

Media Release

9 November 2012

Attention Arts and Culture Editors

For immediate release

Philosopher's (knock-off) Stone: Turning Gold into Plastic

16 November – 9 December 2012

Opening reception: 16 November 2012, 6 – 8pm

Osage Kwun Tong

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

Opening hours: Daily from 10am to 7pm

Osage Gallery is pleased to present the group exhibition, *Philosopher's (knock-off) Stone: Turning Gold Into Plastic* at Osage Kwun Tong from 16 November to 9 December 2012. The exhibition takes the concept of alchemy as a starting point in order to investigate the two-way dialogue latent within the space of an object or idea undergoing transformation. The works of Luke CHING, CHU Chun Teng, KWAN Sheung Chi, Elise LAI, Sarah LAI, LAU Hok Shing, LEUNG Mei Ping, LO Chi Kit, NG Ka Chun will be presented.

Typically, the alchemist is involved in the process of turning cheap metal into precious and highly valuable gold; through the process of alchemy, energies of a certain nature are emitted. The artists participating in this exhibition have taken common subjects such as money, silver, and the moon, and then put them through a process of refinement or alteration — the substitution a transformation of an object results in a shift in it's significant meaning, while also restoring it to it's original state as pure matter.

The moon is essentially a grey, inanimate object. It projects a silvery light in the night sky, a light which does not belong to itself; this phenomenon is actually the result of the moon reflecting the light coming off from the sun. This characteristic of something not undergoing any essential change except in appearance is an occurrence one can find in alchemy. A captivating and compelling radiance on the outside serves to mask the banality underneath.

Osage | Gallery 奧沙畫廊

Contemporary society is likewise undergoing a change whose trajectory runs parallel to the process of alchemy: the democratization of luxury items gradually strips them of their aura of preciousness; at the same time, certain objects of a common nature are symbolically packaged and thus become elevated to a state of prestige. Artists similarly play with signs as they relate to language and symbolic meaning, altering the relationship between the signifier and what is signified; they can turn a stone into a chunk of gold, or vice versa. This process inevitably highlights the tension underlying all things as they are seen in the world.

Kwan Sheung-Chi's work, *1000*, involves the use of an eraser to rub out the printed image found on a banknote that gives it status as currency, a gesture which obliterates the economic signifier of money and ultimately reveals it for what it is: a piece of paper. However, due to his choice of using a weak eraser for the action, which is intended to reveal the capitalist connotations of a banknote and the characters printed on its surface, the result becomes something altogether more ambiguous.

Similar spirit is shown in Lo Chi-kit's work. During his time spent in the Korean town of 'Riguang' (a name which shares a meaning with the word 'daylight'), Lo created replicas of the handmade road signs which the locals crafted themselves, and proceeded to replace the actual signs with the ones he made in their original spots, directing travelers along the road at night to a destination named 'Yueming (moonlight) Temple'.

For any enquiry concerning the exhibition, please contact Emillie Chiu at (852) 27934817 or send email to media@osagegallery.com

PRESS IMAGES



Lo Chi-kit
Two Dollars
2011
Action, outdoor installation
Coin, tripod construction light
Dimensions variable



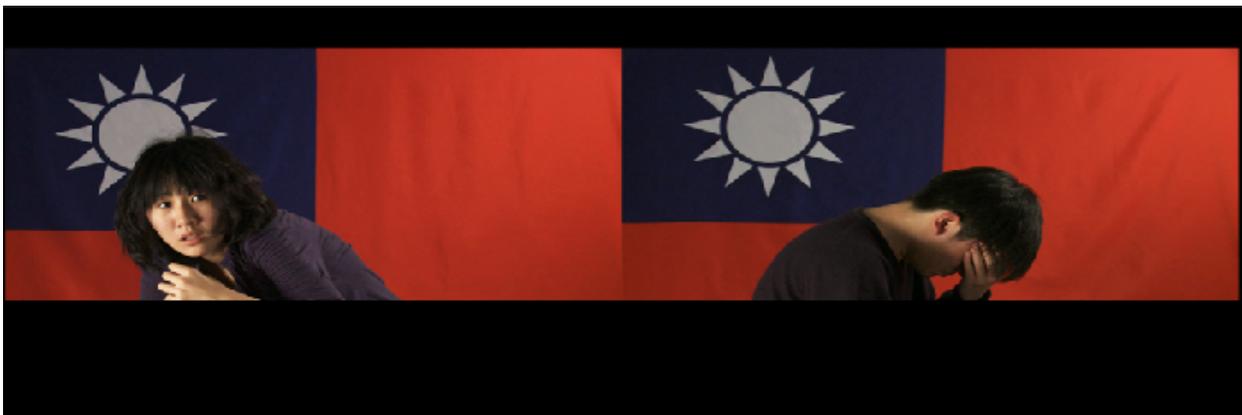
Leung Mee-ping

Don't Blame the Moon

2010

6" DVD player, projector

Dimensions: 300 sq. ft. dark space w/ 14 ft. (at least) height from floor to ceiling



Chu Chun-teng

Taiwan Taiwan

2012

HK video, sound

100 mins

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Kwan Sheung-chi
ONE MILLION (Japanese Yen)
2012
HD video, colour, stereo
1 min 8 sec, edition of 5

Kwan Sheung-chi
ONE MILLION (Hong Kong Dollar)
2012
HD video, colour, mono
8 min 18 sec

Kwan Sheung-chi
ONE MILLION (Taiwan New Dollar)
2012
HD video, colour, stereo
9 min 43 sec



Ng Ka-chun
Withered Grass Revolution
2012
Wood, iron
Dimensions variable



Sarah Lai
1/2 Moon
Oil on canvas
140 x140cm, 2 panels

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 the rest of the world. Osage Gallery represents some of the most exciting and significant artists in the region. The gallery also works closely with international curators to present exhibitions and projects that address themes and issues relevant to our times.

Osage Gallery is part of the Osage Group encompassing the Osage Art Foundation, Osage Art Consultancy and Osage Design.

Please visit www.osagegallery.com for more information.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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