

GODZILLA'S Proposal for "A New World Order" at Artist's Space

GODZILLA will create a multi-media installation (two and three dimensional objects, video, audio, interpretive texts) that reexamines objects and images that Westerners associate with Asians and Asian cultures (i.e. the exotic and alien). The installation will take the form of a curio shop, which has historically been a business fixture in Asian American communities. Like laundries and restaurants, curio shops have become an integral part of Chinatowns, Manilatowns and Little Tokyos in the Western imagination.

GODZILLA will construct the interior of a curio shop which will be stocked with items that appear to be curios. In actuality, these curios will be artists' reinterpretations of the kinds of stereotypical orientalia expected by western consumers. The literal consumption of curios becomes a metaphor for the West's ethnographic objectification and consumption of Asian cultures. Among these "exotic" objects will be the ordinary yellow pencil (Mongol brand) with a label explaining its origins. Fortune cookies containing written aphorisms that begin with "Confucious says..." will examine the unintentionally demeaning function these "fortunes" actually play. Asian jokes will be a topic of investigation in this installation as well as cross-cultural ideals of beauty, such as footbinding and breast augmentation. Through the Curio Shop, GODZILLA will invite the audience to reexamine historical and contemporary representations of Asians and Asian Americans in Western cultures. Twenty-five artists will take part in the exhibition.