

Videotage // Asia's New Media Art Collective Since 1986

Press Release (for immediate release)

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Presented by Videotage

fuse :: Residency Program

The Solitude of Jing Hua

菁華的空虛



Artist: Julia Burns and Enrica Ho

Date: 28 July 2011 (Thursday) 7-9 pm

Venue: Osage Gallery

Address: 5/F, Kian Dai Industrial Building, 73-75 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Julia Burns, an Australian artist, together with **Enrica Ho**, her collaborator, created *The Solitude of Jing Hua* for Videotage's fuse:: residency program this summer. This artwork considers women's insecurities as they grow older and the advertising industry's exploitation of this private fear.

Presented in a factory context, the performance presents the 'standardization' of youth and beauty. Using time as a metaphor, twelve performers move around the central character, Jing Hua, in a clocklike fashion. The central character embodies the insecurities and fears of a forty year-old woman searching for youth and beauty. Her search is deeper than vanity; it instead stems from the fear of solitude in old age. The artists, Julia Burns and Enrica Ho, feel that this fear of loneliness is especially strong in Asia, where family and peer pressure, along with the advertising industry, exacerbate the situation.

The epidemic of 'never feeling good enough' or of 'being told that they are not good enough' weakens women's confidence and makes them vulnerable. *The Solitude of Jing Hua* attempts to draw attention to this phenomenon and to unravel the seed of the cause behind women's insecurities.

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Julia Burns

(b. 1982 in Sydney, Australia. Lives and works in Sydney and Hong Kong.) Raised as an expatriate in South East Asia and the United States, Julia is especially interested in the demographic and sociological underpinnings of the cities in which she resides. In the past, Julia has made works about issues related to Status Anxiety, Loss of Privacy, and Self-doubt. These themes are unspoken feelings that she thinks all people, across all countries, battle with. Inspired by her own concerns, she looks at how they apply within a sociological context.

She won the Marrickville Culture and Arts Grant in 2009. In the following year, she received the Freeman Foundation Traveling Scholarship and the fuse:: Videotage Residency Grant. Her works have been shown at the Australia Council of the Arts and she has installations touring with d/Lux/Media/Arts. From 2011 to 2013, her artwork will tour throughout the Asia-Pacific region with Experimenta and AsiaLink New Media Biennale – Selectively Revealed.

Enrica Ho

Post-80s generation, born in Hong Kong, Enrica Ho graduated from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2004 with BSc (Hons) Construction Economics and Management, after which she started participating in art and design activities. In 2008, she was invited by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups to design products for "You Are What You Wear" youth design project, which were sold in Hong Kong Book Fair 2008. Enrica will soon graduate from BA (Hons) in Creative Media at the City University of Hong Kong. In Spring 2010, an overseas exchange program enabled her to study photography, video, new media and sound art at the University of Illinois in Chicago. She is ecstatic over the state of transformation and fusion, and hopes to combine sciences and the arts; sense and sensibility; analog and digital forms in her artworks. She believes that art at the first level is for self-expression, second level for connecting with the viewers, and third level with society.

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