

• ARTIST STATEMENT •

Linda Nguyen Lopez

Low Tide

October 24 — December 19, 2026

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 24, 6–8 pm

Under a full moon, the sea draws back, revealing what has been resting beneath the water. The ocean floor gives up small treasures, objects shaped by time, movement, and the slow passage of the tides. They glisten on the wet sand, waiting to be found.

Low Tide is a series of vignettes built from small bits of my cultural heritage. Mundane things glimmer gold: a chicken foot, nopales, Vietnamese brooms, Mexican cowboy boots. Side by side, these seemingly disparate objects reveal a merging of identities, an experience of assimilation seen through the haze of the American Dream.

Situated within the sandwich generation, I find myself holding tightly to fragments of culture passed down by my immigrant parents. Ordinary things have become precious inheritances, reminders of a life and language that have slowly faded from our daily rituals. As a parent, I think about what remains and what I can pass on to my daughter. Like objects revealed by the receding tide, these fragments resurface in unexpected ways, carrying memories of people, places, and traditions. *Low Tide* is an attempt to gather them, to give them a place, and to hold onto their histories before they drift out to sea.

After voluntarily entering a Japanese American internment camp in Arizona during World War II, Isamu Noguchi described the place as "a moonscape of the mind." *Low Tide* draws inspiration from his *Lunar Landscape* series created in the 1940s, where undulating forms hold light and shadow.

Each vignette in *Low Tide* becomes a small shoreline, a gathering of objects suspended between memory and imagination. Brass rods support gold charms, while moments of color emerge from pigmented porcelain. Soft carpet islands anchor the room beneath lamps that cast a moonlike glow. Stools invite viewers to sit and linger, allowing time to look closely at these small things and the histories they quietly hold.

About Linda Nguyen Lopez

Linda Nguyen Lopez (b. 1981, Visalia, California) is a first-generation American artist of Vietnamese and Mexican descent. Her abstract works explore the poetic potential of the everyday by imagining and articulating a vast emotional range embedded in the mundane objects that surround us. The artist is based in Fayetteville, where she currently serves as an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Arkansas.

Lopez's work has been exhibited at and is in the permanent collections of the Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville; Springfield Art Museum, Springfield, Missouri; the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City; the Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, South Korea, and others. Lopez's work has also been exhibited at the Huntington Museum of Art, Huntington, West Virginia; the Craft Contemporary Museum, Los Angeles; Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach; R & Company, New York; Fisher Parrish, New York, and more. The artist has been invited to residencies at the Archie Bray Foundation, Helena, and the Center for Craft, Asheville, among others, and she received the United States Artist Fellowship in 2024, plus the Connor Fellowship from the University of Arkansas in 2026. She is represented by David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, and Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami.