Cynthia Lin was born in Taiwan and grew up near Chicago, Illinois. She currently lives in Brooklyn and works in Bushwick/ Queens. She was awarded a New York Foundation for the Arts Finalist in Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts in 2014 and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 2006. She has shown at Lehmann Maupin Gallery, Yossi Milo Gallery, DeCordova Museum, Pierogi Gallery, Equity Gallery, Garis & Hahn Gallery, Michael Steinberg Gallery, The National Academy of Design, The Drawing Center, Weatherspoon Art Museum and Kentler International Drawing Space. Her work is in collections at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Dallas Museum of Art.

She has recently received a Fellowship in International House of Artists, Oberpfälzer Künstlerhaus II in Germany and has also attended The Brown Foundation Fellows Program at the Dora Maar House in Menerbes, France. Other residency fellowships include The MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, The Space Program at the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation, Blue Mountain Center, Djerassi Resident Artists Program, and the Visiting Artists and Scholars Program at the American Academy in Rome.

She is Associate Professor of Painting + Drawing at Purchase College SUNY and is currently on sabbatical for 2019-2020.