

*QNA Presents*

# *Eternal Spa*

4 / 2 / 22



*Angela Dimayuga*

*jas lin* 林思穎

미친년 / *Michinyeon is Kwonyin,*  
*Na Mira, and Saewon Oh*

*brandon nguyen*



*Daphne Nguyen (aka Fine China)*  
*and Yuki*

*Scott Oshima*

QNA (Louie Bofill, Jae-an Crisman, Paulie Morales, Ly Tran, and Howin Wong) presents *Eternal Spa* at MOCA in collaboration with artists Angela Dimayuga, jas lin 林思穎, 미친년 / Michinyeon (Kwonyin, Na Mira, and Saewon Oh), Brandon Nguyen, Daphne Nguyen and Yuki, and Scott Oshima. We invite you into a multi-sensorial, durational performance in the historic Japanese American neighborhood of Little Tokyo. Through the metaphor of Asian spas and health centers, the performance engages questions of embodiment, sexuality and sex work, self-care, and identity, critiquing how Asian bodies have been othered and exoticized — especially one year after the Atlanta shootings.

We remember those who lost their lives a year ago in the Atlanta spa shootings, including six Asian body workers: Paul Andre Michels, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Daoyou Feng, Yong Ae Yue, Xiaojie Tan, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, and Soon Chung Park. We also stand together as a community in the face of ongoing anti-Asian violence, especially violence directed at the elderly, women, queer family, and sex workers.

*Eternal Spa* seeks to reclaim a collective ability to heal and to commune. We ask that you enter this sacred space slowly, carefully, grounding your feet to the earth, feeling your body receive sensation, working your way to the sanctuary shrine at the innermost interior space. Enjoy, reflect, recline, lay down, and be. Sounds by Howin Wong and Paulie Morales fill the space with vibration, and projections by Jae-an Crisman wash your body with light.

The performance will be accompanied by programming which include sexual health resources and rapid HIV testing provided by APAIT ([www.apaitonline.org](http://www.apaitonline.org)), music, dancing, and food and beverages for sale by local restaurants. We stand on Tongva land, citrus land, Biddy Mason land, Bronzeville land, and Little Tokyo land. We acknowledge our countless geographic and political connections — histories of racism, rasure, protest, celebration, and job — as we continue to care for this land we call home.

“Welcome to Little Tokyo.  
Please take off your shoes.”

## *Welcome Cocktail, Angela Dimayuga*

This sacred sip invites you into a new space, connecting you to the earth through flowers and herbs. Heal and celebrate as I provide you with a beverage made from special ingredients from my favorite east coast herbalist, forager, and farmer. These special fermented, preserved, and archived ingredients will be coming from Furnace Creek Farms. These plant-based elements will be complemented by fresh ingredients sourced locally in LA.

## *3,000-year bath, Scott Oshima*

Japanese bathing practices emerged from China and Korea around 1000 BCE. The practice traveled to Japan through Buddhism and flowed into Shinto misogi water purification rituals. The Issei carried the practice to America in the late 1800s. Many were single men living in boarding houses, hotels, and SROs without baths. They would visit sentō public baths for a soak, a cleanse, a rest, and company. Ten were located in Little Tokyo, two of which were on this same block: the Miyajima-yu and Tokiwa-yu. Only the Tokiwa-yu's building still stands. Most sentō were lost to WWII Japanese American incarceration. With help from my family, I take a bath in the 10 sentō of Little Tokyo. Performers: Andrew James Phoenix Jewell, Jessica Katz, Paul Oshima & Angel Pang. Thank you: Hirokazu Kosaka and the Little Tokyo Historical Society (David Maldonado, Michael Okamura & Bill Watanabe).

## *Mirrors, Daphne Nguyen with Yuki*

When living under a marginalized identity, your being is often labeled as “other,” packaged away to be observed as if an attraction at the zoo. However, the amalgamation of our experiences, particularly emotions, are shared by all of us. Through videos, we highlight emotions and experiences that can be mirrors to the experiences of everyone no matter what their identity, to emphasize the very human lives of trans sex workers. In our performance, we bring a minor glimpse into the negotiation and booking process, and suggest the possibility of what a session can turn into. By bringing this direct experience to the audience and their discretion of participating, we invite the normalization and destigmatizing of a trade that is often stigmatized by both strangers and friends. Considering the bath house, each performer will provide different aspects of connection, physical and emotional.

## *Water Temple, 미친년 / Michinyeon*

*Is it safe for an Asian femme to love in this world?* Through a durational performance of sound, movement and vocalization, Michinyeon subverts silence and stigma. The communal space of the Korean Spa is exalted through the frequency of release and emotional exfoliation. Twin beneath skin, another timeline triggered and ancestral patterns become rearranged in the waterfall's primordial force.

## *within us, brandon nguyen*

The sanctuary encourages rest, reflection, and rejuvenation. A space that asks us to come as we are and bare ourselves wholly in our shared collective experiences as Asian Americans. Following the river of chrysanthemums, we are guided home to ourselves. With no more white noise, it is time to listen and respond to the voices calling to us. A flower is offered at the altar as a form of prayer. White chrysanthemums have an evolving symbolism translated by the intention of its donor. May we take this time to honor ourselves, those still with us, and those who have passed. It is time to rest. For Rest is sacred. Rest is radical. Rest is our birthright.

## *chrysanthemum river, jaslin 林思穎*

*chrysanthemum river* is a closing ritual for integrating and transmuting the collective care and grief of *Eternal Spa*. lin draws from several east asian funeral performance traditions to embody and facilitate grief, catharsis, and celebration for their community. amid the overwhelming violence and death under white supremacy and cis-heteropatriarchy, they work with movement as a way to process and move through the full spectrum of emotions arising from the ongoing aftermath of anti-Asian and anti-femme violence. their practice of deep feeling is invested in re-memembering what the body has been manipulated into numbing and forgetting. through *chrysanthemum river*, lin hopes to carve out ritual space and ritual time for our congested hearts to be present together as we remember and release, protest and weep, slow and soften, pray and curse, rest and dream. musical score by x/o featuring tracks from their album “Chaos Butterfly” out april 4. costume by Jenny Liang.

# *Eternal Spa Eternal Spa Eternal Spa*

*Thanks to Alex Sloane, Brian Dang, and the whole MOCA team for all of their support in realizing this project. Thanks also to Scott Oshima for writing the land acknowledgement that is in this introduction, and to Randell Baltazar and Schmidli Backdrops for material support. And thanks to all of our QNA family, documentarians, actors, and volunteers: Hon Hoang, Eva Barragan, Dee Galipeau, CJ Ormita, Lihe Han, Teresa Cheung Ji, Matte Brooks, Daniel Hyo Kim, Frankie Refuerzo, Tony Lee, Polartropica, J Cagz, V Nakatani, Aaron Woo, Cory Nakamura, John Le, and Darren Kinoshita, Jonathan Paul, and Dimitri Rojas*

*Design by Ly Tran*

**QNA (Louie Bofill, Jae-an Crisman, Paulie Morales, Ly Tran, and Howin Wong)** is a Los Angeles-based collective and platform that highlights queer and trans API artists and culture through art, nightlife, and community. [www.qna.la](http://www.qna.la)

**Angela Dimayuga** is a New York City based chef, multidisciplinary artist, and co-author of *Filipinx: Heritage Recipes from the Diaspora*. A daughter of Filipino immigrants, and raised in the Bay Area, she is a self-taught chef who was Executive Chef of Mission Chinese Food NY, and Creative Director for Food & Culture at The Standard Hotels International. She is a contributing writer to NY Times Cooking & Food, host of an experimental cooking show for NTS Radio, associate artist at Performance Space New York, and culinary advisor to the Lower East Side girls club.

**jas lin 林思穎** (they/them) is a taiwanese/american performance artist and choreographer. lin stages exorcisms for purging choreographies of the learned body and shutting down internal and external surveillance cameras that suggest there is a Proper way to move through the world.

**미친년 / Michinyeon is Kwonyin, Na Mira, and Saewon Oh.** Inhabiting the liminal, crossing the threshold, incantations invoke underworld into sacred profane ecstasy.

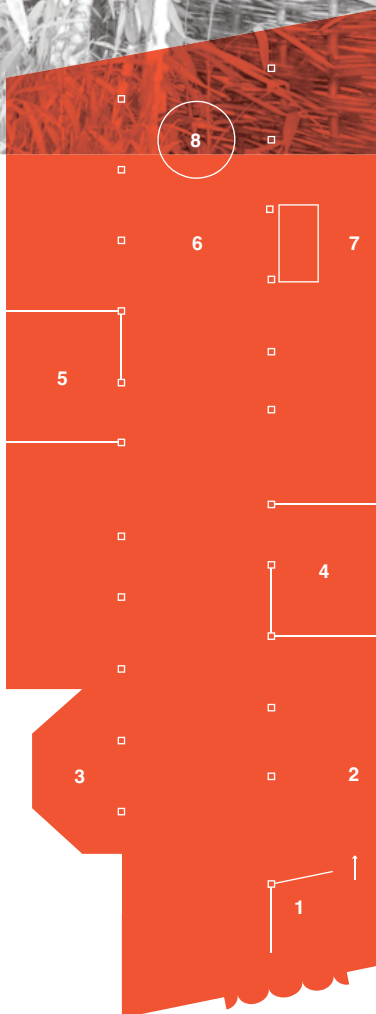
**brandon nguyen** (he/they) is a Vietnamese queer floral artist who expands on the imaginary dreams of nature via their medium expression. An intertwined and dynamic translation of culture, sexuality, and soul serve as their inspiration channels.

**Daphne Nguyen (aka Fine China)** is a multidisciplinary visual/performance artist. As a trans and sex worker advocate, her art is centered around a familiar thesis as her field of work. Grounding people in the present moment, her performances include body modification, body endurance, as well as sharing a glimpse of the trans experience to create a sense of relatability that expands the human perspective beyond a standard fetishized and tokenized lens.

**Yuki** is a hapa Uchinanchu ha'awahine with many names, born and raised in Hawai'i. Yuki began her nightlife career as a performer in 2012, and has been a sex worker of various capacities since 2015. Yuki began dancing in various shows around Portland, OR, where she helped produce a monthly trans femme strip night in 2019. She has shifted most of her focus on establishing herself as a TS femdom over the past three years.

**Scott Oshima** (they/them) is an artist and community activist who centers communities of color by unearthing personal and political history within our city streets. Scott is yonsei Chinese Japanese American and a 4th generation resident of Los Angeles on Tongva and Chumash land. They can often be found singing songs to the freeways or picking grapefruits from 150 year old trees in Little Tokyo. [www.o-shi-ma.com](http://www.o-shi-ma.com)

**@qna.la / [www.qna.la](http://www.qna.la)**



**1. Welcome Cocktail**, Angela Dimayuga / **2. Intro & Takeaway**, QNA / **3. 3,000-year bath**, Scott Oshima / **4. Water Temple**, 미친년 / Michinyeon / **5. Mirrors**, Daphne Nguyen with Yuki / **6. chrysanthemum river**, jaslin 林思穎 / **7. light & sound**, QNA / **8. within us**, brandon nguyen