

Anna Truong
she / her
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I am a first generation Asian American of Chinese and Vietnamese descent. I work as a designer and engineer at Target. Outside of work I enjoy painting and illustrating scenes from my outdoor adventures.

Submission 1: *LNy Tiger*

This illustration was done in celebration of the Tết (Lunar New Year) in 2022. The tiger is surrounded by a border of oranges and hoa mai (apricot flowers). Oranges are typically gifted and eaten during LNY. For many Asian families, freshly cut fruit can be seen as a symbol of love and care in place of words. Hoa mai is a Vietnamese flower typically seen during the LNY season. These beautiful yellow florals are said to spread luck and wealth in the new year. Creating this piece was important to me because it was a symbol of my acceptance and celebration of my heritage. I remember being a first grader and asking a classmate if they were excited for Tết. This resulted in some kids laughing, asking what I was talking about and why I was saying it in a funny accent. I didn't know it then, but that was one of the first times I felt ashamed of my heritage. As I got older, that feeling of shame grew, and a lot of those LNY traditions that I loved so much, I never spoke of again. When I look back on this year I see so much growth. I've never felt prouder of my Asian heritage. A lot of this growth stems from the community I felt as Asian Americans banded together over the rise of Asian hate crimes. This community is full of resilience and I'm so proud to finally be able to find comfort and joy in things that used to bring me shame and embarrassment. I am proud to continue to grow and embrace my identity as an Asian American. I want this piece to be an inspiration for other Asian Americans to unabashedly share stories of cultural traditions.