

The way people have in their minds like, you know, Asian people being invisible workers, you know... The invisible worker bees behind operations or something like that, like, or being somebody's sidekick or something like that, you know? That really started to get in my head. And I was like, oh, that's really the, kind of, the situation that I'm kind of being seen in as here, is like, I'm not actually an individual, I'm completely invisible. I might be recognized for like, you know, doing some work as long as I don't get, like, any kind of actual face appreciation out of it, you know? Like, I'm not actually like, seen, you know? I can do the work and they can kind of celebrate that but like... here's like a metaphor, like, for *Parasite* Bong Joon-ho can win Best Director as somebody who, like, makes things, but... they're/like, nobody in that movie is gonna is gonna win Best Actor, Best Actress, whatever. Having them be like a face, but like, as somebody who kind of like, makes things like, maybe that's acceptable. And that's still a triumph, you know, in the West, at least. I love how he talks about because he didn't give a shit about that stuff. It's like, 'You know, this is a regional regional award, that's cool.' [Laughter]

But anyway, but that's kind of what I'm talking about, like, you know, um, so I was like, thinking like, okay, so when, when these people are kind of politely asking me what I do, or what I say, or, like, you know, when I paint about things like, they're not actually putting a face any of this, they're not... like, nothing is happening here. They just see me like, you know... there's, there's no real benefit, in fact, it might actually be damaging, because in the future, if I ever do work with any these people, like, they're just never gonna think of me that way, is kind of what I'm starting to think. Which would, like, you know...

It happened back at home too, not just when I was traveling, because, like, you know, I had other jobs too. So I did preparator work as well, and, you know, installed at institutions and galleries and stuff for a while, and.... let me just put it this way. Once you're seen in a certain kind of light with certain kind of, maybe racial stereotypes or, or images that are kind of circulating around you, it becomes really difficult to dig yourself out of that. And you're not always aware that you were kind of becoming that, that you're like doing that, like, you know... Like, I'm not aware that I

was never going to be... well, maybe to some people, some select people, that I'm actually never going to be seen as my own artist, you know? And they also think that I'm okay with that, you know? Which is infuriating, and you know, then you go home and your quality of life is not that great, and then you're at home like making and stuff and it's um... you know you've got to be tough, basically.