

# LIAN 連 LIAN 鏈

A N I N S T A L L A T I O N B Y H U I C H I L E E





## ABOUT LIAN 連 LIAN 鏈

People are by nature social beings. People need other people to survive, and as such they tend to perpetually seek social interactions. However, human relationships are inherently complex and multi-faceted. The ideology of the series, Lián 連 and Liàn 鏈, on view at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, begins with a pair of Chinese homophones “Lián 連 and Liàn 鏈” that, depending on the context, mean either

“to connect” or “to enchain.” On one hand, the works portray the tensions and dynamics within human relationships; on the other, they explore how these same forces may constrict or enchain humans when negative forces come into play. While these works are in part a meditation on Taiwanese cultural traditions, they can be applied broadly to human experience itself.

[CLICK HERE FOR A GALLERY WALKTHROUGH VIDEO](#)

# ARTIST STATE- MENT

BY HUI CHI LEE

I have selected the qualities we associate with mannequins— plastic and figure-like, but inanimate and anonymous— as a vehicle to encourage viewers to think about these seemingly contradictory yet connected conditions. The randomly amassed mannequin-like figures in the drawings lack self-determination and appear powerless, much like many vulnerable and immobile human beings in today's society. I want to encourage viewers to consider this human condition in a critical manner. "Hair and chopsticks are motifs. In Chinese tradition, lengthy hair signifies the duration of a life span, an expanse of time of which we are often hardly aware. While we may acknowledge the finitude of life, time is envisioned as somehow endless. People favor stability and continuity. When one's comfortable status is threatened or entangled by a chaotic condition, however, ambivalence is often a result. Pairs of red chopsticks act as unknown teasers— do these ambiguous teasers lift, pull, and twist the unbounded hair to snarl or to free the mannequins? What factors are driving these entanglements? My works serve as a visual riddle for viewers to decipher.



The interplay between drawings and installations is strategically designed to resonate and yet to evoke a more direct visceral response from viewers by encouraging them not just to look, but also to participate in the exhibit. A site-specific installation of a Zen garden at the center of the exhibition provides a space for viewers to reassess and meditate on their relationship with other people. At the center of the Zen garden is a fabric sculpture made of a Chinese canopy with braided strands of human hair hanging down like a stream that connects sky and earth.

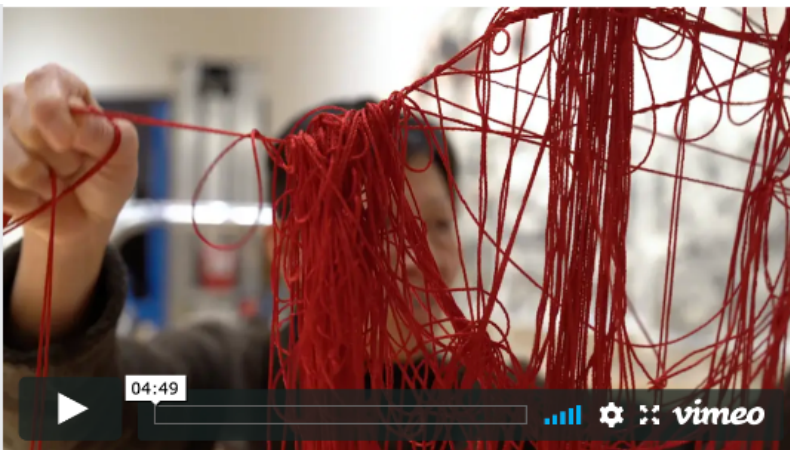


# HAIR PROCESS AND INSTALLATION

## VIDEOS



HAIR PROCESS

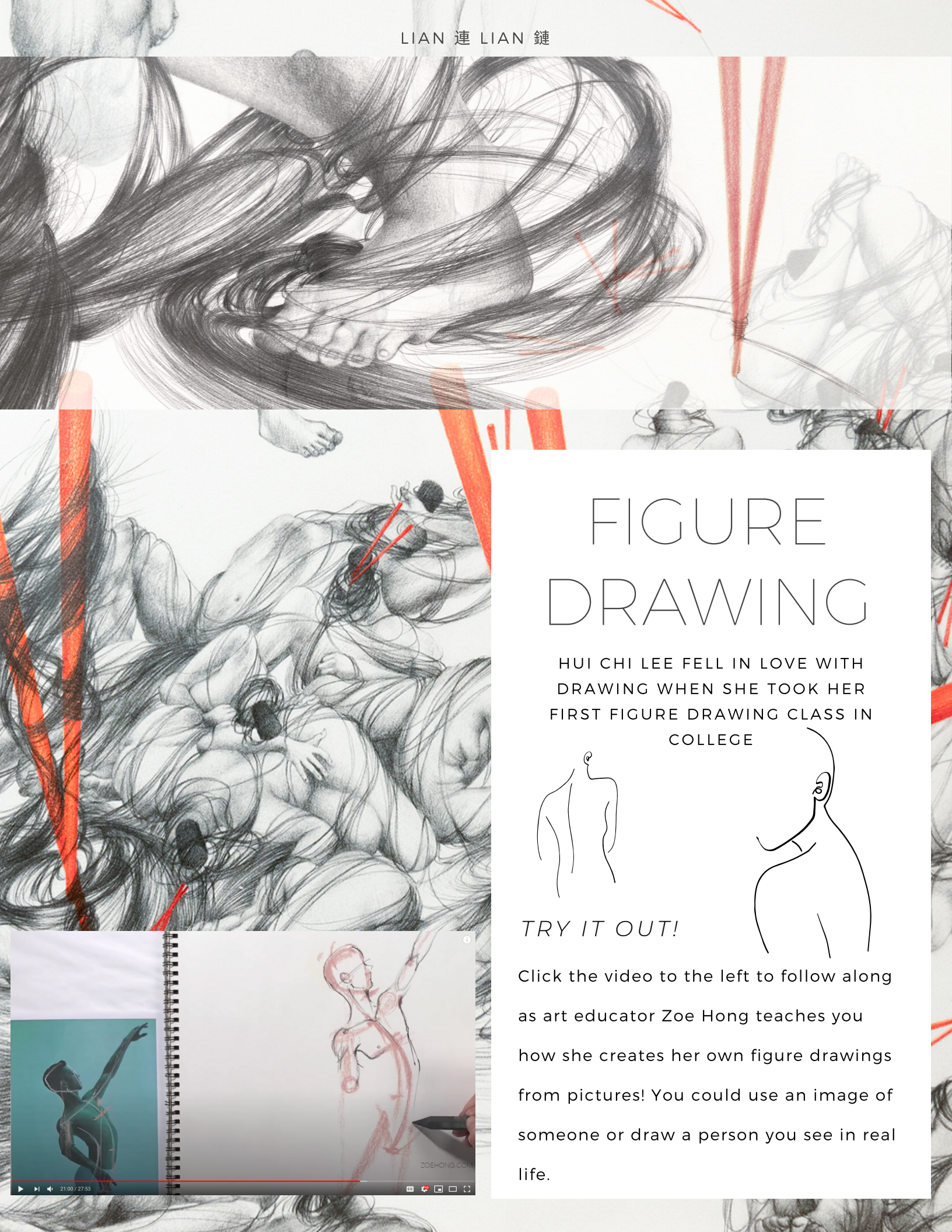


INSTALLATION

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

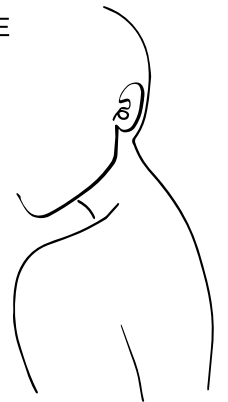
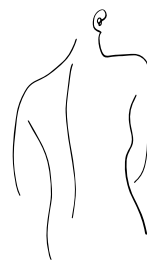
- How does Hui Chi Lee make her sculptures?
- Why is using human hair important to the artwork? How does Hui Chi Lee's use of hair from Boone community members contribute to the meaning of her installation?
- Hui Chi Lee describes her work as "a visual riddle for the viewers to decipher." How might you create a visual riddle?





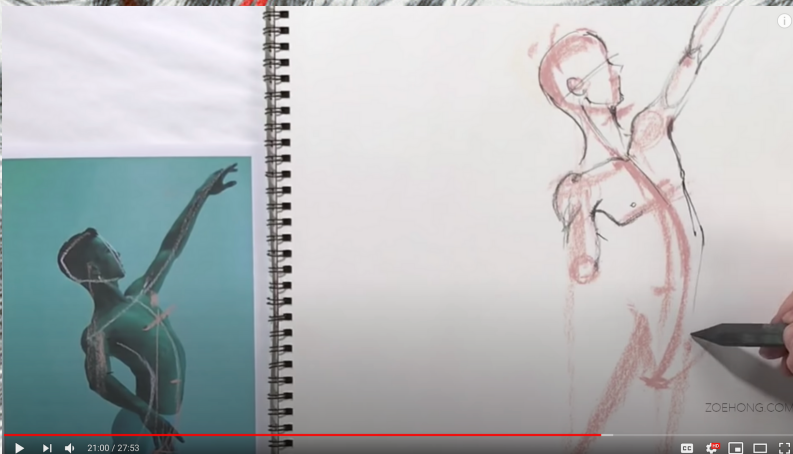
# FIGURE DRAWING

HUI CHI LEE FELL IN LOVE WITH  
DRAWING WHEN SHE TOOK HER  
FIRST FIGURE DRAWING CLASS IN  
COLLEGE



*TRY IT OUT!*

Click the video to the left to follow along as art educator Zoe Hong teaches you how she creates her own figure drawings from pictures! You could use an image of someone or draw a person you see in real life.





# THANK YOU

FROM THE TURCHIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University engages visitors from the university, community, nation and beyond in creating unique experiences through dynamic and accessible exhibition, education, outreach and collection programs. These programs inspire and support a lifelong engagement with the visual arts and create opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves and the world around them.

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US AT #TCVAATHOME !

