

New Statement:

New York Asian Design Week

New York Asian Design Week (NYADW) is an annual cultural platform celebrating the diverse voices shaping contemporary Asian design in New York City and beyond. Founded by Lighthouse Global Foundation Inc., NYADW brings together architects, artists, designers, makers, and creative thinkers whose work reflects the evolving relationship between culture, identity, technology, and the built environment.

The event operates on a two-year curatorial cycle exploring two complementary themes: **Physical** and **Digital**. Each year focuses on one of these dimensions, creating an ongoing dialogue between tangible and virtual forms of design.

NYADW 2026: Physical explores the spaces, objects, materials, and environments that shape our everyday lives. Through exhibitions, installations, prototypes, products, drawings, sculptures, and spatial interventions, participating designers investigate how culture is translated into physical form and how design responds to the social and urban realities of contemporary life.

Presented through exhibitions, talks, workshops, and community programs across New York City, NYADW seeks to foster cross-cultural dialogue, support emerging and established creatives, and connect diverse audiences through the shared language of design.

We invite designers, artists, architects, and creative practitioners from across the Asian diaspora and beyond to contribute their work and join us in shaping the future of design in New York.

Three panels: Cancel?

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Traces of Force

Force Forms Matter

Force forms matter. It bends, compresses, erodes, and resists. Before design becomes an object, image, or space, it passes through conditions that shape it: gravity, pressure, movement, material behavior, bodily habit, environmental change, cultural memory. Some forces can be measured. Others can only be sensed. But once they meet matter, they leave a trace. Traces of

Force considers physical design as the record of these encounters. A form is not a finished appearance — it is the consequence of contact. Between idea and material. Body and environment. Memory and transformation. The exhibition asks viewers to move past surface and style, and attend instead to the operations behind form: what pushes, what yields, what remains. As the Physical edition of New York Asian Design Week's two-year dialogue between Physical and Digital, this exhibition turns toward what design becomes when it leaves the screen. The digital allows form to move with speed, fluidity, and simulation. The physical introduces resistance. It has weight, grain, temperature, and duration. It must be inhabited. The physical does not oppose the digital — it makes different demands of the body. Those demands, in New York, are also cultural. Asian design is often asked to be visible but easily readable — culturally marked, yet globally fluent. *Traces of Force* refuses that position. It treats Asian design not as a fixed aesthetic but as a practice under pressure: between restraint and expression, place and displacement, continuity and the force to change. Identity here is not held in motif. It is formed through material decision, adaptation, and what gets carried forward. A trace is partial and open. It is what remains after contact — not the force itself, but its consequence. Design, seen this way, is not the imposition of form onto matter. It is matter registering what has acted upon it. What pushed? What yielded? What remains?