

Raeann Kit-Yee Cheung

If We Could Meet Again, 2022, digital print

Artist statement

This appropriation consists of three exposures onto one medium-format frame. The resulting silver gelatin print was subsequently painted with yellow water colour.

The people in the image are Mr. Wong Quai Lun and his wife in the center, their son, Calvin, and their daughter, Debbie.

When Mr. Wong first arrived in Canada in 1921, he worked in the CPR camps. He also worked as a bus boy before he opened his own general store in Royalties, Alberta.

The notion of the yellow steam on the image illustrates Mr. Wong's involvement with the CPR and how he never revealed his early immigrant experiences to his children.

The recreation of the family portrait is a way to imagine what Mr. Wong might say to his children today, now that they are both adults.