



BETH LO

b. 1949, Lafayette LN
lives and works in Missoula, MT

Ceramist and mixed media artist Beth Lo makes work about family, culture and language. Her Good Children vessels and sculptures have been exhibited nationally and internationally and she has been the recipient of a United States Artist Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship, Montana Arts Council Individual Artist Grant and an American Craft Museum Design Award. She is also a children's book illustrator and professional bass player. She retired after 30 years of teaching ceramics at the University of Montana in 2016.

ON HER WORK

My artistic practice in ceramics and mixed media revolves primarily around concepts of identity, family and influences from my Asian-American background. Since the birth of my son in 1987, I have been drawing inspiration from events in my family's history, the day-to-day challenges of parenting, and my own childhood memories of being raised as a minority in the United States. Cultural marginality and blending, tradition vs. Westernization, language and translation are key elements in my work. Within this context I can explore wide-ranging narratives about appropriation, representation, food, rituals, and Asian aesthetics. I also draw from historical or political references, or address autobiographical issues of aging and inheritance. My linear visual style pays homage to the calligraphic line of traditional Chinese painting as well as comic culture of the West. I use the image of a child as reference to autobiography and a symbol of innocence, potential and vulnerability.



"Chinese American Take Out II", 2023, Chris Autio Photography