

# Kitchen Dialogue

A FILM BY VINNOTH KRISHNAN



# 厨房对话

<https://www.vinnothkrishnan.com/kitchen-dialogue>

Kitchen Dialogue  
Press Kit

## Logline

Memory is an important part of life. Mimi Yu reminisces about her childhood through her poem Kitchen Dialogue, a journey from her childhood innocence to healing from generational trauma in her 20s.



## Synopsis

Kitchen Dialogue is a short documentary about Mimi Yu's poem which won the Nebraska Youth Poet Laureate, she converses about issues that revolve around childhood issues such as; abandonment, insecurity, abusive household, identity, and sense of belonging. Growing up in the midwest she faced a lot of uncertainties about her future; mental health, dreams, and searching for an identity. In this documentary, she articulates how therapy led her to understand generational trauma, immigration, separating cultural & behavioral issues, healing, and how to forgive her parents.

# Technical Aspects

Genre	Documentary Short
Run Time	12 Minutes 42 Seconds
Country	United States
Language	English
Subtitles	English
Aspect Ratio	16:9
Shooting Format	Digital
Location	Nebraska
Year	2025



# CREW

Director & Producer

Vinnoth Krishnan

Artwork

Mimi Yu

Poem Narrated

Thao Tran

Illustrated, Editor and Animator

Vinnoth Krishnan

Sound Design

Vinnoth Krishnan



# Director's Statement

Kitchen Dialogue originated from Mimi Yu's poem, which on the Nebraska Youth Poet Laureate and explores generational trauma through the complex relationship between her family and their use of food as a sign of affection. As Southeast Asian, I was able to relate to her childhood issues such as; abandonment, insecurity, abusive household, identity, and sense of belonging. This short documentary explores the origin of her generational trauma through non-linear storytelling weaving through different stages of her life.

I accompanied the poem with images shot on medium format film photos to evoke a nostalgic look. This creates an illusion and the memory behind each dish has a negative connotation that represents Mimi's way that the love has been shown by her parents and her grandparents to Mimi's parents, thus creating generational trauma. The images are crispy and beautiful with disturbing meanings behind them. Thao narrates the poem, the reason for her collaboration in this project; one, she bears the mother's role in her family since her mom's passing due to cancer and being a parentified daughter to her dad and her sister. She offered to voice out by narrating Mimi's poem.

It would have been easy to end it there, but I have moved on further to consort with an intimate history, origin, and Mimi's childhood memoirs together with her artwork, my animations, VHS footage, and illustrations. This interview starts in a non-linear fashion weaving into many directions to present a love story. In the end, leaving a potent experience that will relate acutely to my audience.

Collaborating with others and elevating the voices of Asian American experiences in mental health is a rewarding part of the creative process. I strongly believe in the importance of showcasing mental health and the process of healing from Asian American's perspectives. A budget of less than \$500 made by a crew of Asian Americans and LGBTQ+ creatives who was also supported by Undocumented Filmmakers Collective and Define American." - Vinnoth Krishnan



## **Vinnoth Krishnan** **Director, Producer**

Vinnoth Krishnan is a first-generation Indian filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist from Malaysia based in Lincoln whose work focuses on giving immigrant narratives to the forefront with a focus on South Asian, Southeast Asian, and pockets of other Asian diasporic spaces. As a filmmaker, his body of work waves through the themes of resistance, preservation, desire to belong, and pride as an immigrant in the Midwest. As a storyteller he believes in the sovereignty and self-sufficiency of every living being; a prefigurative view that focuses on reframing and redeeming our voices through underrepresented narratives that focus on character-driven stories that explore various corners of immigrant narratives. More recently, he is the 2023 Undocufilmmakers Collective Screenwriting Fellow and the 2023 Define American Fellow. Prior to this, Vinnoth was an actuary who turned to become a filmmaker by joining Princella Parker a producer with Vision Maker Media and Nebraska Public Media making *The Quiet Power of Danielle Smith* part of the *Native Daughters* series and *Healing Hearts* with VMM, stories that focus on reservation communities.

Working with underrepresented artists and collaborators, he continues to create short-form documentaries, films and music videos aligned with his beliefs to create an authentic voice and change.



## Mimi Yu Artwork

Mimi Yu is a Multi-Hyphenate artist, Nebraska Youth Poet Laureate and currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



## Thao Tran Poem Narrated

Thao Tran is a first generation Vietnamese immigrant and first generation in her family to attend higher education, she is currently majoring in Psychology, French and Russian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.