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MIDSTORY CO-FOUNDER PUBLISHED IN STATEWIDE HUMANITIES PUBLICATION

Toledo, Ohio, Nov 7, 2022 – Midstory is pleased to announce that co-founder Ruth Chang has published an essay in Lumen, an annual publication from Ohio Humanities that “aims to build and foster community through thoughtfully curated storytelling” and “dares to examine big questions and ideas.”

Chang’s essay, “Almost Home,” shares her experience as an Asian American in the Midwest and how portrayals in film, TV and media at large can influence the way we see and situate ourselves within our surroundings. Find a short excerpt below, and the full essay at <http://www.ohiohumanities.org/lumen/>.

“4 5 ‘00.” In a photograph, my father, my mother, my brother, and I sit smiling on the concrete steps of our apartment. We live within earshot of I-75, located at the periphery of a quiet Ohio town, corn fields just beyond. Above us, an American flag softly waves, afloat for the moment.

In the late 1990s, TV stations began introducing Japanese animated shows on Saturday mornings to youth audiences. Rustling my brother awake at 5AM, I’d switch on channel 36. Shows like Yu-Gi-Oh!, Pokémon, and Sailor Moon were like me: jarringly dubbed over, a bit of foreign on a white canvas. So my childhood years happened at the cusp of change, when globalization catalyzed a slow but steady transformation in American society waking up to the other side of the world...

Chang has been working to uplift undertold narratives since co-founding Midstory in 2018. She previously worked as a designer at a Boston-based architecture firm focused on providing affordable housing solutions. She also worked in Taipei, Shanghai, and Paris on various projects such as a national museum, a luxury hotel and an arts exhibition. Ruth Chang has a B.A. in Architecture from Princeton University and a M.Arch from Harvard’s Graduate School of Design.

About Midstory: Midstory is a 501(c)(3) non-profit thinkhub that progresses the narrative of the Midwest by incubating bright, diverse and interdisciplinary thinkers to exchange ideas and envision the future of our region through multimedia storytelling and solutions-oriented research since its founding in 2018. You can learn more at www.midstory.org.

About Ohio Humanities: Established in 1972, Ohio Humanities is a private nonprofit organization and the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Ohio Humanities increases Ohioans’ appreciation and understanding of the humanities through the organization’s grant-making capacity and programs. Operating statewide, Ohio Humanities provides assistance to grant applicants, oversees organization-developed programs, and promotes the humanities in Ohio through collaborations with cultural and educational institutions. Ohio Humanities is governed by a volunteer board which makes decisions on grant awards and sets policy.

