

My piece reflects on my thoughts about my family's personal immigration story within the greater scope of the immigrant experience in the United States. I chose to use imagery of fish in this piece because there are many migratory species of fish, and they leave behind material goods and physical spaces in search of something better for themselves. My family's immigration story is reminiscent of that aspect of fish. I embedded small schools of fish made from the wrappers of nostalgic Asian candies into hand-beaten kozo paper and netting. In addition to the candy wrapper fish that were linked to my personal experiences as a first-generation Asian American, I painted portraits of my family and me onto larger candy wrappers. The fish and the portraits are not completely embedded into the paper because my family was able to get past the many roadblocks of immigration, however, that might not be the same for other families or other schools of fish. I wanted the portrait to look afloat, yet appear as though they were close by the netting. Positioning the embedded material this way shows the potential that my family could have been one of the fish caught in the net, prohibiting us from reaching a place that grants us comfort and opportunity.

*CAUGHT*

Wen Yu C.

Brooklyn, New York