

HERNANDO'S

Ian James

Untying Six Astral Knots

May 28 – July 9, 2021



Ian James, *Astral Knot #1*, 2021

PRESS RELEASE:

Hernando's Hideaway is pleased to announce *Untying Six Astral Knots*, an exhibition of outdoor sculpture and photographic works by Ian James. The exhibition presents six engraved plaques, a hanging mobile, two kinetic sculptures, and a site-responsive installation on the house itself. The works continue the artist's exploration of the entanglement of spirituality and technology.

The mortal desire to simultaneously self-improve and "let go" in the hopes of ascending to a higher state of consciousness is subsumed by today's culture of consumption. Now a product of its own industry, that human impulse exists as a product and a market for capitalist exchange, a contradiction that tethers the intangible pursuit closer to the physical world than to its otherworldly intention.

IV / Love as an unconditional response to the world – CROWN CHAKRA / PERFUME STORE MICHELLE

Cathay Bank is one of the longest-lived businesses in Los Angeles' New Chinatown, having acted as an anchor of the community since its founding in 1962.

It came to be when one of the neighborhood's business leaders, Phoenix Bakery owner F. Chow Chan, was unable to obtain a home loan because he was an immigrant. Deciding the local Chinese American community needed its own financial services if it were to grow and thrive, he spent the next ten years organizing backers to apply for a bank charter.²

V / Flowering as our natural expression of radiance – ROOT CHAKRA / 5 OCEANS TOURS

Two words: Christina Heng - our travel agent was gracious and accommodating. Unfortunately, I never had the chance to meet her as she was on maternity-leave at the time (Sept. 2011).

So we had to deal with another agent - Ms. Heng had already booked our flight. This particular agent was very rude and condescending. My grandmother had set-up a payment plan to pay for our tickets and waited for me to arrive from Dallas. So I can pay the remainder - she's retired living on a fixed income.

I arrived and called to speak to Christina Heng. All three times we were hung up on. So I called Christina's cell and spoke to her personally she informed us she was on maternity leave. But to go to the Five Oceans Tours office on N. Broadway in the heart of China Town and pay & pick-up our tickets. Call her when we get there so she can personally speak to the hang up the phone idiot. We got there, called called Christina, Christina called idiot - paid, picked up and left.

I would've given this place 5 stars if it weren't for the hang up idiot and the horrible seats we were given. I would use this place again if I don't have to deal with the hang up idiot. Just ask for Christina Heng she's pleasant and speaks multiple languages.³

VI / Purification/Healing as a natural gift of our own being – ROOT CHAKRA / HAIR CUT



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Ian James (b. 1981 Cincinnati, OH; lives and works in Los Angeles, CA) has presented solo exhibitions at Five Car Garage, Los Angeles; Vacancy, Los Angeles; and Self Actualization, Houston; in addition he has participated in group exhibitions at The Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, Indianapolis, IN; Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Roberts Projects, Los Angeles; REDCAT, Los Angeles; Holiday Forever, Jackson, WY; and at The Magic Hour, 29 Palms, CA; among others. He was an artist in residence at SÍM in Reykjavik and at The Wassaic Project, Wassaic, NY. He recently released an artist book, *The 13:20 Movement* published by The Fulcrum Press and will present an upcoming solo project at The Fulcrum, Los Angeles in Fall of 2021.

¹ It was shown that ultraweak photon emission from the surface of human skin was emitted into the visual and infrared spectrum and is strongly correlated to electrodermal activity. Human beings are, in some sense, fundamentally beings of light. - Wanyoung Kim, *Cosmophenomenology* p. 44

² <https://www.laconservancy.org/locations/cathay-bank>

³ <https://www.yelp.com/biz/five-oceans-tours-los-angeles>

⁴ Quick pic w/ Yee Lin's exterior. Hair would've looked better if I had time to let her wash and straighten