

**Zoila Coc-Chang**  
[zoilacoc-chang.com](http://zoilacoc-chang.com)

**Artist Statement:**

The looping metals, strung beans and chili peppers, and tangled food wrappers in my work are analogous to a language in which ephemeral ingredients are brought together with everyday materials to honor the experiences of those who have been perpetually unsettled across space and time. I collect food remnants and ephemera, like corn husks, avocado pits, and orange peels, in their various states of decomposition from family, friends, shared meals, and local restaurants [from Guatemala City to Miami to Boston and places in between]. These materials are manipulated into intricate patterns, sculptural weavings, and incarnate objects and paintings that privilege the interdependent relationships between cyclical forms of nature and our inheritances. I am inspired by the collectivities and imaginaries of the trans-oceanic kinship networks that have formed through various migrations and circulation of labor, especially those of my community and non-traditional family fabric. My work interrogates the complexities and intimacies between and within Asia and the Americas to reveal and work through the nuances of where and when these geographies collide. Through these gestures, I hope to forge new possibilities for existing beyond histories of struggle and territorially-bounded cultural representations. I foreground the resilience and bonds of my Chinese-Guatemalan diasporic kinship networks, both what has been passed down and passed on, as a means of seeding connections that honors their migrations, spiritual practices, foodways and their everyday environments. Drawing from the dreams, ideas, economies, and ways of being and seeing of my ancestors, I meld a landscape in which human, nature, and the divine cannot be pulled apart. They can only be weaved together as a composite of resilience and transformation.

**Biography:**

Zoila Andre Coc-Chang (鄭慧蘭) is a Chinese-Guatemalan mixed-media artist and educator. Her work interrogates the complexities and intimacies between and within Asia and the Americas to not only reveal and work through the nuances of where and when these geographies collide, but in hope of forging new possibilities for existing beyond histories of struggle and territorially-bounded cultural representations. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at The Arsenal at Central Park (New York), Jeffrey Deitch (New York), Lycoming College Art Gallery (Williamsport, PA), and Museum of Fine Arts (Boston, MA). Most recently she had a solo at A.I.R Gallery (New York) and was a participant of the XXIII Bienal De Arte Paiz Guatemala. Coc-Chang holds an MFA in painting and Printmaking from Yale School of Art and a BA in Studio Art and Education Studies from Brandeis University. She has been an apprentice at STPI Creative Workshop & Gallery in Singapore and an artist fellow at A.I.R Gallery in New York (2022-23). Currently she is a Lecturer in Visual Arts at Brown University.

**Exhibitions:**

- 2023            *XXIII Paiz Art Biennial*, Guatemala City, Guatemala
- 2023            *a sketch and a piece*, List Art Gallery at Brown University | Providence, RI
- 2023            *bebí palabras sumergidas en sueños (XXIII Bienal de Arte Paiz)*, Centro

2023  
2022

de Formación de la Cooperación Española | Antigua, Guatemala  
*never settling in the stability of objects* (solo), A.I.R Gallery | Brooklyn, NY  
*Flores de Mi Pais*, The Arsenal Central Park | New York, NY