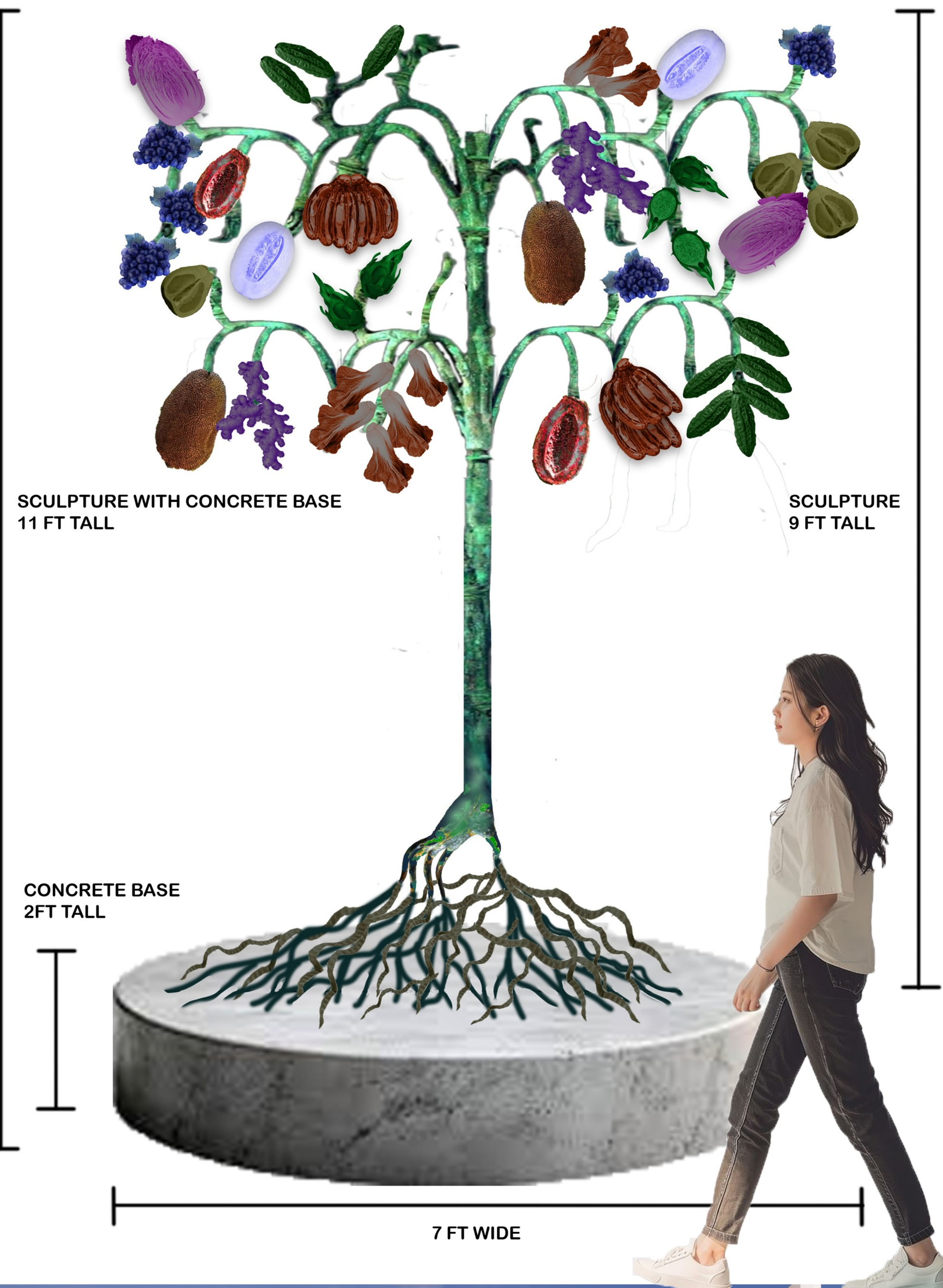


NUWA'S HAND (FRUITS OF CHINATOWN)

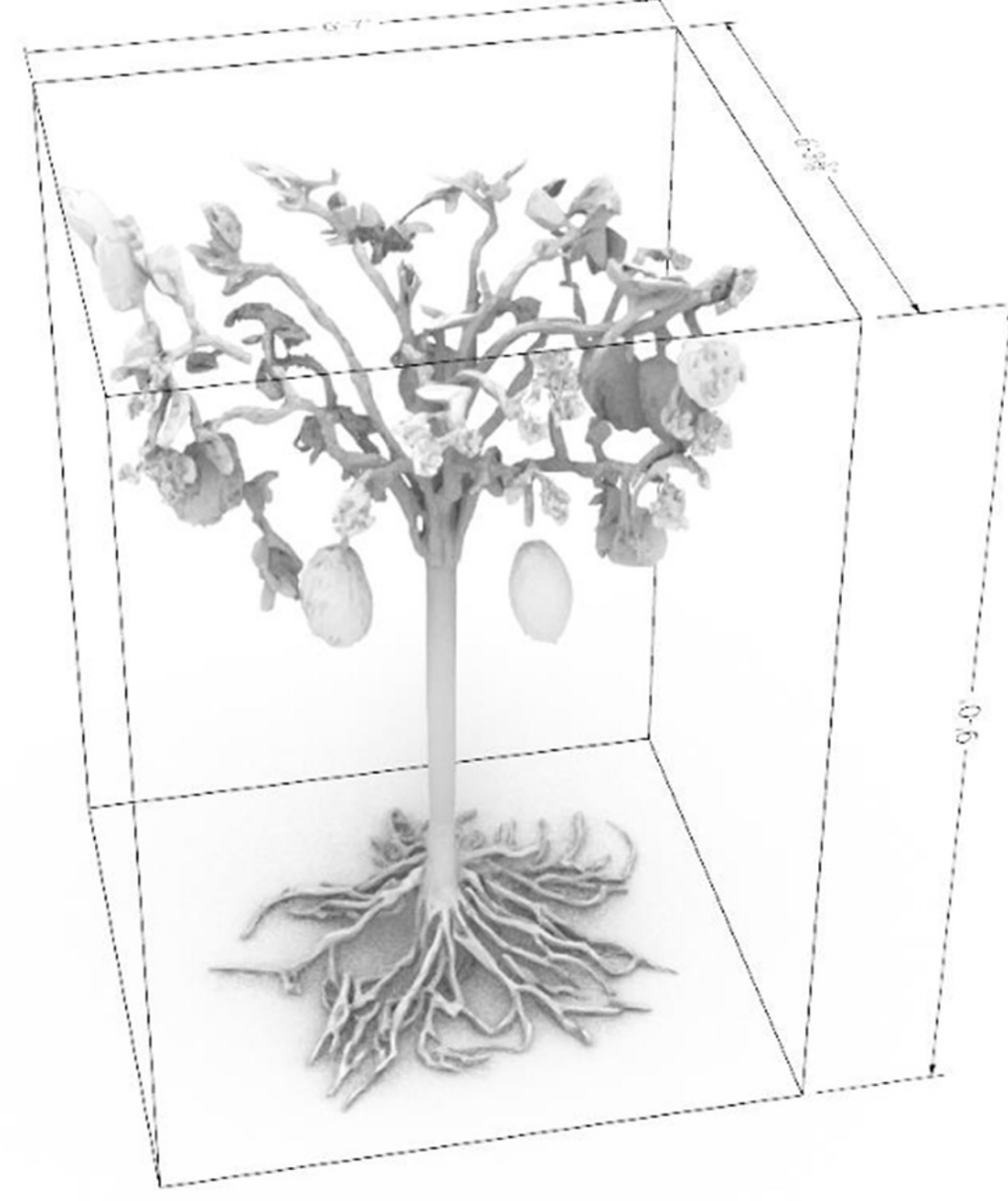
PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL FOR PORTSMOUTH SQUARE CHINATOWN BY CATHY LU



View of Branch. Eight branches total, each branch is 3-4 ft.



Example fruits: lychees, dragon fruit, hami melon, jackfruit, pomelo, bok choy, papaya, ginger, bananas, napa cabbage, bittermelon, and grapes. Fruits are made of aluminum and coated with colorful polyurethane paint with a protective clear coating.



Nuwa's Hand (Fruits of Chinatown) is a site specific bronze and aluminum sculpture on a concrete base in the Walter U Lum Pl. and Washington St. entrance to Portsmouth Square in Chinatown SF. It is a 9 ft sculpture of a greenish jade colored tree combining elements of Chinese mythological creation goddess Nuwa (her hand) and Fusang (a mythological sacred tree) that features the different fruits and produce of Chinatown. Colorful produce such as bok choy, jackfruit, bananas, etc. grow on the eight branches of this tree, with the base of the tree ending in Nuwa's hand rooting into the concrete base.

Nuwa is both a creation goddess and an artist; she is a reminder of our agency and ability to shape and change the world as we want it to be. I show her hand rooting into the ground as a way to speak to the experiences of Chinese residents fighting to maintain space despite historic and current racism and gentrification, as well as the experiences of immigrants and diasporic peoples at large making home in a new land.

From her hand grows a spectacular tree that branches out with fruits that represent Asian diasporas. By depicting fruits that would not normally grow together, I speak to experiences of hybridity, of different peoples and cultures coming together in community. The fruits will also be depicted with their interior flesh showing as a way to show power in vulnerability. This sculpture is about the resilience of Chinatown and its people, its abundance, and the strength in living as part of hybrid cultures and communities.

