

PRESS RELEASE

Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program at the Minneapolis Institute of Art Presents New Work by Sieng Lee

Minneapolis Institute of Art
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artsmia.org



Sieng Lee, *Rebirth*.

MINNEAPOLIS—March 15, 2019—The Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program (MAEP) at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) presents “Sieng Lee: Siv Yis and His Wooden Horses,” an exhibition by artist Sieng Lee. The artist draws upon his personal experiences as a Hmong Minnesotan and also the larger Hmong culture to explore what it means to “become American” and specifically what is lost and gained through cultural assimilation. The exhibition opens March 21, in the museum’s U.S. Bank Gallery, and will be on view through June 23.

Lee collaborated with Wa Leng Lee, a renowned shaman, and his community to create an installation that reflects a modern-day retelling of Siv Yis, the first Hmong shaman. The exhibition includes a large-scale sculpture made from wooden benches that rise to the gallery ceiling, illustrating the ascension of Siv Yis. Also on view are a mixed-media wall installation and posters that explore what it means to navigate between Hmong and American cultures and redefine traditional values in a contemporary world.

“Sieng Lee’s work tackles complex questions that do not have easy answers, or even have answers at all,” said Nicole Soukup, assistant curator of contemporary art at Mia and MAEP coordinator.

About the artist

Lee holds a BS from Herzing University, Madison, and an MFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. He is a recipient of the 2015 Jerome Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Artists, Minnesota States Arts Board. He was the lead exhibit designer of “We Are Hmong Minnesota” at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.

Related programming

Lee will give an MAEP Artist Talk on Thursday, May 16, at 7 p.m. He will discuss his exhibition and why working with the Hmong community remains central to his art practice.

Mia

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This exhibition is part of the Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program.

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About The Minneapolis Institute Of Art

Home to more than 90,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest wide-ranging art collections in the country—Rembrandt to van Gogh, Monet to Matisse, Asian to African—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday	10am–5pm
Thursday, Friday	10am–9pm
Sunday	11am–5pm
Monday	Closed

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