SYNOPSIS

“Bernice changed the world...generations that come after that...benefit by seeing what inspiring contributions were made, how they contribute to our cultural landscape. [It’s] really important...letting people know what things are possible, redefining the cultural canons.” - Flo Oy Wong, Artist/Friend of Bernice Bing

Riding the waves of American history, THE WORLDS OF BERNICE BING explores the art, activism, and life of Abstract Expressionist painter, Beat-era Existentialist, Buddhist, feminist, and Chinese American lesbian.

Directed by award-winning filmmaker Madeleine Lim, the film is a key piece of scholarship about Bernice Bing. It illuminates the significance of her work as an artist, arts educator, and arts administrator. Lush and poignant, the documentary tracks the orbit of this little-known foremother of Asian American avant-garde art and previously overlooked San Francisco icon. It features one of the last interviews with painter Carlos Villa and art historian Moira Roth. Firmly fixing Bing’s impact on American art, the film launches her legacy into the future.

10 years after the film’s premiere, the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco acquired 20 of Bing’s paintings that are currently featured in the exhibition, Into View: Bernice Bing. This has renewed interest in her art and The Worlds of Bernice Bing. The documentary will screen at the museum in February 2023.

TRAILER LINK
https://vimeo.com/74667135
Madeleine Lim is an award-winning filmmaker with over 25 years of experience as a producer, director, cinematographer and editor. Her films have screened at sold-out theaters at international film festivals around the world, including the Vancouver International Film Festival, Mill Valley Film Festival, and Amsterdam Amnesty International Film Festival. Her work has been featured at universities and museums like the de Young, and Asian Art in San Francisco, and Crocker Art in Sacramento, and broadcast to millions on PBS.

Lim’s films have received awards from the prestigious and highly competitive Paul Robeson Independent Media Fund, as well as the Frameline Film Completion Fund. She received the 1997 Award of Excellence from the San Jose Film & Video Commission’s Joey Awards and won the 1998 National Educational Media Network Bronze Apple Award. From 2000 to 2003, she was a California Arts Council Artist-in-Residence. The Featured Filmmaker at the 2006 APAture Asian American Arts Festival, Lim has four times been awarded the San Francisco Arts Commission Individual Artist Commission for her films. She received grants from the Community Story Fund from Cal Humanities and the San Francisco Foundation Bay Area Documentary Fund for her film, The Worlds of Bernice Bing (2013), which won the Audience Award at the 2013 Queer Women of Color Film Festival. She holds a BA in Cinema from San Francisco State University, where she was awarded Outstanding Cinema Student of the Year. Since 2004, she has been an Adjunct Professor in the Film/Media Studies Department at the University of San Francisco.
At the age of 23, Lim escaped persecution by the Singaporean government for her organizing work as a young lesbian artist-activist. Ten years later, she created the award-winning documentary Sambal Belacan in San Francisco (1997), a film that is still banned in Singapore for its exploration of race, sexuality and nationality. As one of a small number of queer women of color filmmakers on the international film festival circuit in the late 1990s, she saw that only queer women of color would tell their own authentic stories. QWOCMAP is the result of her vision and she founded the organization in 2000 with the belief that a community of artist-activist filmmakers could change the face of filmmaking and the social justice movement.

*Madeleine Lim Headshot Image Description:*

Photo of a medium skinned tone masculine person of Asian descent with black hair with a touch of grey. They are wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and standing in front of a city view against a blue sky. They are looking into the camera.
CAST & CREW CREDITS

PRODUCED & DIRECTED by Madeleine Lim

Executive Producers
Asian American Women Artists Association
Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project

Co-Producers
Jennifer Banta Yoshida
T. Kebo Drew

Edited by Amal Kouttab

Music Performed by Anthony Brown's Asian American Orchestra

FEATURING
Bernice Bing (1936-1998)

INTERVIEWEES
Kim Anno, Artist
Jennifer Banta Yoshida, Cultural Activist & Writer
Lenore Chinn, Artist
Nancy Hom, Artist
Tirza Latimer, Art Historian
Moira Roth, Art Historian & Writer (1933-2021)
Ginny Stripp, Friend
Carlos Villa, Artist (1936-2013)
Frieda Weinstein, Friend
Flo Oy Wong, Artist/Friend
Alexa Young, Bing Estate Executor

Film was made possible by the generous support from:
Cal Humanities, Community Stories Grant
San Francisco Arts Commission, Individual Artist Commission
The San Francisco Foundation, Bay Area Documentary Fund
**DISTRIBUTION**

We’re happy to partner with educational institutions, and museums and galleries for screenings. We’re also happy to work with arts organizations and community groups. Please feel free contact us and let us know how you want to bring The Worlds of Bernice Bing to your world!

distribution@qwocmap.org
(415) 752-0868
1014 Torney Avenue, Suite 111, San Francisco, CA 94129

**PRESS**

QWOCMAP is happy to arrange interviews with Madeleine Lim, Producer & Director of *The Worlds of Bernice Bing*.

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(415) 752-0868
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**ABOUT BERNICE BING & THE WORLDS OF BERNICE BING**

Asian Art Museum

EXHIBITION
Into View: Bernice Bing
Through June 26, 2023
https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/into-view-bernice-bing/#:%20text=Into%20View%20BERNICE%20BING%20is%20view%20through%20June%2026%2C%202023.

SCREENING
*The Worlds of Bernice Bing*
Saturday, February 11, 2023
ARTICLES

Ignored in Life, Bernice Bing Is Discovered as Museums Rewrite History
By Carol Pogash, The New York Times
October 14, 2022
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/12/arts/design/bernice-bing-asian-americans-museum.html

QUANTUM BINGO
By Lydia Matthews
https://web.archive.org/web/20180505090859/http://www.queerculturalcenter.org/Pages/Bingo/BBLydia.html

A NARRATIVE CHRONOLOGY
By Moira Roth

The rediscovery of Abstract Expressionist Bernice Bing
By Scarlet Cheng, The Art Newspaper
November 22, 2022

When Asian-American Artists Are Unburdened by Identity
By Alex Paik, Hyperallergic
November 15, 2022

Bernice Bing’s Search for a Unified Self
By John Yau, Hyperallergic
November 10, 2022
https://hyperallergic.com/777991/bernice-bing-search-for-a-unified-self/

The Irresistible Cool of Bernice Bing
By Jonathan Griffin, Apollo Magazine
September 26, 2022
https://www.apollo-magazine.com/bernice-bing-san-francisco-painter/
Bernice Bing Steps into View
By Emily Wilson, Alta Journal
September 26, 2022

Bernice Bing: Asian Art Museum's showcase of the rediscovered artist
By Robert Brokl, Bay Area Reporter
November 15, 2022

Bernice Bing’s restless explorations broaden our understanding
By Chizu Omori, International Examiner
March 15, 2016
https://iexaminer.org/bernice-bings-restless-explorations-broaden-our-understanding/

'The Worlds Of Bernice Bing' documentary sheds light on legendary artist's life
By Ed Moy, Examiner.com
August 16, 2013
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Eb6NV3fWXBkTab-R8DDOq9fsQbSB1hD/view?usp=share_link

Audience award to ‘The Worlds of Bernice Bing’ at Queer Women of Color Film Fest
By Moira Sullivan, Examiner.com
June 18, 2013
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pu33NKFpG9zQylhQfMT_RdAbJu0NNOUY/view?usp=share_link

Rehistoricizing The Time Around Abstract Expressionism – Bernice Bing
https://rehistoricizing.org/bernice-bing/

The Worlds of Bernice Bing – Lenore Chinn Interview
January 30, 2014, Feminine Moments Blog
https://www.femininemoments.dk/blog/the-worlds-of-bernice-bing-lenore-chinn-interview/

Bernice Bing ’55 – Oakland Technical High School
https://oaklandtech.com/staff/centennial/2015/03/14/bernice-bing-55/
AWARDS
Audience Award, 2013 Queer Women of Color Film Festival

SELECT SCREENINGS

Film Festivals Official Selections
Amsterdam Feminist Art Fest, The Netherlands
Athena Film Festival, NY
Berlin Feminist Film Week, Germany
BFI London LGBT Film Festival, UK
Bologna Lesbian Film Festival, Italy
Boston LGBT Film Festival, MA
CAAMFest San Francisco Asian American Film Festival, CA
Cambridge Queer in Shorts, UK
Frameline San Francisco LGBT Film Festival, CA
Glasgow Glitch Film Festival, Scotland
Out Takes Film Festival, Auckland & Wellington, New Zealand
Queer Women of Color Film Festival, SF
Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, WA

Museums
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA
THE WORLDS OF BERNICE BING (2013) | STILLS

Image Description: Bernice Bing, a Chinese American woman, looks off to the right.
Image Description: Bernice Bing smoking a cigarette while seated in a roofless car.

Image Description: A young Bernice Bing lays on the floor with her head propped on her hand. Large paintings lean up against the walls of her studio.
Image Description: Bernice Bing reclines in a rocking chair, barely seen through a gap between two large paintings.
Image Description: An older Bernice Bing paints a large canvas with dark colors.
Image Description: A young Bernice Bing lounges on an ornate wood chair in her studio.
Image Description: Bernice Bing sits in a rocking chair in front of a large colorful painting.
Image Description: A young Bernice Bing sits on a stool in front of a large painting with blue colors.