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"Humanity I love you": Finding joy and healing

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

“Humanity I love you”:
Finding joy and healing

A thesis submitted in partial satisfaction of the requirements

for the degree Master of Fine Arts

in

Theatre and Dance (Design)

by

Melissa Ng

Committee in charge:

Professor Judith Dolan, Chair
Professor Amy Adler
Professor Lisa Porter
Professor Deborah Stein

2016

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The thesis of Melissa Ng is approved and it is acceptable in quality and form for publication on microfilm and electronically:

Chair

University of California, San Diego

2016

DEDICATION

My mentor Judith Dolan, who brought me out to wild west California and allowed me to free myself.

My family for growing me even though they didn't always understand.

My partner Bernice for giving me the strength to be myself.

My past, future and present selves.

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File 2. *Golden Boy Show Photo*

File 3. *Venetian Twins Show Photo*

File 4. *Venetian Twins Show Photo*

File 5. *Cherry Orchard Show Photo*

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Judith Dolan, my fearless, generous and kind mentor. Lisa Porter, Deb Stein, Tara Knight, Ian Patrick and Naomi Iizuka: teachers and artists who have shaped my understanding of life and theatre here in the past three years.

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

“Humanity I love you”:
Finding joy and healing

by

Melissa Ng

Master of Fine Arts in Theatre and Dance (Design)

University of California, San Diego, 2016

Professor Judith Dolan, Chair

My work has always arrived from a deeply personal place. During my undergraduate studies, my professor said my thesis project felt like an exorcism. I was trying to find a way to say something but not quite saying it, circling around painful experiences obliquely but not wanting to commit to putting it down on paper. So much left unsaid, so much weighed down.

During my time here as a graduate student, I’ve found a way to find joy, and to let things go. It’s important to turn a painful or difficult personal experience into something that can fly, something that communicates the depths of any despair fully but that can

also ultimately find a place of redemption and joy. It's allowed me to make the kind of work that lives on and that I desire to revisit and continue.