

AND I WANDER

This is my compass,
my confession:
a body tracing the shape of home
without knowing where it begins or ends

In my ongoing series, 'And I Wander,' I delve into the complex relationship between personal identity and sense of belonging, drawing from my experience as an immigrant from Taiwan navigating the multifaceted landscapes of the United States over the past thirty years. This visual journey unfolds through a series of images that encapsulate the spectrum of emotions I've felt— from deep feelings of belonging to acute sensations of alienation.

At the heart of my project is a fluid, nebulous figure that moves between the American Southwest and Taiwan, representing both past and present. This dynamic presence captures the immigrant experience and the deep sense of displacement experienced by someone who has been away from their hometown for 30 years. In 'And I Wander,' I explore the dual experience of adjusting to a new cultural landscape while contending with a deep longing for a distant past. This work illuminates the challenges of assimilation and the search for belonging while reflecting on the journey of leaving one's origins behind.

My artistic approach involves creating carnival mirrors, intricately crafted to reflect my silhouette, and placing them within the landscapes. These mirrored figures, sometimes obscured or partially veiled, interact with light and environment, blurring the line between reality and illusion. This technique, reminiscent of classic photography, adds depth to the images, highlighting the figure's integration with, or separation from, its surroundings. This interplay captures the complexities of assimilation and my ongoing search for a deeper sense of belonging in a foreign land.

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