



Three Artists Push It At The Ely Center

by **BRIAN SLATTERY** | Jan 24, 2023 8:50 am

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One artist heads straight into the complexity of being queer in Hong Kong. Another heads out into the desert. And another heads into the dismal future. What all three artists — Kit Hung, January Yoon Cho, and Gary Sczerbaniewicz — have in common is a willingness to explore things that make them uncomfortable. And all three have solo shows at the Ely Center of Contemporary Art, running now through Feb. 19 concurrently with a few other shows after ECOCA took a brief holiday hiatus.



JANUARY YOON CHO

We Have Traveled Afar.

January Yoon Cho's art "explores our connection to the environment," an accompanying note explains. "This series features the artist's walking performances in diverse desert landscapes. Superimposed with digital drawings of biological forms such as a cells, embryos, and skeletons," the images address "the beauty, destruction, and preservation of the land we live in."

Yoon Cho is able to incorporate all these elements together through an incongruous pairing of form and content. Her photographs of the desert are bright and bold. The images she superimposes over them are simple shapes made with bold lines. They're almost cartoons. This makes their unsettling subject matter almost hard to pick up at first glance. That's how the viewer is lured in. The work seems friendly, until you perceive that the drawing is of, say, a baby cut loose from its placenta, or a pile of human and animal bones floating in midair. It's one part happy-go-lucky adventure, one part existential dread.