visit [www.crafthouston.org](http://www.crafthouston.org) for the latest information.

**(HOUSTON, TX) July 2, 2021** – This fall, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) presents *Later, Longer, Fewer: The Work of Jennifer Ling Datchuk*, an exhibition of blue-and-white porcelain sculptures, large-scale multimedia installations, and performance video that critiques the realities and contemporary perceptions of women's access and liberation. Using Asian motifs that are common in blue-and-white porcelain, coupled with the design and material language of domestic objects and feminine beauty products, Jennifer Ling Datchuk elevates stories of silent sisterhood and feminist perspectives while exposing systematic inequities that continue to stifle women's progress.

As a Chinese American woman, Datchuk delves into the complicated and sometimes overwhelming aspects of growing up in a blended family. She states, "My work has always been an exploration of my layered identity-- as a woman, a woman of color, an 'American,' and as a third-culture kid."

The exhibition title, *Later, Longer, Fewer*, references a 1970s Chinese propaganda poster that encouraged women to take advantage of birth control to curtail the country's birth rate. Datchuk's exhibition opens up a conversation about historical civil rights precedents in China and America. She comments, "This message suggests that women have the power and access to resources in order to make these decisions. China enacted the one-child policy and has culturally instilled valuing boys over girls, which has created a huge population gap. The U.S. has politicized birth control and actively passes heartbeat bills to challenge Roe vs. Wade. Access to healthcare does liberate women, but there are many societal, cultural, and political systems in place that continue to hold us back."

Drawing from her background in ceramics, Datchuk exposes the continued presence of racism and misogyny within the commerce of traditional decorative objects. At the same time, she utilizes the universal familiarity of functional wares as a way to incorporate messages of empowerment for marginalized individuals. Over time,

her practice evolved from clay sculpture to mixed media, as she began to focus on domestic objects and feminine spaces. Through clay, synthetic hair, and video, she explores how Western beauty standards influence the Eastern Hemisphere, how non-white bodies are commodified and sold, and how women's work--largely girls' work--is a major economic driver, despite the inequities of its workers.

As a part of its exhibition programming, HCCC will invite the public to contribute to Datchuk's installation by writing words of affirmation on porcelain beads that the artist will braid into a large-scale curtain made of synthetic hair. Stretching nearly 22 feet long, the hair curtain represents the thresholds that individuals cross when encountering different cultural spaces. As symbols of solidarity and respect, the beads, adorned with positive affirmations, serve to metaphorically counteract cultural barriers for marginalized groups. HCCC Curator Kathryn Hall comments, "Utilizing her own identity as a catalyst, Datchuk illuminates the gendered and racial thresholds that exist between different cultural spheres, while also creating opportunities of support and empowerment by inviting individuals to share their stories."

*Later, Longer, Fewer: The Work of Jennifer Ling Datchuk* is curated by HCCC Curator Kathryn Hall.

### **About Jennifer Ling Datchuk**

Based in San Antonio, TX, Jennifer Ling Datchuk holds an MFA in artisanry from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and is currently an assistant professor of ceramics at Texas State University. Datchuk has received numerous awards. Most recently, in 2021, Datchuk was appointed State Three-Dimensional Artist by the Texas State Legislature. She has been named the United States Artist Fellow in Craft (2020), a Finalist for French and Michigan's Publication Program (2018), and an American Craft Council Emerging Voices Award (2017) recipient. She has participated in residencies at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, Germany; the Pottery Workshop in Jingdezhen, China; the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont; the European Ceramic Work Center in the Netherlands; and Artpace in San Antonio, Texas. Her work has been exhibited nationally, including several solo exhibitions at Artpace (San Antonio, TX), Women and Their Work (Austin, TX), Ruiz Healy Art (New York, NY), Art League (Houston, TX), and Blue Star Contemporary (San Antonio, TX).

### **About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**

Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC continues to serve as a treasured resource in the Houston arts community and the region by showcasing emerging and acclaimed artists in exhibitions, introducing visitors of all ages to contemporary craft through hands-on and virtual programming, and supporting the development of working artists through its artist residency program.

HCCC is currently open limited hours: Thursday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission is free. Before visiting, the public should visit [www.crafthouston.org](http://www.crafthouston.org) to view visitor guidelines, including the requirement to wear face masks and practice social distancing throughout the building. HCCC is located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, three blocks south of the Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District.

For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit [www.crafthouston.org](http://www.crafthouston.org). Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.

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