

osage

CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

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Press Release

20 May 2011

Attention Arts and Features Editors

For immediate release

Staged Fictions: Patty Chang, Ho Tzu Nyen and Adrian Wong

24.05.2011 – 2.06.2011 / 14.06.2011 – 18.07.2011

Reception: 27.05.2011, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Artists: Patty CHANG, HO Tzu Nyen, Adrian WONG

Featuring: David Kelley

Curator: Pauline J. YAO



Melons (at a loss), 1998, by Patty Chang, Single channel video

Staged Fictions is a group exhibition featuring three artists—Patty Chang (New York), Ho Tzu Nyen (Singapore) and Adrian Wong (Hong Kong)—whose works explore strategies of making and re-making real and imagined narratives through film, video, performance and installation. Comprised of mostly video and installation, the works featured in *Staged Fictions* are unified by their departure from singular,

essentialist, or fixed points of origin. Instead they embrace moments of bifurcation, ambiguity and obscurity through blurring the lines between performance and choreography and real-life documentation. Such contemporary processes of mythmaking are designed to unveil the construction of culture and the body of 'history'. As these predominantly filmic explorations reveal, invented encounters, imagined histories and fabricated scenarios can overlap with the realities and attributes of our contemporary condition, giving way to an 'embodiment of making' that is at once unavoidably real and eminently imagined.

New York artist **Patty Chang** is well known for her performative artworks which deal with issues of gender, sexuality, and identity. Using video as a method of documentation and interpretation, Chang's performances are marked by their visceral and confrontational nature, and often contain undertones of discomfort leading to pain or distress. For *Staged Fictions*, Chang presents a recent piece filmed in China's Xinjiang Province and a new collaboration with David Kelley shot along the border zone of China, Laos and Vietnam. Both similarly interweave moments of real trauma with disjunctive or fantasy-like narratives that obliquely point to modernizing forces affecting the region. *Staged Fictions* represents the first time these works have been shown in Asia.

The two existing works by filmmaker and artist **Ho Tzu Nyen** in *Staged Fictions* meditate on the dialectical relationship between painting and cinema, the still and the moving image. *Utama Every Name in History is I (2003)*, a short film that meditates on Utama, a legendary figure in pre-colonial Malay history who is responsible for coining the name Singapore and whose questionable status suggests an ambiguous multiplicity of possible identities. Ho's spectacular *Earth (2009)* features some fifty actors strewn about a carefully constructed set resembling a modern day rubbish dump. A study in light, composition and slowed movements luxuriously captured on film, *Earth* stages late renaissance Italian and French tableau vivant paintings as post-apocalyptic, disaster-ridden silent dramas.

Hong Kong artist **Adrian Wong**'s work crisscrosses disciplines of installation, design, performance, and theatre; and engages in idiosyncratic fields of research that mine personal and collective histories. Shown for the first time in Hong Kong, his video *Umbrellahead, I Will Find You (2010)* is a thirty-minute theater production that was the culmination of a three-month intensive research project relating to urban redevelopment in the Western district on Hong Kong Island. **Wong's** video *Sang Yat Fai Lok (2008)* is also the product of his research-based practice, this time into his familial ties to the Pearl River Delta, namely his estranged great uncle who was a local television personality.

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ABOUT STAGED FICTIONS

Artists:	Patty Chang, Ho Tzu Nyen, Adrian Wong
Curator:	Pauline J. YAO
Venue:	Osage Kwun Tong
Address:	5/F, Kian Dai Industrial Building, 73-75 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel:	(852) 2793 4817
Exhibition Duration:	24 May 2011 till 6 June 2011 / 14 June till 18 July 2011
Reception:	27 May 2011 (Friday), 6.00pm
Reception Sponsors:	  

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APPENDIX A: ABOUT THE ARTISTS

APPENDIX B: PRESS IMAGES

APPENDIX A: ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Patty Chang (b.1972, USA) is a performance and video artist and a nominated finalist for the Hugo Boss Prize in 2008. Her work *Flotsam Jetsam*, 2007 (with David Kelley) is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art and her recent work *Minor* (2009) was screened at MoMA's Documentary Fortnight series in 2010. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions internationally. She lives and works in New York.

Ho Tzu Nyen (b.1976, Singapore) works primarily as a film and audiovisual artist. His first feature film, *HERE*, premiered at the 41st Director's Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival in 2009. He has exhibited widely in biennials and festivals around the world, including the Sao Paulo Biennale (2004), the Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial (2005), the Singapore Biennale (2006), and the Asia-Pacific Triennial (2009) in Queensland, Australia. He has been chosen to represent Singapore at the 54th Venice Biennale this June. He lives and works in Singapore.

Adrian Wong (b.1980, USA) is a multi-disciplinary artist working in sculpture, installation, performance and film. Trained in Developmental Psychology at Stanford University, Wong later received his MFA in Sculpture at Yale University and soon after relocated to Hong Kong. Wong's work has been exhibited at the Louis Vuitton Foundation in Hong Kong, Shanghai MOCA, and the Kunsthalle Wien. He is currently exhibiting his solo exhibition, "Troglodyte See the Light" at LTD Los Angeles. He lives and works in Hong Kong and Los Angeles.

Featuring:

David Kelley (b. 1972, USA) is an artist working interchangeably between photography, video, sculpture and installation. He received his MFA from the University of California in Irvine and is a recent alumni of the Whitney Museum of American Art's Independent Study Program. Kelley's work has been shown in galleries, museums, and theaters around the world. His project with Patty Chang *Flotsam Jetsam* (2007) was exhibited at New York's Museum of Modern Art's 2008 New Directors New Films Festival, in MassMoCA's Eastern Standard show and won the Golden Pyramid at the Cairo IMFAY Media Arts Festival. He is currently Professor of Photography at Wellesley College. He lives between New York city and Wellesley, MA.

Special Thanks to the Asian Cultural Council, NY and Galerie Gabrielle Maubrie, Paris for their support of *Route 3*

APPENDIX B: PRESS IMAGES



Minor (2009) by Patty Chang
Single channel video



Sang Yat Fai Lok (2008) by Adrian Wong
Single channel video



Earth (2009) by Ho Tzu Nyen
Single channel video

ABOUT OSAGE GALLERY

Osage Gallery is devoted to the exhibition and promotion of international and Asian contemporary visual arts, exploring the diverse and complex artistic relationships between the different regions of Asia, and beyond that, of the artistic relationships between Asia and other parts of the world. Osage Gallery represents some of the most exciting and significant artists in the region. The gallery also works closely with international critics and curators to present exhibitions and projects that address themes and issues relevant to our times.

In addition to organising major group and thematic exhibitions, Osage Gallery has organised solo exhibitions by some of the most significant artists in Asia, such as Sun Yuan and Peng Yu, Shen Shaomin and Jiang Zhi from China, as well as other Asian artists such as Lee Kit (Hong Kong), Wilson Shieh (Hong Kong), Nipan Oranniwesna (Thailand) and Charwei Tsai (Taiwan).

Osage Gallery is part of the Osage Group www.osageartideas.com encompassing the much-celebrated Osage Art Foundation, Osage Art Consultancy and Osage Design.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Osage Gallery, Kwun Tong

Points of Ellipsis...

Curated by Arianna Gellini and Sonja Ng

Artists: Juan Alcazaren, Ranelle Dial, Roberto Chabet, Nilo Ilarde, Lani Maestro, Tozer Pak, Gary-Ross Pastrana, Chris Villanueva and William Lim

24.05.2011 – 2.06.2011 / 14.06.2011 – 5.07.2011

Opening Reception: 27.05.2011, 6pm

Current Exhibitions

Osage Gallery, Soho

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Curated by David Chan

Artists: Poklong Anading

Until 20.06.2011

Please visit www.osagegallery.com for more information.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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