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Writers & Books Hosts Artist in Residence Julie Chen **Rochester Artist's "Always with Us" Confronts Grief Through Community**

Rochester, NY—Writers & Books, Rochester's home for the literary arts, announces a meet-and-greet with Julie Chen, an interdisciplinary artist working at the intersections of memory, mortality, and place. The event takes place at 740 University Avenue, Rochester, September 8, 6 - 8 pm. Artworks will be on view from Chen's collection, including *Eidolon of A-Ngoh*, "I can't forget, okay?," *The Last Shoe*, and *Getting Comfortable with Death*, all of which inspire and inform her progressive installation at Writers & Books, *Always with Us*, which will officially open with a gallery talk on November 3. Gift economy tickets for the September 8 event, priced free to \$20, are available to the public. To learn more and register to attend, visit <https://wab.org/artist-in-residence/>.

Chen's *Always with Us* gathers community stories of loved ones who have been lost and weaves them into a cloud-like installation made with the departed's belongings. In this community-engaged, progressive exhibition, Chen aims to offer healing and remembrance, an expression of collective grief and a representation of how loved ones linger with us beyond death. The artist invites community members to lend soft objects, write stories from memories, and submit audio recordings of, by, or about the departed by September 25, 2023. She will form these contributions into a dynamic, sensorial, cloud-like installation hung in Writers & Books' glass-enclosed entrance. The public is invited to contribute items to the exhibition by submitting an online proposal, available at <https://wab.org/artist-in-residence/>.

***Always with Us* Events**

- September 8, 6 - 8 pm: Meet the Artist
- October 7, 2 - 3 pm: *Eidolon of A-Ngoh: In Between* Performance
- November 3, 6 - 8 pm: Cloud Installation Opening & Gallery Talk

Artist in Residence

Writers & Books' glass-enclosed atrium is home to changing exhibitions that intersect with the literary arts, storytelling, Rochester's history, and issues in the public conversation. Annalisa Barron inaugurated the organization's Artist in Residence series in 2020 with [Place Projectors: Bringing Light, Lenses, and Words Together](#), and served as volunteer curator through 2022. Currently, artist Susan Begy is the series' volunteer curator. Mounted twice a year, exhibitions are selected by invitation. Artists in Residence facilitate interactive public experiences of their artwork, conduct open-house gallery talks, and document the evolving nature of their exhibitions on Writers & Books website.

Writers & Books, 740 University Avenue, Rochester, NY, promotes reading and writing as lifelong activities for people of all ages and backgrounds to enrich their lives and the intellectual, social, and cultural vibrancy of their communities. Incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit in 1981, the organization engages youth and adults with the literary arts through writing workshops, readings, presentations, and intersectional activities. Writers & Books owns and operates Ampersand Books, an in-house independent bookstore, and Gell: A Finger Lakes Creative Retreat, sited on 24 acres in Naples, NY.

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