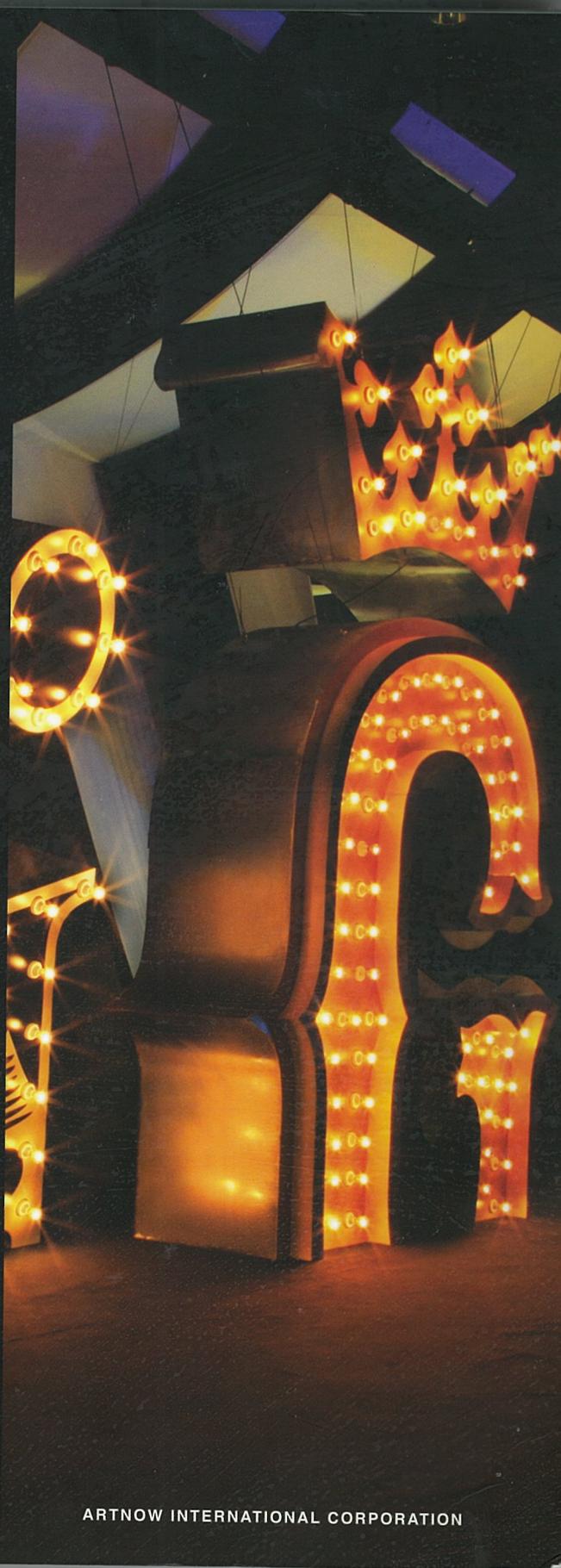




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GRACE WAWA YANG

Grace Wawa YANG (Taiwanese)

grace.y37@gmail.com
www.graceyang.ca

Grace Wawa Yang's practice is a continuous experimentation into the problems of truthful representation. Her artwork is inspired by her memories and dreams contrasted with the notion of collective consciousness. Memories naturally fade and become distorted; however shared beliefs – often represented in Yang's work through the use of fairytales and childhood imagery – are not so fragile.

Childhood play is an activity associated with freedom and fun, it is also a process of indoctrination through which children learn about rules and boundaries. In Yang's practice the idea of play theory embodies dueling concepts; learning and limits, living and dying. Using digital photography and sculpture, she utilizes absolute visions of childhood and then distorts them with suggestions of pain and mortality. Through beautiful yet sinister imagery, Yang questions the state of freewill in childhood; a state we can never be sure we fully remember in adulthood.

Yang's work exists in an elusive space where personal memories are absorbed into communal stories. She reveals undeniable beauty in the process through which lost memories are found again as shared nostalgia. However, she also inserts a knife into the beauty of reminiscence, reminding us that every new recollection is preceded by the little death of forgetting.

Grace Wawa Yang was born in Taiwan and raised in Canada. She obtained her BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) from Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. She has recently received her MFA (Master of Fine Arts) in Photography, from The New School University, Parsons of Art and Design, in New York City, USA. She currently works and lives in New York City, and Vancouver.



Untitled #16 from the series of "Realm of Play", digital c-print, 20 x 24 inches, 2009.



opposite page
Playground, mixed-media installation, 2010.

Untitled #17 from the series of "Realm of Play", digital c-print, 20 x 24 inches, 2009.