



Wen-hao Tien: I Love Your *Grammatical Errors*
April 5 – May 7, 2023

First Fridays

April 7 & May 5, 5 – 8:30pm

Artist Meet & Greet

April 8, 13 & May 6, 11am – 5pm

Reception & Artist's Talks

Saturday April 29, 4 – 6pm (Talks begin at 5pm)

Gallery Hours

Wednesday – Sunday, 11 – 5pm

Boston Sculptors Gallery presents Wen-hao Tien's *I Love Your Grammatical Errors*, featuring an array of imaginative works including contemporary sculpture, AI embroidery, and original song composed with Morse code. This exhibition explores language and translation.

Tien's native tongue, Chinese, unlike English, has no tenses, no gender, and no singular or plural forms, but uses strings of characters to create complex expressions. For Tien, it leaves room for abstraction and individual personality. The title of this exhibition reflects her appreciation for deep listening, beyond the surface of linguistic habits, to appreciate innate messages.

Tien gathered tree limbs bearing markings made by insects. The artist teased out the complex patterns, treating them as a found language and filling in portions with gold—celebrating their indigenous grammar and simultaneously creating her system of hieroglyphs. You are encouraged to look for signs in the tree limbs and produce rubbings of them to hang in the "Viewer's Frame" (find materials on the shelf on the rear gallery wall.)

In "(Mis)idioms": hand-written sentences with linguistic errors were gifted to her by friends for this project. She then transcribed them using a digital embroidery machine. The thin fabric helps to expose the marvelous thread patterns of the AI-driven embroidery machine, which "translates" the sayings into visual expressions.

Tien urges us to look closely, as things may not be what they seem. In "Book of Revelation", find a stack of old industrial tires, but peer within the black rubber rings and you might catch signs of life – like goldfish making a home against all environmental odds under the "Sword of Damocles".

Tien's foundation in art is Chinese calligraphy. Lines vibrate and have music. What do you hear?

Tien's work is featured in the new book *Crossing Boundaries and Confounding Identity: Chinese Women in Literature, Art, and Film*, edited by Cheryl C. D. Hughes, published by SUNY Press.

Special events for this exhibition:

4/8, 4PM, Visual Thinking Strategies with Dabney Hailey.

5/6, 4PM, Music Happening with Ethnomusicologist Brita Heimark.

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