

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Wen-hao Tien: I Love Your Grammatical Errors
April 5 – May 7, 2023**

First Fridays

April 7 & May 5, 5 – 8:30pm

Artist Meet & Greet

April 8, 13 & May 6, 11am – 5pm

Reception & Artist's Talks

Saturday April 29, 4 – 6pm

Talks begin at 5pm

Gallery Hours

Wednesday – Sunday, 11 – 5pm

Boston Sculptors Gallery presents Wen-hao Tien's *I Love Your Grammatical Errors*, featuring an array of imaginative multi-media works contemplating language, communication, and the natural world.

Tien's native tongue, Chinese, unlike English, has no tenses, no gender, no singular or plural form, but uses strings of characters to form complex meanings. For Tien, it leaves more room for abstraction and individual personality. However, she admits, "I make many grammatical errors in English every day. It's tiring translating between languages, so I just speak without hesitation now." The title of her exhibition, *I Love Your Grammatical Errors*, demonstrates what she feels is an unconditional acceptance of those errors by friends and colleagues, and a testament to their willingness to listen to her deeply.

Tien's work is often inspired by field observations. For this exhibition, Tien gathered tree limbs bearing excessive markings made by a variety of insects. The artist teases out the complex patterns, treating them as a found language and filling in portions with gold—correcting the grammar and creating her own system of hieroglyphs. What are these trees telling us? In another installation, she embraces botched grammar in a participatory piece in which friends and colleagues sent her hand-written examples of linguistic errors they had encountered. She then embroiders them onto fabric, inviting us to find meaning and personality in these delightfully uncanny "errors."

Tien urges us to look closely, as things may not be what they seem at first glance. A mound of black rubber tires piled on the floor forms a bold sculpture. But glance within the rubber rings, you might find live fish swimming about. The fish finds an unlikely home against all odds.

Wen-hao Tien's work is featured in the new book *Crossing Boundaries and Confounding Identity: Chinese Women in Literature, Art, and Film*, edited by Cheryl C. D. Hughes, published by SUNY Press. *I Love Your Grammatical Errors* runs concurrently with Laura Evans: *Through My Fingers*.

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