

Amy Ching-Yan Lam 林靜昕

b. Hong Kong
amyclam@gmail.com
www.amylam.me

EDUCATION

M.A. in English Literature/Creative Writing from **Concordia University** (Montreal, Canada), supported by **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) research grant**.
Focus on experimental and hybrid writing.

B.A. in English Literature/Rhetoric with a minor in Computer Science, from the **University of Waterloo** (Waterloo, Canada).

BOOKS

2024 **Property Journal**. Creative non-fiction. Book Works (London, UK).

Property Journal consists of a journal that I kept during 2022, in which I recorded every occurrence of real estate and housing in conversation (and life). In this year, the housing crisis in Toronto/Toronto, and elsewhere, accelerated with terrifying speed. The entries are threaded through with my parents' preparations to retire, move out of our family home, and move in with my sister. The journal was first presented as a one-day-a-page calendar in my solo gallery exhibition, *a small but comfy house and maybe a dog* (Richmond Art Gallery, 2023) and then reworked into a standalone publication, with a unique page layout created in collaboration with designer Rosen Eveleigh. The book records, in absurd detail, precarity, class conflict and contact, and the economic strictures of family.

2023 **Baby Book**. Poetry collection. Brick Books (Kingston, Canada).

- Finalist for 2023 Governor General's Literary Award in Poetry.
- Longlisted for the 2024 Gerald Lampert Award, League of Canadian Poets.
- Longlisted for the 2024 Fred Cogswell Award for Excellence in Poetry.

Baby Book is structured around the act of storytelling: it pairs my (lack of) memories of childhood in Hong Kong with my grandmother's similarly incomplete memories of her own childhood in 1930s China. The title refers to both types of "baby books:" the type that is blank, with spaces for imprints of hands and feet, and the type that is filled with stories or fables to read out loud.

2022 **Looty Goes to Heaven**. Historical fiction and artists' book. Eastside Projects (Birmingham, UK).
Published as part of public art commission for 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.
Bilingual in English and Traditional Chinese.

Looty Goes to Heaven explores the history of a real-life Pekingese dog that was taken from the Summer Palace at the end of the Second Opium War, which made Hong Kong, my birthplace, into a British colony. The tiny dog was gifted to Queen Victoria and renamed "Looty," in reference to how she was obtained. *Looty Goes to Heaven* is a fiction about Looty, based on historical research, that re-imagines what her life (and afterlife) may have been like. The book includes historical timeline and archival images sections. It was distributed for free during the duration of the Commonwealth Games. This format and distribution strategy was intended to counter *Where's Master? By Caesar, the King's Dog* (1910), a bestselling children's book published after the death of King Edward VII—propaganda that expressed, in the form of a pet, the loyalty of an ideal, imperial subject.

2021 **The Four Onions.** Poetry chapbook, published by yolkless press (Calgary, Canada).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 "Heard everywhere but here." Essay about filmmaker/artist Jordan Lord's exhibition "The Voice of Democracy." Squeaky Wheel. <https://squeaky.org/amy-ching-yan-lam-heard-everywhere-but-here/>
- 2023 "Horse Being." Film review. *Deep Horse Texts*. Artist book by Hazel Meyer.
- 2022 "They were born old." Poem, with sculptures by artist Caley Feeney. *Le Sigh*, issue 04. <https://le-sigh.squarespace.com/issue-04-caley-feeney-amy-ching-yan-lam-en>
- "Protection." Poem. *Interjection Calendar* 008. Montez Press.
- "You!" Essay for artist Steve Kado's *Paper Brick: 2010-2020*. Leroy's.
- 2020 "The poet Li Bai" and "We prayed before dinner." Poems. *The Happy Hypocrite: Without Reduction*, issue 12. Book Works.
- Exhibition essay. *Distant Water Will Not Quench A Nearby Fire*. Artist book and exhibition by Petrina Ng. Textile Museum of Canada.
- 2019 "Immortal Peach." Poem. *an ordinary hole-in-the-wall along macleod before the railway underpass*. Artist book by Teresa Tam. Stride Gallery.

READINGS

Readings and performances of writings presented nationally and internationally, including at **Organism for Poetic Research**, NYU, New York (forthcoming, 2025); **Asian American Writers Workshop**, New York (2025); **Art Metropole**, Toronto (2025); **Printed Matter**, New York (2024); **Reference Point**, London (2024); **Good Press**, Glasgow (2023-4); **Burley Fisher**, London (2023-4); **Eastside Projects**, Birmingham (2023-4); **Hopscotch Reading Room**, Berlin (2023); **Poetic Research Bureau**, Los Angeles (2023); **Gallery TPW**, Toronto (2023); **Joys**, Toronto (2022); and **Mercer Union**, Toronto (2021).

COLLABORATIONS

From 2006-2020 I worked with Jon Pham McCurley as the collaborative performance and conceptual art duo **Life of a Craphead**. Beginning in live comedy, we created site-specific performances, public art, films, and research-based works. Our work is archived at www.lifeofacraphead.com.

Project-based collaborations with **HaeAhn Woo Kwon** (sculpture, 2023); **Emerson Maxwell** (animation, 2022); **Sheila Heti** (writing project, 2020); **Aliya Pabani** (performance with Public Recordings, 2017); **Margaux Williamson** (film project, 2016); **Liz Peterson, Aliya Pabani & Onyeka Igwe** (performance, 2015).

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 **83% Perfect.** The Goldfarb Gallery (fka Art Gallery of York University), Toronto (fall 2025)
- 2023 **a small but comfy house and maybe a dog.** Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond BC
- 2022 **Looty Goes to Heaven**, public art commission for Birmingham 2022 Festival/Commonwealth Games. Eastside Projects, Birmingham UK
- 2020 **Make-Believe Bathroom.** SFU Gallery, Burnaby BC. Online project—www.publicbathroom.online.
- 2019 **Entertaining Every Second.** 3rd iteration at Centre Clark. Montreal.
- Entertaining Every Second.** 2nd iteration at aka artist-run. Saskatoon.
- 2018 **Entertaining Every Second.** Truck Gallery/M:ST Performative Arts Festival. Calgary, Canada.
- 2015 **Bugs.** Screening of film and installation in gallery (with Laura McCoy). The Western Front. Vancouver.
- 2013 **Life of a Craphead Fifty-Year Retrospective, 2006 – 2016.** Photo-documentation of performance projects. Weston Family Community Gallery, Art Gallery of Ontario. Toronto.

- 2010 **Storytelling Cube** installation/performance in custom-built 3-storey maze at Hotel MariaKapel. Hoorn, the Netherlands.
- 2009 **Double Double Land Land** performance and exhibition of related sculptures co-presented by Gallery TPW & The Theatre Centre. Toronto.

SELECTED PERFORMANCE PROJECTS/GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 **The Pond.** Newspaper collaboration with Robin Simpson. **to carve without cutting.** Organized by Asia Jong and Unit/Pitt. Sun Yat-Sen Garden & Park. Vancouver, BC.
- Top 20 Reasons...** Poem and performance at **Means of Production.** Queens, NY.
- 2021 **C**kie M*nster *nterpreter.** Performance with Oliver Husain. 11th Seoul MediaCity Biennale, Seoul, S. Korea**
- Life of Life of a Craphead.** Video work at the **11th Seoul Mediacity Biennale,** Seoul, S. Korea
- Bathroom Classroom.** Collaborative exhibition with HaeAhn Kwon, **Franz Kaka,** Toronto.**
- The Parkette Projects.** Gallery TPW, Toronto.**
- 2017 **King Edward VII Equestrian Statue Floating Down the Don** public art project for the Don River Valley Art Program, curated by Kari Cwynar.
- 2016 **Sounds of Venice** performance/collaboration with Geoffrey Farmer, to launch the Canada Pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale, Art Toronto.
- Water Route development proposal model** in Showroom group exhibition, curated by Sarah Robayo Sheridan at the **Art Museum of the University of Toronto.**
- 2012 **Transporting Life of a Craphead** performance for AGYU Performance Bus. **Art Gallery of York University.** Toronto.
- 2011 **Please Copy Us Forever** public intervention with 30+ performers for the Rhubarb Festival of Contemporary Performance, Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. Toronto.
- 2009 **What's the New Line?** lecture/performance with Lawrence Weschler. Curated by Margaux Williamson and Sheila Heti. **Cinecycle.** Toronto.
- 2006-2009 Various live comedy performances at venues/shows including **The Joke Club, UCB Theatre,** and **Laugh Sabbath.**

FILM/VIDEO PROJECTS

- 2020 **Life of Life of a Craphead.** 20 min, HD video. "Pilot" for a TV comedy show. Writer, performer, director, and editor. With production support from Centre for Art Tapes, Toronto Biennial of Art, and Trinity Square Video. Screened at the **11th Seoul MediaCity Biennale,** South Korea, 2021.
- 2016 **Bugs.** 72 min, HD video. Feature-length narrative live-action film. Writer, performer, director, and editor. With production support from **Xspace Cultural Centre,** Toronto. Production spanned 2011-2015. Official premiere at the **Art Gallery of Ontario,** Toronto with screenings at **Night Gallery,** Los Angeles; **S1,** Portland; **PhilaMOCA,** Philadelphia; **Parsons School for Design,** NYC; **Spectacle Theater,** NYC; the **Khyber Center for the Arts,** Halifax; **Eastern Edge,** St. John's; **La Plante,** Montreal; **LOMAA,** London, ON; **Ed Video,** Guelph, **Platform,** Winnipeg, and more.

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2012 **Doored (2012-2017)** a monthly performance art show curated by Life of a Craphead. Featuring new works by 7-9 artists each month. Broadcast and archived online. Presented at **Double Double Land,** Toronto. Special touring presentations at: "Strobe Network" at **Flux Factory,** New York City (June 2015); "Laff Box" at **Showroom MAMA,** Rotterdam (Oct. 2015). Special show at the **Toronto Biennial of Art** in Sept. 2019.

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2024 **International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP)**, New York City.
- 2021 Digital Diasporas residency with **4A center for Asian Art**, Sydney (online residency)
- 2020 **Delfina Foundation**. *Performance as process*. London, UK. (Sobey Art Award Residency).
- 2019 Inaugural Artists-in-Residence. **Toronto Biennial of Art**. Toronto.
Centre for Art Tapes. Halifax, NS.
- 2017 **Klondike Institute for Art and Culture** artists-in-residence. Dawson City, Yukon.
Struts Gallery & Faucet Media Arts Centre artists-in-residence. Sackville, New Brunswick.
New Space Arts Foundation artists-in-residence. Huế, Vietnam.
- 2016 Macdowell fellowship. **Macdowell**. Peterborough, New Hampshire, USA.
Chin's Push artists-in-residence. Los Angeles, USA.
- 2015 **Flux Factory** artists-in-residence for *Strobe Network*. New York City, USA.
- 2014 Macdowell fellowship. **Macdowell**. Peterborough, New Hampshire, USA.
- 2013 Artists-in-residence program. **Art Gallery of Ontario**. Toronto

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sessional Professor, School of the Arts

2024, McMaster University

- Designed and taught *Movies and Me 2MM3*, an entry-level film course for both arts and non-arts majors. A large-format lecture class, with over 250 students; supervised three teaching assistants.

Writing Workshop Teacher and Facilitator

2021—ongoing

- Developed and led experimental, collaborative, and thematic creative writing workshops, with a focus on specific encounters, experiences, processes, and practices.
- *The Funk of Living*, with poet Fan Wu and artist Steven Beckly, **City of Toronto Public Art Program**, Toronto (May-August 2024), for emerging poets, leading to the creation of poetry sited around the Humber River.
- *Never Edit/Over Edit*, **Artspeak**, Vancouver (October 2022), for artists and writers, focussing on processes of editing and revising. Inspired by Chinese experimental writer Can Xue's claim that she never edits: she only writes accumulatively, moving forward every day.
- *Looty's Lives*, **Eastside Projects**, Birmingham, UK (Jan.-Feb. 2021), for Chinese diasporic writers, focussing on experiences of migration and the afterlives of colonialism, based on my research into the story of Looty the dog and the interconnected trades of opium, tea, Chinese objets d'art, and purebred dogs.

Mentor

2017—ongoing

- Mentor for emerging writers through the *Writing Workshopping* program at the **Doris McCarthy Gallery** (2021).
- Mentor in the **Newcomers and Refugees Mentorship program**, Toronto Arts Council (2017-18).

Visiting Guest Lecturer and Critic

2009—ongoing

- Invited to deliver guest lectures on visual arts, performance, and hybrid practices, and participate in studio visits or one-on-one critiques with students at Fine Arts departments of universities across Canada: **York University** (2012, 2017, 2025), **University of Toronto** (2021, 2025), **McMaster University** (2023), **Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) University** (2022), **Concordia University** (2020), **University of Manitoba** (2020), **Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) University** (2018), **University of Calgary** (2018), **Emily Carr University of Art + Design** (2019), the **University of Guelph** (2019), and **California Institute of the Arts** (2009).
- In winter 2025, delivering a lecture as part of the **Canadian Writers in Person** course at York

University (March 2025).

Teaching Assistant, Literature & Critical Theory

2006–08, Concordia University, Montréal

- Courses: *Introduction to Critical Theory* and *British Literature 1660-1900*.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Story Producer & Researcher

2018-2019, *In the Making* arts documentary TV series, CBC

- Researched and wrote story arcs for eight-episode TV series of 22 min. short docs, each featuring one of Canada's leading artists. Artists were Jeremy Dutcher, Beverly Glenn-Copeland, Christopher House, Deanna Bowen, Ken Lum, Rebecca Belmore, and Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory.

Assistant Editor, Publications and Exhibitions

2017-2018, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

- Production editor on fifteen books and publications, managing and editing texts throughout all stages of the process. Publications included major exhibition catalogues for artists Mickalene Thomas; Rebecca Belmore; Theaster Gates; Jennifer Baichwal, Edward Burtynsky, and Nicholas de Pencier; Kenojuak Ashevak and Tim Pitsiulak; and group exhibitions *Tributes + Tributaries, Every. Now. Then.*, and the *AIMIA Photography Prize*.

Freelance Editor

2012—ongoing

- Editor for creative, art, and academic writing. Diverse projects and clients include artists' books, experimental hybrid texts, exhibition catalogues, essay collections, funding proposals, dissertations, for arts organizations, academics, and artists.

ORGANIZING AND SERVICE

A founding member of **Friends of Chinatown Toronto** (2018-2022), a grassroots group fighting for racial and economic justice in Chinatown, and the **Toronto Chinatown Land Trust** (2022-23).

Served on **juries for the Toronto Arts Council** (2019); **Canada Council for the Arts** (2021); and public art selection committee for the **Don Valley River Park** (2020).

Served on the Board of Directors of **Art Metropole** (Toronto), from 2008-2013.

Co-organizer of **Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-a-thon** (Toronto edition) in 2014.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2006-2025 Project funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council.

2024 Longlisted for the E.A.T. Prize, Times Museum, Guangzhou, China.
Longlisted for the Gerald Lampert Award, League of Canadian Poets
Longlisted for the 2024 Fred Cogswell Award for Excellence in Poetry.

2023 Finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award in Poetry.

2018 Longlisted for Sobey Art Award and recipient of Sobey Art Residency Prize.

PUBLIC ART COLLECTIONS

Art Museum, University of Toronto.

PERMANENT PUBLIC ARTWORKS

Looty's Meadow (2024), Birmingham, UK.

A meadow of Opium and Orientale poppies (*papaver somniferum* and *papaver orientale*) planted in the heart of Digbeth, Birmingham, down the street from the former site of the Ty-Phoo Tea Factory, commemorating the link between the colonial opium and tea trades. A legacy project of Looty Goes to Heaven, commissioned for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

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