

Her Suitcase

A tribute to the migration stories of Chinese Canadian women

On March 8, as part of celebrations for International Women's Day, the Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library invited guests to take a look inside *Her Suitcase*. This moving exhibition by artist-curator Jessica Cheng invited visitors into an immersive exploration of the migration journeys of Chinese Canadian women, spanning from the 1950s to today. Inspired by the Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy's research, the exhibition highlighted both the resilience and struggles of women who navigated new beginnings in Canada.

The stunning installation included manuscripts from the library's collections and publications related to Chinese Canadian women. Free-hand machine embroidery characters and typewritten accounts of migration hung from the lighting fixtures, and the embroidered pieces cast delicate shadows spreading across the floor as the sun dipped below the windows.

The launch event included remarks from York University professor Guida C. Man, the Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy, Jessica Cheng and Richard Charles Lee Canada-Hong Kong Library director Maria Lau. Afterwards, guests gathered to gaze at the hanging artworks, read the accounts on display and browse through the archival materials.

Her Suitcase offered a rare and moving opportunity to engage with the resilience and struggles of women immigrants across generations, and reflect upon the many common threads of connection with newly arrived immigrants to Canada today.

With files from Larysa Woloszansky



Photos by Hanna Borodina