Press Release: Ming-Yuen S. Ma promoted to full professor (7/1/2012)

The Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies (IDAAS) at the Claremont Colleges is pleased to announce that our invaluable colleague, Professor Ming-Yuen S. Ma, has been promoted to full professor, effective July 2012. Professor Ma holds an appointment in Media Studies at Pitzer College, is the chair of Intercollegiate Media Studies, and actively involved in Asian American Studies as a core faculty.

Ming-Yuen S. Ma was educated at Columbia University and California Institute of the Arts. As co-director (with Carol Stakenas), he recently realized Resolution 3, which included a 3-day symposium, a traveling exhibition, and Resolution 3: Global Networks of Video (co-edited with Erika Suderburg). He is also the co-editor (with Alexandra Juhasz) of the Moving Image Review of GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies. Ma is currently working on a book, titled There is No Soundtrack: Theorizing Aural Cultures Through Experimental Media, exploring the relationships between sound culture, critical theory and experimental media.

Ma's videotapes Sniff (1997), Slanted Vision (1995), Toc Storee (1992), and Aura (1991) have screened national and internationally. His recent media projects include the Xin Lu Project, including the four videos: [os] (2007), Movements East—West (2003), Mother/Land (2000), and Myth(s) of Creation (1997), which use personal and family history to explore the shifting identities of peoples in movement - as tourist, traveler, immigrant, refugee, exile. In 2006, Ma conceived and organized the Recut Project, a weekly live art series that presented eight contemporary interpretations of Yoko Ono's Cut Piece (1964).

Ma's video and media work has been written about by critics and theorists including Laura Marks, Roger Garcia, Bérénice Reynaud, Holly Willis, Gina Marchetti, and Peter Feng. Ma himself has an essay, Specters of Memory: An Artist Statement (Displaced) included in Hong Kong Screenscapes, edited by Gina Marchetti and Tan See-Kam, 2011. He was also published recently in Vital - Live Art by Artists of Chinese Descent, edited by Sarah Champion, and the journals X-TRA: Contemporary Art Quarterly, Release Print, and Corpus. Ma was interviewed for Video On The Loose: FREEWAVES and 20 Years of Media Arts, a book and DVD collection, as well as the documentary Dragon Ladies and Kung-Fu Masters: Reconstructing Asian American Sexuality (sexTV), and the ACT UP Oral History Project.

He has served on grant panels for organizations including the Rockefeller Foundation, Creative Work Fund, Durfee Foundation, American Film Institute, Visual Communications' Armed with A Camera Fellowship, and City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Ma has served on the boards of directors for Foundation for Art Resources, Inc. (FAR) and Highways Performance Space, as well as LACE's Artist Advisory Board (LAB).
During his Claremont College career, Professor Ma has been an active leader in IDAAS by serving on numerous curricular, search, and personnel committees. Established in 1998, IDAAS provides a rich academic program to all students at the Claremont Colleges (Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer, Pomona, and Scripps.) IDAAS has over thirteen core faculty and offers an undergraduate major and minor in Asian American Studies. Carrying forward the community-based origins of Asian American Studies, we provide innovative opportunities such as the Margo Okazawa-Rey Summer Fellowship, creative and community-based theses, a student/faculty- run topical seminar, the Peter Kiang Thesis Prize, and the Merle Woo Project Prize.

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