



LUCKY NUMBERS

By Lian Morales

Showing Through June 2nd.



816 Sutter Street
SF, CA

Lian Yung Morales, a 26-year-old artist residing in San Francisco's Mission District, is presenting her inaugural solo exhibition, "Lucky Numbers," at The Birdcage SF, located at 816 Sutter St. The exhibition is scheduled to run until June 2, 2025.

Morales, who grew up in Santa Rosa, has a diverse background that includes a degree in Mathematical and Computational Biology from Harvey Mudd College and experience as a biomedical researcher at Stanford University. In 2023, she chose to leave her scientific career to fully embrace her passion for art. Her exhibition, "Lucky Numbers," features a series of twelve paintings, each representing an animal from the Chinese zodiac. Morales draws inspiration from her mixed heritage—her mother is Chinese, and her father is Puerto Rican—and her early exposure to Chinese culture, including calligraphy lessons from her grandfather. She aims for viewers to connect personally with the pieces, stating, "I wanted people to see their sign and say, 'Oh my gosh, that's me.'"

Morales employs acrylic paint on gessoed, repurposed materials, often sourcing discarded signs and canvases from her neighborhood. She allows the texture and character of these materials to influence her creative process, sometimes letting the medium guide the depiction of each zodiac animal. This approach reflects her commitment to sustainability and adds depth to her work.

The Birdcage SF, a café-gallery space known for showcasing emerging artists since 2023, is hosting Morales's exhibition. In collaboration with the artist, they have also released a limited-run T-shirt as part of the show. Reflecting on her transition from science to art, Morales encourages others to pursue their passions despite uncertainties: "Even if it feels scary. Just start. Paint your rabbit. Put it on the wall. See who shows up." "Lucky Numbers" is on display at The Birdcage SF until June 2, 2025, offering visitors an opportunity to engage with Morales's unique interpretations of the Chinese zodiac through her innovative use of reclaimed materials.