



1882 FOUNDATION

Timeline, Glossary, and Questions from Reading

Hung Liu Timeline: This timeline is intended to support and enhance the reading of Hung Liu's obituary from the Washington Post, August 17, 2021.

[Hung Liu, Chinese American artist who elevated the poor and forgotten, dies at 73 - The Washington Post](#)

Please refer to this timeline to guide you in answering the questions that follow.

1927-1949: Chinese Civil War fought between Kuomintang (KMT Nationalists) vs. Chinese Communist Party (CCP) resulting in the victory led by Mao Zedong in 1949 over the KMT forces of Chiang Kai-shek.

1930s: The Depression. Photograph of the Migrant Worker by Dorothea Lange taken in 1936.

1939-1945: World War II

1948: Hung Liu born in Changchun, China

1966-1976: "Cultural Revolution" in China under Mao's rule: From Wikipedia: "The stated goal [of the Cultural Revolution] was to preserve Chinese communism by purging remnants of capitalist and traditional elements from Chinese society." The Revolution failed in its main goals.

1984: Hung Liu emigrates to the United States. Begins attending university for graduate studies in California.

1988: Hung Liu paints "*Resident Alien*"

1990-2014: Professor of Painting at Mills College, Oakland, California

1991: Hung Liu becomes a U.S. citizen

1994: Hung Liu meets her father more than 40 years after she last saw him as an infant when he was arrested.

1994: Hung Liu creates *Jin Jin Shan (Old Gold Mountain)*, a work that is meant to honor the thousands of Chinese workers who helped build the Transcontinental Railroad completed in 1869.

2001: Hung Liu paints "*Strange Fruit: Comfort Women*"

2016: Hung Liu paints "*Migrant Mother: Mealtime*"

2021: Hung Liu dies

Glossary:

Green Card: Commonly used term for a "Permanent Resident Card" which allows an immigrant to live and work in the United States permanently.

Proletarian: Working class usually used in a Marxist/Communist context.

Marginalized [people]: People who are treated or viewed as insignificant.

Tenets: Principles or beliefs

Platitudes: A remark or statement usually given in a moral context that has been used too often so that it no longer is interesting or thoughtful.

[Old] Gold Mountain: Gold Mountain was the nickname for America symbolizing for the Chinese coming here in the mid-19th century their belief that America would be the source of riches and a better life for them.

Questions About Hung Liu's Life and Art:

1. What were some of the challenges that Hung Liu faced growing up in China?
2. Why were photographs so important to her?
3. What were some of the similarities about life in Hung Liu's experiences in China and the U.S. that she expressed through her art.
4. *"History is not a static image or frozen story. It is always moving forward."* This quote from Hung Liu suggests that history must always be re-examined and reinterpreted. Select one of the pieces mentioned in the article that makes you think differently about history or a specific historical event? Explain your choice.
5. "I want my work to be a comfort to people I've never known."
Hung Liu, 2020
She painted people she did not know but clearly empathized with them. Select two examples from works shown here that express Hung Liu's concerns for those who have been forgotten by history and she seeks to honor them. Write a paragraph about how those works affect you.