

# Karen Chu

## Lost & Found



"Sprout" paper & sculpey on panel 2011

**August 6 – September 3, 2011**  
**Reception: Saturday, August 6, 7 – 10 pm,**

*Lost & Found* is a recent body of work where Karen Chu explores different interactions between subject matter, colors, forms and textures. Not unlike scattered pieces of a puzzle, a myriad of images are scavenged, found and brought together only to be scattered once again across a surface in order to form a larger narrative. These found images are the foundation and building blocks for Chu's mixed media collages, paintings and sculptures. For her collages on panel, the sculpted components often mimic the forms and textures depicted in the found images. An image of a pile of gold coins is transformed into an overlapping armadillo-like armor of physical gray sculpey "coins." Other times, the sculpted forms are derived from the oceanic themes found in Ernst Haeckel's *Art Forms in Nature*. These shapes transcend the panel and transform into organic ceramic sculptures reminiscent of coral reef structures. Chu, who is always floating between mediums, again returns to her collages as inspiration for her paintings on linen. The paintings are direct translations of her collages, with the raw linen and wood grain providing natural backgrounds for the images to float and hover over. The organically fused and juxtaposed elements in Chu's collages, paintings, and sculptures balance and riff off of each other to create a conversation within each piece.