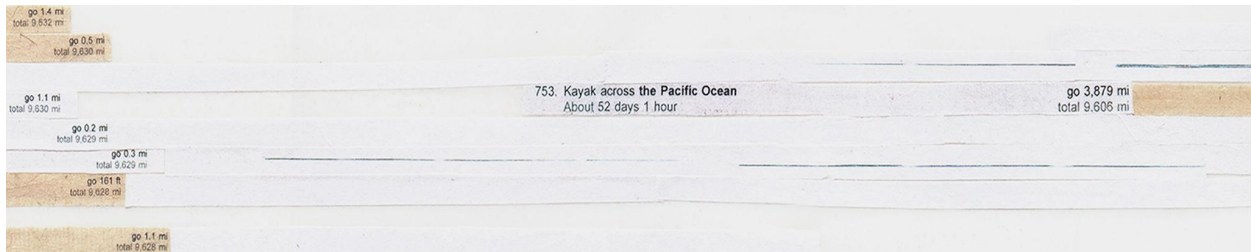


**WALKING TO TAIPEI BY YU-WEN WU ACQUIRED BY
THE HARVARD ART MUSEUMS**



(Brookline, MA – December 14, 2022) Praise Shadows is honored to announce the acquisition of Yu-Wen Wu’s *Walking to Taipei* (2010-2021) by the Harvard Art Museums. Originally on view at the artist’s solo Praise Shadows gallery exhibition *Internal Navigation* in September 2021, it was recently presented at the Independent Art Fair in May 2022. The work has been praised by critics in *The Boston Globe*, *Artnet News*, *ArtNews*, and was recently selected by *New York Magazine* art critic Jerry Saltz as one of [The Best New York Art Shows of 2022](#).



The artist and the owner of Praise Shadows, both of whom have roots in Taipei and Boston, felt that it was important to keep the work in the Boston region. The Harvard Art Museums’ world class collection of Chinese works on paper and contemporary art is an ideal permanent home for *Walking to Taipei*, which also reflects the diversity of the artist’s practice and worldview.

“We are overjoyed that Yu-Wen Wu’s *Walking to Taipei* scroll has found a new home at the Harvard Art Museums,” says Sarah Laursen, the Alan J. Dworsky Associate Curator of Chinese Art. “This innovative work reinvents the traditional handscroll—read one section at a time, from right to left—by modernizing its materials and transforming the visual narrative. Rather than following figures across a painted landscape of hills and streams, we trace the artist’s intense longing for home through multilingual computer-generated instructions that defy all logic and possibility. Whether in our galleries or Art Study Center, we are excited to watch community

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members and students from across the university engage with *Walking to Taipei* and grapple with their own understanding of time, space, and psychological distance.”

Walking to Taipei is a 20-foot long handscroll that uses a 2010 Google Maps search result as its inspiration and visual data. The artist, a Taiwanese American artist based in Boston, had been trying to book an overnight flight to see her sick grandmother in Taipei. The airfare was exorbitant, so on a whim she asked Google for walking directions. Surprisingly, the search result included 2,052 steps from the center of Boston to the center of Taipei, through the continental United States on foot, through the Pacific Ocean via kayak, to Hawaii and again across the Pacific via kayak, then a quick stop to Shanghai via jet ski, and lastly a swim across the Taiwan Strait to her final destination, Taipei. Wu cut each Google Maps direction on strips of Chinese paper, then meticulously laid them out on the scroll, configuring the design to evoke large swathes of ocean, or the topsy-turvy terrain of Hawaii and Japan. A fitted wooden scrollbox lined with silk houses the scroll when it is not being viewed.



Walking to Taipei will be on display at the Harvard Art Museums from December 2023 to June 2024, after which it will be available to view by visitors, by appointment, in the museum’s Art Study Center. To book a time, visit [here](#).

Credit Line

Harvard Art Museums/Fogg Museum, Purchase through the generosity of Robert Kwak and Eunhak Bae, through a fund established by Ernest B. and Helen Pratt Dane for the purchase of Asian art, and the Louise Haskell Daly Fund, 2022.374.

About the artist

Yu-Wen Wu is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in Boston. Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Wu’s subjectivity as an immigrant is central to her artwork. Relocating to the United States at an early age, her experiences have shaped her work in areas of migration--examining issues of displacement, arrival, assimilation and the shape of identity in a new country. At the crossroads of art, science, politics and social issues, her wide range of projects include large-scale drawings, site-specific video installations, community engaged practices, and public art.

Wu recently exhibited *Lantern Stories* at Chin Park in Boston’s Chinatown, a widely acclaimed public artwork commissioned by the Greenway Conservancy in 2020 and reinstalled in 2022 by public demand. A similar project was commissioned for San Francisco Chinatown and opened in 2022. She is the 2021 recipient of the Mass Cultural Council Artist Fellowship, and was recognized by Boston Magazine as the 2021 Best Artist in its annual Best of Boston issue.

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ART GALLERY

Other large-scale commissioned works include a 38' sculptural drawing for the Chao Center at Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA; a recent sculpture spanning two stories at the Joyce Cummings Center at Tufts University, Medford, MA; and two multichannel video projections for the Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN. She was a 2018 fellow at Yaddo, and was the 2018-2019 Artist-in Residence at the Pao Arts Center Boston. The durational project *Leavings/Belongings* that originated at Pao was included in the SITE Santa Fe exhibition *DISPLACED: Contemporary Artists Confront the Global Refugee Crisis* (2020-2021). In 2022 her light-based public art project, part of the Now + There's Accelerator Program was installed in East Boston, MA. This piece will be exhibited in 2023 at Boston City Hall funded by the Transformative Art Grant. Her work is included internationally in public and private collections.

About the Harvard Art Museums

The Harvard Art Museums house one of the largest and most renowned art collections in the United States, comprising three museums (the Fogg, Busch-Reisinger, and Arthur M. Sackler Museums) and four research centers (the Straus Center for Conservation and Technical Studies, the Center for the Technical Study of Modern Art, the Harvard Art Museums Archives, and the Archaeological Exploration of Sardis). The Fogg Museum includes western art from the Middle Ages to the present; the Busch-Reisinger Museum, unique among North American museums, is dedicated to the study of all modes and periods of art from central and northern Europe, with an emphasis on German-speaking countries; and the Arthur M. Sackler Museum is focused on art from Asia, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean. [Harvardartmuseums.org](https://www.harvardartmuseums.org)

About Praise Shadows LLC

Established in 2020, Praise Shadows Art Gallery is a commercial gallery space in the Boston area showing the work of emerging and mid-career artists.

We believe that the art ecosystem is filled with untapped potential, and our work is grounded by partnering closely with artists to develop opportunities in emerging models of creativity and entrepreneurship — exhibitions, commissions, brand partnerships, new technologies, and original concepts that no one has ever tried before. Praise Shadows Art Partners advises artists and companies in the creative industries on strategic partnerships and marketing. Our work is local, global, and virtual. www.praiseshadows.com

Images

Top left: Installation view of *Internal Navigation*, Yu-Wen Wu's solo exhibition at Praise Shadows, 2021, featuring *Walking to Taipei*. Photo by Dan Watkins for Praise Shadows Art Gallery.

Top right: Yu-Wen Wu in her Boston studio. Photo by Edward Boches for Praise Shadows Art Gallery.

Second from top: Detail of *Walking to Taipei*, courtesy of the artist.

Bottom: The fitted scrollbox with *Walking to Taipei* inserted, courtesy of the artist.