

CULTURE SAMPLE

A dining performance of "authenticity"

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We often expect cultural identity as an original and distinctive quality, a genetic trait born with people that carries traditional practices from historical time. Naming a culture seems to largely about listing the original inventions of descendants and defining its uniqueness that was formed alone before modern industrialization and globalization. Authenticity became an instrument to verify such uniqueness and, moreover, to contest the "oneness" of a culture that no others could compare. We seek authentic taste and traditional methods of cooking in search of solidarity and a sense of cultural adoption.

Nonetheless, cultures were constructed through time and are still forming on-live. Consuming food is to take a sample test of how cultures were composed. CULTURE SAMPLE is a dining performance with invited guests that intends to critique and reclaim the definition of authenticity in food culture. It means to discover the narrative behind culture through a shared dining experience with a curation of the most representative daily Chinese cuisine. CULTURE SAMPLE examines how food has shaped culture instead of being the results of culture by breaking down the histories of ingredients and recipes.

Where do they originate?
Who do they associate with?
Why did they become popular?
And how were they authenticated?

These driven questions of cultural production are embedded in the print materials that CULTURE SAMPLE provides to its guests at the dining table. Moreover, to carry through a dining conversation that connects individual memories with the cultural phenomenon. Dining becomes a platform or a ceremony to redefine this private activity as a public event.

While this performance questions the oneness and autonomy of culture, in unveiling the authenticity as a constructed artifact with contribution, it arouses personal memories associating with authentic taste—the true authenticity resides on the scale of the table.

