

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



JOYCE YU-JEAN LEE
FIREWALL Internet Café NYC

Feb 9, 2016 – Mar 6, 2016
16B Orchard Street, New York City 10002

Artist Reception: **Sunday, Feb 21st, 6 – 9pm**

The *Franklin Furnace Fund* and *Asian Women Giving Circle* are pleased to present FIREWALL, a pop-up Internet Café and participatory art installation in New York City by Joyce Yu-Jean Lee, on view from Tuesday, February 9 through Sunday, March 6, 2016.

FIREWALL is a socially engaged research and interactive art project designed to foster public dialogue about Internet freedom. Video and installation artist Joyce Yu-Jean Lee, in collaboration with artist and technologist [Dan Phiffer](#), invites residents and tourists of NYC to commune over free tea and Wi-fi at [Chinatown Soup](#), a creative space on the border of New York City's Lower East Side. FIREWALL enables participants to simultaneously search images on both *Google* in the U.S. and *Baidu* in China to investigate online censorship and manipulation of information between these two countries. In this cooperative performance, Lee explores a rapidly developing web culture, the nuances of language translation, and the notion that everything can be found on the Internet.

The research results will be presented in two forms for viewers from both nations to compare, contrast, and cross-reference:

- 1) A virtual FIREWALL "library" will be maintained at www.firewallcafe.com. Search results will be catalogued daily into this blog, which will continue to document the project after FIREWALL Internet Café closes its brick-and-mortar space after March 6, 2016.
- 2) An evolving art exhibition within the FIREWALL space will showcase select image searches by participants, who will include invited guests and key leaders in the academic, activism, art, journalism, and Chinese communities of NYC and beyond.

As a Chinese American digital media artist with parents who fled China during the Communist Revolution, Joyce Yu-Jean Lee is interested in the formation of collective national biases by mass media. Lee asks, "What value do cross-cultural artistic and interactive media experiences have vis-a-vis social and political open-mindedness?" Her FIREWALL process intentionally slows viewers down in an interpersonal exchange of words, images, knowledge, and opinions examining how "truth" is transformed by technology. The resulting conversation, the true art of the process and intrinsic art making, reflects Lee's philosophy of art as tool for connectivity and learning.

[Joyce Yu-Jean Lee](#) is a visual artist with a MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania. She has exhibited in NYC, Miami, Philadelphia, Baltimore, D.C., Italy, Germany, and Taiwan. The *Washington Post* included her in their "Top 10 Best Art Gallery Shows" in D.C. for 2012. She was selected for *Creative Capital's* "On Our Radar" in 2014, and received an Individual Artist Award from the *Maryland State Arts Council* in 2013. Joyce is a trustee for *The Contemporary* museum in Baltimore, and teaches part-time at Fashion Institute of Technology and New Jersey City University.

The artist offers special thanks to GreatFire.org for providing Chinese Internet connections and human connections. *GreatFire* is a hacktivist group that has been monitoring blocked websites and keywords on the Chinese Internet since 2011, in an effort to bring transparency to the Great Firewall of China. *GreatFire* also operates FreeWeibo.com, an uncensored version of *Weibo*, as well as FreeBrowser.org, an Android app that allows users in China to access any site, even those blocked by the government. Lee's special thanks also go to [The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art](#) for loaning hardware to the Internet Café, and to UPProxy.org for developing an open source browser extension that lets users share their route to the Internet with each other.

For PRESS Inquiries or to SCHEDULE a Group Visit, please contact:

info@firewallcafe.com or 917-533-5375

FIREWALL Internet Café NYC was made possible by the *Asian Women Giving Circle*; and the *Franklin Furnace Fund* supported by *Jerome Foundation*, the *Lambent Foundation*, *The SHS Foundation*, and by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

既時發佈 一月 25 日：



李玉瑾
防火墙网咖，纽约市

2016 年 2 月 9 日 - 2016 年 3 月 6 日

16B 果园，纽约 10002

艺术工作者招待会：2 月 9 日，星期日，下午 6 点 - 9 点

法兰克林熔炉基金和亚州妇女互助圈将共同出席防火墙网咖一个共同分享艺术的快闪网络咖啡馆，由李玉瑾自 2016 年 2 月 9 日星期二至 3 月 6 日星期日展出。

防火墙网咖，是一项社会各界参与研究和互动交流艺术的项目，主要是为引起公众对互联网自由的讨论。影像艺术及装置艺术家李玉瑾和共同合作的科技艺者 [Dan Phiffer](#)，共同诚邀纽约居民及游客来 [Chinatown Soup](#) 一个落座在纽约东区的下城边创新小室，同享茶水和无线上网。防火墙网咖能让参加者同步使用美国的谷歌和中国的百度来搜索，探索这两国在互联网上的审查及信息处理。在此之际，李玉瑾探讨了简新的互联网文化，翻译语译的细别，以及任何在互联网可以探出的念想。

防火墙咖啡论室的研讨结果会用两种形式供网友去比较、对比、对两国做交叉参考如：

- 1) 一个虚拟的防火墙资料库会设置在 www.firewallcafe.com 研讨结果会逐日分别录入博客、当整个防火墙网咖讨论在 2016 年 3 月 5 号结束后，文档将会留存在网站上。
- 2) 因此防火墙项目而延展出之艺展作品将由参与者珍选存入防火墙网咖，参选者将包括应邀嘉宾，学院学者、自由职业者、艺术家、媒体人及纽约华人华侨等。

李玉瑾是一位华裔美国数码传媒艺术家、父母是解放后的第一代美国移民，李玉瑾对大众传媒偏见的形成加入探讨，跨文化艺术家的价值取向，及传播媒体经验互动能量、追寻是否可以在社会及政治的心态开放上做出对流互动。她在防火墙议题上刻意的慢化话语、形象、知识及意见以助人际互动。技术转型具有多大的真实性。真实的艺术执行和艺术制作的本质，反映了李玉瑾的艺术哲学思维作为其联想及学习。

李玉瑾是一位视像艺术学家、拥有马利兰艺术学院研究学院硕士学位。宾州本科学士学位。她的艺作展曾遍及纽约市、迈阿密、费城、巴尔地摩、华府、意大利、德国、台湾等地。华盛顿邮报 2012 年列她是“10 大顶级艺廊展出者”2014 年被评为我们创作首府的艺者。2013 年荣获马利兰州艺术议院个人艺术家奖。李玉瑾目前是巴尔地摩市现代博物馆委员。并在新泽西市立本科流行技术学院任教。

在此对协助提供网络及人力资源的 [GreatFire.org](#) 提供的中国互联网和人权互联表示感谢，其自 2011 年起检测被屏蔽的网页及中文关键字索引，同时也运营了 [FreeWeibo.com](#)，提供匿名和不受屏蔽的新浪微博搜索、以及不受相关法规 and 政策的约束、免费使用的安卓应用自由浏览器。李玉瑾特别对古柏基金的先进科学及艺术联盟对防火墙咖啡提供的硬件设施表示感谢。在这里也对 [UProxy.org](#) 致谢，其提供的开源浏览器插件让用户得以彼此分享他们的互联网路由。

新闻媒体采访排期，请联系电话 917-533-5375 或电子邮件到 info@firewallcafe.com

防火墙工作的可能性,下列机构的合作和支持；亚裔妇女支助圈，法兰克林熔炉基金由傑樂米基金支助，蓝本基金，SHS 基金会，及紐約市議會夥同紐約市文化事务部公共基金。