

"\$3.99, \$4.99 (Fish Sauce)," gouache on paper, by Elizabeth Lee

of Emotions is All That Remains After a Nightmare" is a full-scale model of a modest bedroom. A white dress with a red triangle of fabric (a wound?) pinned to it is laid across the white bed, and on the wall above is projected a video loop of abstract colors behind the text from the artist's real-life nightmares (e.g., "If you call out your name, the ghost won't touch you"). In the description, Lo says that a series of traumatic dreams triggered emotional and spiritual exploration that led her to seek out both Hmong and Western practices and guidance. Shamanism, dreams

and the spirit realm were her inspirations for an installation that literally lets the viewer into her room to watch it all play out.

For the show, MONCA was awarded a \$4,379 Humanities For All Quick Grant by California Humanities, a nonprofit partner of the National Endowment of the Humanities. The program "supports locally initiated public humanities projects that respond to the needs and interests

"My Academic Journey," story cloth by Pa Zao Her for Leaders for a Lifetime program. of Californians, encourage[s] greater public participation in humanities programming, particularly by new and/or underserved audiences, and promotes understanding and empathy among all our state's peoples in order to cultivate a thriving democracy."

The biggest strength of this exhibit is it meets that "public participation" requirement. The Hmong community has definitely been underserved in local arts, and handing the curatorial reins over to those whom the exhibit represents makes for a very rich, authentic experience.



