

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES YU-WEN WU AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE INAUGURAL PRILLA SMITH BRACKETT AWARD



WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College has announced **Yu-Wen Wu as the winner of the inaugural Prilla Smith Brackett Award**. Wu will receive \$15,000 to support her art practice, which focuses on stories about human migration. She will also be featured in an online exhibition available through the Davis Museum website. The biennial Prilla Smith Brackett Award honors an outstanding female-identified visual artist based in the Greater Boston area and recognizes her exceptional contributions to the field

and region.

“Wu’s artwork tells powerful stories of human migration, of losses and gains, through a trans-medial practice that ranges from drawing, to community-based installation, to video,” says Lisa Fischman, the Ruth Gordon Shapiro ’37 Director of the Davis Museum. “Projects such as *Leavings/Belongings* are especially important now as immigration continues to be one of today’s most pressing political, social, and economic topics.”

The Davis Museum will host a celebratory reception and presentation of the artist’s work on **September 23rd at 6 p.m.** Yu-Wen Wu, along with the award sponsor, Prilla Smith Brackett and the award jurors will be in attendance to discuss the artist’s work. The event is free and open to the public.

“I am honored and thrilled to receive the Prilla Smith Brackett inaugural Award,” said Yu-Wen Wu. “This recognition is an opportunity for me to expand ongoing inquiries into issues I care about, such as migration and the environment. Projects like *Leavings/Belongings* now have the support to develop performative elements and travel across the country. I am excited to realize new work.”

About the Artist

Yu-Wen Wu’s (b. Taipei, Taiwan) subjectivity as an immigrant is central to her artwork. Positioned at the crossroads of art, science, politics, and cultural issues, her projects include large-scale drawings, site-specific video installations, community engaged projects, and public art. Her most recent collaborative project, *Leavings/Belongings* (2016 to current) gives voice to individual immigrants and refugees who make it to the United States. The artwork brings small groups of immigrants together to make symbolic bundles, which call attention to material objects left behind. Her website can be found at: www.yuwenwu.com.

About the Prilla Smith Brackett Award

[Prilla Smith Brackett](#) is an artist known for working conceptually with landscape, depicting more than a description of a place. She has exhibited throughout the eastern US, including a solo show traveling to eight venues in New England and the Mid-Atlantic States. Other solo exhibitions have been held at the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, MA; National Academy of Sciences, DC; The Art Complex Museum, MA; and Hanoi Contemporary Art Center, Vietnam.

The biennial Prilla Smith Brackett Award supports a female-identified artist whose work and exhibition record demonstrate extraordinary artistic vision, talent, and skill. Recipients will receive a \$15,000 cash award to be used for travel, research, project development, or any other expenses related to career advancement. The applications were reviewed by a four-person jury comprised of Laylah Ali, the Francis Christopher Oakley Third Century Professor of Art at Williams College, Lisa Fischman, the Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director at the Davis Museum, Amanda Gilvin, the Sonja Novak Koerner '51 Senior Curator of Collections and Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Davis Museum, and Claire Whitner, the Director of Curatorial Affairs and the James A. Welu Curator of European Art at the Worcester Art Museum. The jury members conducted studio visits with each of the three finalists to determine the ultimate award recipient.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical, and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming—classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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Image Credits:

Yu-Wen Wu, *Leavings/Belongings* (exhibition at the Pao Arts Center, 2019), (2017 to current)
Fabric, thread, string, fiberfill.
Courtesy of the artist.

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request