

## ***Bio - Cheryll Leo-Gwin***

*Cheryll Leo-Gwin* is a fourth-generation Chinese-American artist living and working in Redmond WA.

She earned her Bachelor of Fine Art and Master of Fine Art degrees from the University of Washington. As a mixed media artist Cheryll's work has been exhibited in England, China, and throughout the United States. Her work is included in the public collections of Washington State, King County, City of Redmond WA, City of Seattle, the Wing Luke Asian Museum, and numerous private collections.

She was awarded Special Projects grants from 4Culture, Artist Trust, the City of Bellevue, and a Professional Development Grant from the Washington State Arts Commission. Her work has earned numerous awards and invitations throughout the region.

She was awarded a place on the Fulbright Foundations Senior Scholar Fellowship Roster and taught workshops in China and the United Kingdom. Cheryll served as an arts commissioner for the State of Washington; King County; and the City of Redmond WA. She taught design, painting, drawing, and metalsmithing at California State University Long Beach, University of Washington, and North Seattle College. She retired from her position as Director of the Arts program at Bellevue College and now works full time creating painting, sculpture, and recently has journeyed into animation.

For the past 15 years, she has researched the US Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882-1943 and its effect on women and their families. She has recorded oral histories from women in China who survived the Cultural Revolution under Mao Tse Tung's regime and Chinese American women in the US who fought for Civil Rights. Her artwork documents her research and the true stories she has collected.

She is currently working on a two-story monument that honors a landmark case that allows Chinese and non-Christians to testify in a court of law. Installation is projected for September 2019 in Albuquerque, NM. While her art is based on specific stories, Cheryll uses imagery that is universal to the human experience.

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