

ASIA FORUM

23 April 2022

Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice

Presented by



Programme

9:45

Welcome

Bagri Foundation, Asia Forum

10:00

Roundtable | Tracing Asia Art Histories: Modernity as Crime Scene

Hoor Al Qasimi, Patrick Flores, Annie Jael Kwan, Hammad Nasar, John Tain, Ming Tiampo

11:30

Factories, Tables, Postrevolution: Ho Rui An

Drawing upon his recent works examining the material networks and political imaginaries of Reform-era China, Ho probes into the foreclosure of class politics amidst the ongoing "crisis" of late capitalism. Moving from cinematic scenes of workers appearing in and around factory gates the world over to photographs of Chinese and Singaporean technocrats seated at massive meeting tables, this presentation considers what it means to speak of "the economy" in a time when the Revolution appears to have exhausted its historical course.

12:20

Break

12:30

Curatorial Directions

Sheelasha Rajbhandari, Hit Man Gurung and Tsherin Sherpa, (Tales of Muted Spirits - Dispersed Threads - Twisted Shangri-La, Nepal Pavilion 2022)

13:30

Screening Programme

• Lawrence Lek, Black Cloud 黑云 (2021), 11'

• Yarli Allison, In 1875 We Met At the Docks of Liverpool / 1875 於梨花埠遇上 (2021) 19'37" English and Traditional Chinese subtitle

• Jin-me Yoon, Mul Maeum, 2022, 360 and 4K 3-channel video, 28 min 58 sec

14:15

Registration

14:45

Welcome

Bagri Foundation, Asia Forum

14:50

Abbas Zahedi X Querini Stampalia

In treating artist talks as subjective experiences, Zahedi intends to ask questions of how the constant physical and digital crises have impacted our ability to comprehend and work with the themes of time, care and connectivity (relationships). As in, is it still even possible to prepare a pertinent subject for a talk that is weeks away with any clear certainty?

15:30

Paradise Camp: Yuki Kihara

Samoa-based artist, Yuki Kihara, will expand on her multidisciplinary practice that will be presented as part of the New Zealand Pavilion, 2022.

16:20

Break

16:30

Carrier Bag Meditations: Sin Wai Kin

Sin Wai Kin will present a carrier bag of stories and thoughts as a guided meditation on themes of stillness and transformation as a body moving in relationship to the world.

17:00

Collective Futures | Participatory Collective Discussion

Reza Afisina (ruangrupa), Saodat Ismailova, Annie Jael Kwan, Hammad Nasar, John Tain, Ming Tiampo

18:30

END

Accessibility

Asia Forum offers a safe space, along with gender-neutral loo facilities and a separate room with a screen if any member of the audience would require to follow the programme in a quiet space. Please ask the Fondazione Querini Stampalia hosting staff for directions.

Proudly presented by the Bagri Foundation. Conceived by Annie Jael Kwan, the Asia Forum works with a council of international curators and researchers: Hammad Nasar, John Tain, and Ming Tiampo.

For more info asia-forum.international



Screenings (13:30 - 14:15)

Lawrence Lek, *Black Cloud* 黑云 (2021), 11'

Winner of the 4th VH Award Grand Prix. Commissioned for the 2021 Eyebeam x VH Residency.

Black Cloud continues Lawrence Lek's ongoing 'Sinofuturist' cinematic universe, in which he explores the psychological impact of technology on emerging forms of nonhuman life. Set within the fictional smart city of SimBeijing, the CGI animation follows a city surveillance AI as they discuss their troubles with their built-in therapy program called Guanyin. The video is made within the custom-made virtual world of SimBeijing: an intelligent replica of the Chinese capital built to test self-driving cars. In this fictional scenario, the smart city has turned into a ghost town. Accompanied by CGI drive-through renders of SimBeijing, the narrator of this video is the eponymous 'Black Cloud', an urban management AI who governs the systems of an uninhabited cityscape. Over the course of the video, the viewer becomes aware of the reasons behind why the city has been abandoned.

Yarli Allison *In 1875 We Met At the Docks of Liverpool / 1875 於梨花埠遇上* (2021) 19'37"

English and Traditional Chinese subtitles

Yarli Allison's new work explores a unique connection to Liverpool, focusing on Pitt Street, a part of the city that a multicultural mix of migrant workers, including the British Merchant Navy's Chinese seafarers, inhabited at the turn of the 20th century. These communities experienced increasing racism in the 1930s and the old Chinatown they inhabited eventually disappeared after the bombings of World War II. The disappearance coincided with the sudden repatriation of Chinese seamen, who were forced to leave their British and Irish families behind. Using oral history interviews from the dual-heritage descendents of the seamen, census data, digital mapping and virtual reality, and working with queer performers, Allison rebuilds this lost Chinatown as a digital landscape with imagined inhabitants' daily lives: making visible these forgotten diaspora histories.

Jin-me Yoon, *Mul Maeum*, 2022, 360 and 4K 3-channel video, 28 min 58 sec

Presented as a new edit of a larger project, *Mul Maeum*, which means water-heart-mind in Korean, is a three-channel video and photographic series that reimagines human and planetary connectivities across boundaries by weaving together three disparate Korean sites through the flow of water. The first site is the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) where North and South Korea are separated, which is ironically the most biodiverse region in both Koreas providing refuge to 6000 species of flora and fauna who pass freely across the world's most militarised border. The second site is on Jeju island, where Yemeni asylum seekers found refuge in 2018, prompting discussions across the country about identity and belonging. The third site is Saemangeum, the longest seawall in the world, which disrupts the migration of birds in the East Asia Pacific Flyway. Linking these three sites together through poetic and sonic waterscapes, Yoon creates a poetics of migration that suggests new ways of knowing and being that foreground flow and entanglement rather than the modernist logics of categorization, separation, progress and control.

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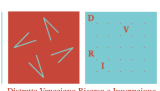
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