

對照 CONTRASTS

ORIGINAL POEM BY DONNA SETO

Maturing,
developing,
declining.

In the blink of an eye,
time changes everything.



PRODUCED FOR
THE VANCOUVER POET LAUREATE
CITY POEMS CONTEST 2022-23

Combined (Poetry + Response) + Poetry Title

Contrasts 對照, Original Poem by Donna Seto (IAT 344 Poetry Film)

Response Title

Painting a Sentimental Tribute: Donna Seto and Vancouver Chinatown



Synopsis

Grandmother Wong is a resident of Vancouver Chinatown. It is a place she remembers as lively, family-oriented, architecturally prominent, beautiful, and having a strong sense of Chinese culture. Now, the few streets that remain are renowned for homelessness and graffiti. They have become a place where hipsters, with an abundance of pocket cash, go to partake in “authentic” Chinese culture (to which, barely any remains).

As she walks, cane-in-hand, along her memory of the gorgeous buildings that once lined Chinatown’s streets, she momentarily gets interrupted with the cold truth of what Chinatown has become. On one hand, she is living in a memory and remembering everything that Chinatown was. She thinks of its rich history, the enthusiastic residents, the vibrant architecture, and her family. On the other hand, as her cane beats along like the ticking of a clock, she starts to think about the rampant crime, loss of culture, empty houses, lack of people, and the new silence that fills the streets. Until finally, our heroine no longer exists. Similarly to how graffiti has covered the Chinese culture in Chinatown, she has been engulfed and overwhelmed by the paint-like ink.

Finally, the film pivots into a reflective interview by the poet: Donna Seto. She introduces her poem *Contrasts*, current projects and discusses what Chinatown means to her. She also discusses the changes in the area, which contrasts her experience growing up. Finally, she leaves us with a reflective query: in many ways Chinatown will always exist, but what is Chinese, and what is Chinatown?

Factsheet

Film Length	6:18 (Combined) 2:54 (Poetry) 4:19 (Response)
Locations	Vancouver Chinatown: East Pender St.; Carrall St.; Main St.; Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden; Chinatown Storytelling Centre
In Production	From Sunday, November 6 to Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Credits	Director and Sound Designer	Christy Lam
	Videography and Effects Artist	Danny Lee
	Editor and Boom Operator	Vincent Zhang
	Producer and Illustration Lead	Erika Hance
	Poet of <i>Contrasts</i> and Illustrator	Donna Seto

- Fun Facts**
- The film only contains 2 days of outdoor shooting. In contrast, editing took about 2 weeks and pitching the project for approval took 2 weeks.
 - There is another interview with April Liu (from the Chinatown Storytelling Centre) which was not included in the final cut due to time restrictions.
 - Excessively loud plane background sounds had to be edited out of the interview with Donna Seto at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden.
 - The watercolor illustrations of Chinatown featured in this film are from a series named: *(re)Imagining Chinatown* and are by Donna Seto. They will appear in her upcoming project in 2025. The Chinatown Storytelling Centre sells them as prints.
 - Some of the poem, *Contrasts*, had to be edited out of the poetry video. The last couple of stanzas feature a hipster. The team removed him for fear of creating a flat, stereotypical character and being too literal in their depictions of the poem.

Thumbnails



Publicity Stills



Creator Bios



Danny Lee is an Interactive Arts and Technology student studying UX/UI design at SFU. They also do photography work and illustrations. They have contributed illustrated work to a variety of charity zine projects such as *Making of the Mask: A Batgirls Zine*, *Flight: A Dick Grayson Zine*, *The R Stands for Redemption: A Damian Wayne Zine*, and is currently working on *Endure, My Heart: A Video Game Journey*. They have worked with various organizations as art direction lead and as a photographer in both event and product photography. In Team VoiCED, Danny is the **Director of Photography** and **Effects Artist**.

Portfolio: <https://red-f1sh.github.io/>

Artist Profile: <https://boxonarock.carrd.co/>



Christy Lam is an Interactive Arts and Technology student concentrating in Design at SFU. Christy is also highly involved in media arts endeavors. Her passion is in creating and directing films. She also enjoys taking photos of nature, landscapes, and filming travel vlogs, where she captures small moments of vibrant city lives. Besides, she has recently completed several projects in UX Design which involves creating an app for personal trainers, as well as developing and improving food delivery websites. In Team VoiCED, Christy is the **Director** and **Sound Designer/ Foley Artist**.

Creator Bios



Vincent Zhang is an Interactive Arts and Technology student with a concentration in Design in SFU. He is working his way to become a UX/UI designer, so he is interested in how humans perceive things visually and acoustically. As an example, he participated in a virtual reality project in which he needs to design and create different motions and camera movements. Therefore, in team VoiCED, Vincent is the main **Editor** and is in charge of **Light & Sound**.



Erika Hance is an artist based in “the City of the Arts” Port Moody, British Columbia. As she’s watched her small town grow and flourish with colorful designs and architecture, she’s sought after a career that will let her contribute. Currently, she studies Interactive Arts and Technology at Simon Fraser University. More specifically, her concentration is in design and she is specializing in UX design and illustration. In her free time, she is a professional illustrator who does commissioned portraits, art for games, and makes brand identities for online creators. In Team VoiCED, Erika is the **Producer** for both production and post-production phases as well as the **Lead Illustrator**.

Artist Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/qootea/>

Creator Bios



Donna Seto is a writer, based in Vancouver, who recently finished writing her first novel, *Neither Here Nor There* and has also written an academic book. She is currently working on a collection of short stories, some poetry, as well as a second novel. Donna also has a PhD in Politics and International Relations from the Australian National University and occasionally works as a sessional instructor at the University of British Columbia. During the pandemic, she revisited her passion for art and started drawing buildings of Vancouver's Chinatown for her series *(re)Imagining Chinatown*. These illustrations are the **illustrations used in our film: Contrasts 對照**, Original Poem by Donna Seto (IAT 344 Poetry Film). She is also the **creator of the base material poem, Contrasts**, which won third place in the 'Emerging Poets Category' in the Vancouver Poet Laureate's City Poems Contest.

Website: <https://donnaseto.wordpress.com/>



Contact Information

Team VoiCED inquiries can be sent to the producer,
Erika Hance at teamvoiced@gmail.com

