

ARTS & CULTURE

Snapshot jackpot: Three fascinating photo shows to catch in Philly this month

by Edith Newhall, Updated: January 31, 2019

A mother, in shadow



COURTESY OF PRINT CENTER

Chinn Wang's 2018 print, "OCT 66 (Two Towers)," at the Print Center.

Early color photographs are also the template for the works of Chinn Wang, one of the three winners of the Print Center's 93rd International Competition, though they're employed in an entirely different way. Wang was chosen from more than 450 applicants by José Diaz, chief curator of the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, and Lisa Sutcliffe, a curator at the Milwaukee Art Museum. She makes color screenprints from photographs taken of her mother in the 1960s, shortly after she emigrated to the United States from Hong Kong.

Wang's digital manipulations push her images to near-abstraction, but they're still recognizable as outdoor places where her mother was photographed. She has carefully deleted her mother from each scene, though, leaving only her shadow.

Wang also tapes cut sections of prints together with what appears to be ordinary household tape. Her intention — to highlight her mother's status as a woman, a scientist, and an immigrant in this country at this particular time — is sublimely told in these seemingly ephemeral works.

Through March 30 at the Print Center, 1614 Latimer St., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. 215-735-6090 or printcenter.org.