GRAVE GOODS
A short documentary by Leslie Tai

What do you take with you when you die,
and what happens to the things you leave behind?
GRAVE GOODS

Documentary Short / HD video / 12 min / English and Mandarin / USA / 2012
 formats: HDCAM, Blu-ray, Quicktime

“A clean, graphically pleasing style countered by a deeply felt grief.”
- Susanna Locascio, Hammer to Nail

Short Synopsis:

When my grandma died, she managed to bring some of her things with her into the afterlife. This personal film is about the life of the objects she left behind.

Long Synopsis:

What becomes of the personal effects we leave behind after our death? Grave Goods, the director’s homage to her grandmother and a sensitive reflection on mourning and remembrance, opens with this question. Through a rigorous ‘mise en scène’, the filmmaker shows objects and images belonging to the departed, while giving free rein to her own recollections. An intimate cinematographic museum of the fleeting nature of existence.

-Alessia Bottani (Visions du Réel)
Filmmaker Biography:

Leslie Tai is a Chinese-American filmmaker hailing from San Francisco, California. She received her BA in Design|Media Arts from UCLA before moving to China in 2006. There, she studied under documentary maverick Wu Wenguang. From 2007-2011, she made and exhibited films as an artist of Caochangdi Workstation in Beijing’s underground documentary scene. Leslie is a Fulbright Scholar and a graduate of the MFA Program in Documentary Film and Video at Stanford University.

Filmography:

- Sister Heaven Sister Earth (documentary, MiniDV, 104 min, 2009)
- Lonely Lotus (documentary, MiniDV, 109 min, 2010)
- Burial Shroud (documentary, MiniDV, 30 min, 2011)
- Superior Life Classroom (documentary, Super 16mm, 6 min, 2011)
- Grave Goods (documentary, HD video, 12 min, 2012)
- The Private Life of Fenfen (documentary, HD video, 29 min, 2013)

Credits:

- Director/Producer: Leslie Tai
- Director of Photography: Leslie Tai
- Editor: Leslie Tai
- Camera Operator: Seamus Harte
- Production Assistants: Brendan Cork, Lizzie Rose
- Music: Hunter McCurry, Chris Carlson, Dub Gabriel
Screenings:

2013
Tribeca Film Festival, New York, USA World Premiere
Visions du Réel, Nyon, Switzerland, International Premiere
Regional Finalist, 40th Student Academy Award
CAAMFest: San Jose (San Francisco Asian American Film Festival), USA
Big Eddy Film Festival, Narrowsburg, NY, USA
Bay Area Student Film Showcase, Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, USA
George C. Lin Emerging Filmmaker Award, San Diego Asian Film Festival, USA
Kasseler Dokfest, Kassel, Germany

2014
FIPA - Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels, Biarritz, France

Press & Other Media:

Videobooth Interview, Visions du Réel, Nyon, April 2013
URL: http://youtu.be/tf3W01HHDlU


Film Review, “Tribeca herFlix Picks in Overload Mode,” Christina Kotlar,
Film Festival reViews, April 2013
http://www.filmfestivalreviews.com/2013/04/953/

Interview, Frontrunner Magazine, with Edward Symes, August 2013
URL: http://www.frontrunnermagazine.com/lesietai/

Best of 2013: Asian-American Films, December 2013
URL: http://asiapacificarts.usc.edu/article@apa?best_of_2013_asian_american_films_19209.aspx

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