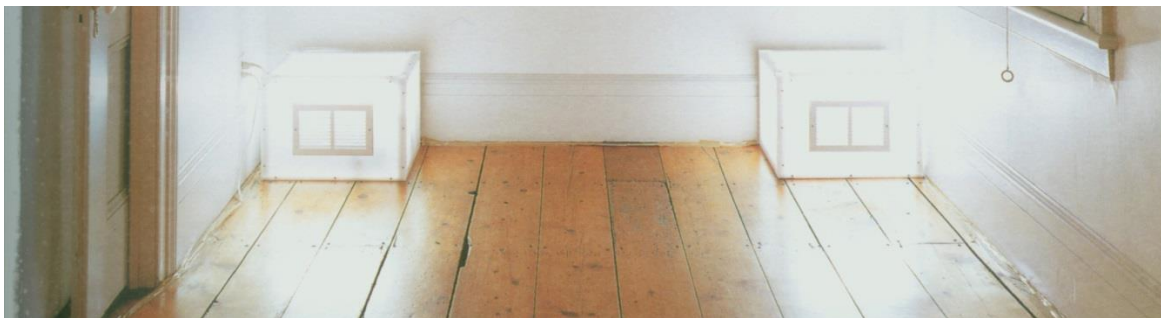


## ART

### ‘GOING HOME’ TO HOPPER



“Josephine & Marion’s Vent,” 2001 by China Blue

By L.P. STREITFELD  
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The birthplace of Edward Hopper is the site of a Contemporary Installation exhibition by Lance Fung, one of the most innovative up-and-coming independent curators in the New York arts scene. The quaint two story clapboard house where the quintessential American painter was born in 1882 also happens to be the only nonprofit art gallery in Nyack, NY.

#### **REVIEW**

But never has the Hopper House Art Center seen the likes of “going Home,” which has no paintings in sight. Instead, there is a wide range of site specific installations covering house and grounds by emerging artists. While the interior of Fung’s house doesn’t seem like much to go home to at first entry, with a little time and effort, this idiosyncratic exhibition is as challenging

as it is fun. But in this way – the visitor/participant won’t quite look at Hopper in the same way after looking on this exhibition.

“We feel Hopper is here,” says Fung of the installation proves completed on a shoe string budget. “The installation pulls in the spirit of the artist.”

The calculated risk that Pat Dennis, Executive Director of Hopper House, took when she invited Fung to mount the exhibition has paid off. “The local people are thrilled,” she says. “This exhibition is the first of its kind.”

Indeed, it would be wonderful if other curators had Fung’s dynamism and open attitude regarding new and unexpected ways of presenting art in museums or historical sites that triumphantly reinvent the present while respecting the past. “The main concept isn’t just Hopper, site specificity or installation; it is about

meaning,” says Fung, who encouraged his artists to use Hopper’s work, the house and town of Nyack for inspiration. “Hopper has captured things about memory for the rest of us. You can’t encapsulate memory. “Going Home” is going back to the nostalgic of a time and place Hopper is a big part of that.”

The only item belonging to Hopper in the house is his paintbrush, framed on the oak mantle of the fireplace. Its presence inspired Jessica Higgins to create “Linked brushes,” an antique brush rock containing test tubes filled with compositions of water and turpentine – literally and metaphorical symbols of the alchemy involved in the creation of a painting.

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