

10 Chancery Lane Gallery

Katie de Tilly Contemporary Artists

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ATTENTION ART EDITORS

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CITY-O-RAMA

HONG KONG's first original in situ video project

9+1 videos and installations in Soho



Wang Qingsong, "123456 Chops".



Satoru Tamura, "100 Kg Man".



Erkka Nissinen, "West Project".

Presented by
H-KAGE Foundation

Curated by
MAP OFFICE
(Gutierrez + Portefaix)

November 4th-18th: installations across Soho Streets

November 19th & 20th: all videos will be shown all day at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery

[16 Oct, 2010, Hong Kong] - As Hong Kong is becoming the stage for a fast growing art scene and attracting the curiosity of the local and international communities, H-KAGE Foundation and MAP Office are thrilled to announce a creative collaboration via the first edition of the exciting project - *City-O-Rama*.

CITY-O-RAMA - THE CONCEPT:

A non-commercial in situ Video Art exhibition involving 10 artistic interventions in the urban landscape of Hong Kong during two weeks in November. *City-O-Rama* aims to intervene in private spaces with public access in Central Hong Kong to introduce multi-media art, create a dialogue and build up new audiences among the local community for contemporary forms of visual arts.

City-O-Rama is about letting art go beyond galleries spaces and allowing it to reach out to a larger public as well as enhancing the cultural atmosphere of the area.

Each video will resonate with its location in a playful manner to best engage with the local audience. One will find renowned Chinese artist Wang Qingsong's *123456 CHOP* showing in a butcher shop – showing both the artist and the real butcher chopping under the same roof.

The community is invited to explore the long-standing uniqueness and charm of Central through locating and experiencing each video installed in Soho's most authentic and traditional outlets, carefully laid out on the map by curators Laurent Gutierrez and Valerie Portefaix of the MAP Office between November 4th to 18th. The "art treasure hunt" will also lead the visitors to the curators'

exhibition *Runscape*, which runs in parallel with *City-O-Rama*, at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery. On November 20th 10 Chancery Lane Gallery will show in a loop the ten videos for those who were not able to complete the circuit.

City-O-Rama is a traveling exhibition which aims to explore via the Arts the relationships between the different urban communities within Cities around the world. There are on-going conversations with Marrakech, Istanbul, Tokyo and London to bring the project around the world.

10 ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL VIDEO ARTISTS

- Daniel Crooks
- Didier Faustino
- Ali Kazma
- Erkka Nissinen
- Dennis Oppenheim
- Shahzia Sikander
- Satoru Tamura
- Bill Viola
- Wang Gongxin
- Wang Qingsong

+1 CURATOR COLLECTIVE: MAP OFFICE

Artist duo **Laurent Gutierrez** and **Valerie Portefaix** - known as MAP OFFICE – run *CITY-O-RAMA* HK, a video exhibition in Hong Kong private spaces on public view. Continuing “Hong Kong Is Our Museum” from their rooftop to the streets around Central market, they invite the public to freely interact with the open structures of the city.

THE STATEMENT : ‘City-O-Rama is a Video appropriation of private spaces for public viewing

There is no specific theme to the show, but the individual is the center of each work. From Daniel Crooks’ elastic body to Erkka Nissinen’s giant running foot in *West Project*, from Dennis Oppenheim becoming landscape to Didier Faustino remodeling with pink chewing-gum, the video installation creates a collage of unexpected human experiences through the streets. Time is another approach in the work of Ali Kazma, focusing on a man working to control the mechanism of a clock while food mechanically collapses from Wong Gongxin’s table. Curiosity, in Saturo Tamura’s obsession to reach the fatidic body weight of 100 kg to Wang Qingsong furiously chopping a goat until the shreds of the animal carcass become minute pieces and ultimately, disappear. Most of the selected places, booth or conventional shops, are small commerce filled with goods. They are a continuity of the street, and absorbed public space, they are the latest pockets of resistance to the ongoing transformation of the city center. Strategically placed in the city for a period of three weeks, these questions will echo in these fast disappearing places, to promote an older forgotten environment as a valuable cultural landmark, allowing us to be able to offer a new vision on both art and the city.

9 + 1 VIDEO AND INSTALLATION

9 venues have been selected inside which the video installations interestingly mingle and interact with. All are located in the heart of lively Soho around its wet market and include: a butcher shop, flower shop, beauty salon, fruit and vegetable stand. (Map to follow soon).

In addition a special video installation by internationally acclaimed Wang Gong Xin will be presented by KEE club throughout the duration of *CITY-O-RAMA* with a daily public access from 10am-12pm.

OPENING HOURS

Nov 4 – 18: video installations around SoHo Central. (11am-5pm everyday unless otherwise specified.)

Nov 19 - 20: special viewing of all 10 videos in loop at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery. (10am to 6pm, Mon to Sat.)

Please visit: <http://www.h-kage.com/CityORama.html> for details

Enquiry: (852) 2810-0065

ABOUT H-KAGE FOUNDATION

H-KAGE is a newly established non-profit arts foundation in Hong Kong founded by Katie and Georges de Tilly that acts to network with other arts foundations across the Asia-Pacific. To partner in exhibition organization, hosting of exhibitions, promotions and touring of projects advancing the awareness of both artists and arts foundations from around the Asia Pacific region to the rest of the world. H-KAGE aims to act as an important contributor to Hong Kong's art community by organizing and promoting non-commercial exhibitions. H-KAGE will also work to promote the training experience of young curators in Hong Kong in providing space and partnership with established international curators who will provide guidance in their curatorial projects.

ABOUT MAP OFFICE

MAP OFFICE is a multidisciplinary platform devised by Laurent Gutierrez (born 1966, Casablanca) and Valérie Portefaix (born 1969, Saint-Etienne). This duo of artists/architects has been based in Hong Kong since 1996, working on physical and imaginary territories using varied means of expression including drawing, photographs, video, installations, performance and literary and theoretical texts. Their entire project forms a critique of spatio-temporal anomalies and documents how human beings subvert and appropriate space. Humour, games and fiction are also part of their approach, in the form of small publications providing a further format for disseminating their work.

Laurent Gutierrez is an Associate Professor at the School of Design, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University where he leads the Environment and Interior Design discipline and the Master of Strategic Design as well as Innovation Design Management (IDM/MBA). He is also the co-director of SD SPACE LAB. He is currently doing a PhD on the "Processes of Modernization and Urbanization in China focusing on the Pearl River Delta region".

Valérie Portefaix is the principal of MAP OFFICE. She received her Master of Architecture degree from School of Architecture Paris-Belleville and a PhD in Urbanism from University Pierre Mendès France. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at the School of Design, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

MAP OFFICE projects have participated in major international art and architecture events including; EVENTO 2009 - 1st Bordeaux Biennale (2009); 4th Tirana International Contemporary Art Biennial (2009); 2nd Canary Island Biennale (2009); 7th, 11th and 12th Venice Architecture Biennale (2000, 2008, 2010); Prospect.1 – New Orleans (2008); 7th Gwangju Biennale (2008); 10th Istanbul Biennale (2007); 52nd Venice Art Biennale (2007); 15th Sydney Biennale (2006); 1st Paris Triennial (2006); 2nd Guangzhou Triennial (2005); 1st Rotterdam Architecture Biennale (2003).

Their publications includes: Unreal Estates of China (2007); The Parrot's Tale (2007); My PRD Stories (2005), HK LAB 2 (2005); HK LAB (2002); Mapping HK (2000); among many others publications on the « Made in China » phenomenon and other, related issues.

Their film "The City of Production" has been selected for the official competition at: 38th International Film Festival Rotterdam 2009, 33rd Cinema du Réel Paris 2009, 1st Migrating Forms New York 2009.

VIDEO SUMMARIES

1

Daniel Crooks (b.1973, New Zealand)

Static Number 12 (seek stillness in movement) (2010)

Duration: 05:28 min

As an old man's body flows through space, his blurred image is captured and stretched. On either side of the gliding smear there is that same old man practicing an internal Chinese martial art called Tai Chi. The man's motions are frozen, stretched and transported through time. This beautiful blur produces irregular body shapes that the viewer would not normally witness, marveling regarding the beauty of the human form.

** Special thanks to Daniel Crooks and Anna Schwartz Gallery.*

2

Ali Kazma (b. 1971, Turkey)

Clock Master (2006)

Duration: 15 minutes

For the duration of the video, a skilled clock-master disassembles cleans, and ultimately reassembles a complex clock. The opening of the video gives the viewer a sense of uncomfortable drama. The disassembling of a clock signifies the unraveling of time and order, preempting feelings of the fear of death and chaos. The reassembling of the clock restores the sense of order in the viewer's world and assuages feelings of confusion and uncomfortable fear. The technical skill and precision of the clockmaker are captured with each close-up, revealing each gear and screw are precisely placed back in the exact location that they belong giving the viewer a sense of closure.

** Special thanks to Ali Kazma and Galeri nev Istanbul.*

3

Shahzia Sikander (b. 1969, Pakistan)

Bending The Barrels (2009)

Duration: 22 minutes

A Pakistani Army military brass band is performing in formation. The performing soldiers, the rhythm and orchestration echoes from the tradition of Indo-Islamic miniature painting. The 22 minute video journey through the military rhetoric turns into a powerful device to question the current political climate in Pakistan and the country's long quest for democracy.

** Special thanks to Shahzia Sikander and Pilar Corrias Gallery.*

4

Satoru Tamura (b. 1969, Japan)

100 Kg Man (2004), part of the Weight Sculpture Series

Duration: 1:16 minutes

A man is standing on a large scale drinking a brown liquid until he reached the weight of 100 kg. The simple yet bold and humorous way that the scale is placed beside the bottle is very imposing as people of all ages may make their own assumptions on what is the meaning behind this. Clearly the man who wants to reach 100kg is a data perfectionist.

** Special thanks to Satoru Tamura, TSCA and MIACA.*



MIACA
Moving Image Archive of Contemporary Art

5

Bill Viola (b. 1951, America)

The Reflecting Pool (1977-79)

Duration: 7 minutes

One of Viola's early video, "Reflecting Pool" explores the apparent static nature of time. The protagonist – the artist – emerges from a dense forest and approach the edge of a pool. There, he prepares to do make a powerful jump but as he stands up in the air, something unexpected happens. For the artist, water is a symbol of life and rebirth, that continues to ripple and undulate after our passage.

** Special thanks to Bill Viola Studio LLC. and Kira Perov.*

6

Wang Qingsong (b. 1966, China)

123456 Chops (2008)

Duration: 4:00 minutes

A wooden plank is seen on screen, clean and fresh but by the end of the video the plank will be a horrific site of carnage, strewn with lamb figments and carcass. Wang brings a lamb and places it on the table. He then slowing but gradually chops the lamb into a field of pieces. As he does this he moves crablike and crouches on the floor.

** Special thanks to Wang Qingsong.*

7

Dennis Oppenheim (b. 1938, America)

Compression- Fern (face) (1970)

Duration: 5:13 minutes

In this video, the carnivorous Human being obliterates a gentle fern delivering a violent message. The interplay between the plant that has been an integral part of the earth's resources and the *homo sapiens* who has been a destroyer and consumer is particularly poignant in this violent crushing of the fern. This plain plant is a symbol of all peaceful herbivore species, but the Homo sapiens is destroying every single specimen in its path. Of particular significance is the artist here only using one hand instead of two to illustrate his power against nature.

Compression-Fern (hand) (1970)

Duration: 5:38 minutes

Oppenheim hides his face to keep his identity unknown. But as he compresses the fern, he gains confidence, therefore allowing his face to be seen. This could be also interpreted as an out of control human species destroying the beauty of nature to reveal his face. Ironically, the destruction of plants will lead to the extinction of the human race.

Gingerbread man

Duration: 8:35 minutes

Oppenheim eats a gingerbread man in this segment to show the paradox between the creation of life and destruction necessary in order to fuel life. The gingerbread man is named after its creator the "man". Man needs food and is therefore forced to eat its creation leaving us with this question: are we cruel or simply trying to survive?

** Special thanks to Dennis Oppenheim.*

8

Erkka Nissinen (b. 1975, Finland)

West Project (2010)

Duration: 06:28 minutes

“West Project” is the artist’s response to the current development of Hong Kong West Kowloon Cultural district. As an oversized developer/architect runs through beautiful landscapes of Hong Kong towards a concrete block surrounded by two women dressed as big feet. West Project written in colorful band around them, announce an event to be started. A series of dramatic events turn the celebration into a horror crime scene, leaving the two feet running hopelessly through the mountain.

* Special thanks to Erkka Nissinen and Ellen de Bruijne Projects.

9

Didier Faustino (b. 1968, France)

(G)Host In The (S)Hell (2009)

Duration: 21:30 minutes

Faustino in this video is filmed chewing gum and slowly sticking it onto his face creating a mask. The chewing gum eventually becomes part of Faustino acting like a second layer of skin. He molds the gum onto his face eventually covering the entire surface area except for his eyes and mouth that pop out of the mask boldly. The eyes and the mouth are the only two indications that the viewer has to infer that this is a man not a monster.

* Special thanks to Didier Faustino and Galerie Michel Rein Paris.

10

Wang Gongxin (b. 1960, China)

The Dinner Table (2006)

Duration: 5:10 minutes

In this video the food and plates at a dinner party are gracefully falling, dropping and sliding off the table. The table is slowly being tilted over by an unseen force which the camera angle maximizes so that the size of the outer circle is the same as the video lens. This creates a distortion in the viewer’s perception of the work as to whether the table is being tilted through illusion or whether it is the viewer that is tilted in an Alice in Wonderland illusion. “

* *The Dinner Table* will be presented as a special installation at the Kee Club. For details please refer to the [map](#).

* Special thanks to Wang Gongxin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CITY-O-RAMA would like to thank all the artists and the shop owners for their participation and enthusiasm for this project.

Special thanks to supporting artists, galleries and institutions.

Venue sponsor for the installation of *The Dinner Table*: KEE CLUB

TV sponsor: Smart Pixels Tech. Ltd.