

## Ana Chang / UNTITLED

### I. Who is your mother?

She is an ageing woman, whose children are grown and husband retired.

She is an eighteen year old woman who leaves home, 1950's China,

She is a young mother left with a young son and two babies to raise while her husband works in Canada.

She is a woman in her thirties standing at the Vancouver International Airport

with her three healthy children and lots

of luggage, waiting to reunite

with her husband, to become a whole family.

She is a quiet woman who speaks and understands little English, a Canadian citizen since 1976.

Does your mother work?

Yes. She has worked all her life. She helped her mother at home and alongside her sister, she worked in her sister's home.

For about twenty years now she has been a full time worker in a factory as well as the homemaker. My mother works very hard.

### II. My mother is tired. Her sight is not as keen. Her hands not as gentle or steady. Many years of factory and house work has made her skin hard and nails yellow.

### III. Dear Ma,

I'm sorry I haven't been home to lend a hand. Has my brother been helping you write the address on the envelopes? Does he thread the needle for you?

I haven't seen you since Christmas, not even on New Year's. It's been months since I've gone. In the time away, I've

begun to really feel the pain in my heart, hurting for many years. Suddenly so vivid after hiding in cool darkness.

It is very hard to be apart from you, Ma.

Since coming to Vancouver, we've been moving apart, so slowly, not apparent to our eyes. Until one day we looked into each other's eyes and did not recognize and the sounds out of our mouths sounding strangely unfamiliar, we did not understand.

Ma, I would like very much to come home, to see you.

I'll take you to Chinatown to do shopping and maybe we can eat a bowl of noodles.