



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 4 NOV 2020

A solo exhibition by Mike Chang with a whimsical yet rigorously analytical approach to formalism - a showing of Painting, Sculptures and Video Works made during the Covid-19 pandemic lock-down.



Artist:	Mike HJ Chang
Curator:	Alfonse Chiu
Exhibition Title:	Calendar of Dilation
Exhibition Dates:	7 Nov 2020 - 9 Jan 2021
Artist Talk:	12 Dec 2020, 3 PM Conversation between curator and artist Live in the Gallery (Limited Spaces) and registration on Zoom



Singapore, October 2020 - Yeo Workshop is proud to present *Calendar of Dilation*, an upcoming solo exhibition by Singapore-based Taiwanese-American artist Mike HJ Chang.

Finding its conceptual roots in Chang's experiences aboard the oil tanker *Cielo di Guangzhou*, where he spent two weeks at sea during his Owner's Cabin artist residency in 2018, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in global lockdowns and domestic confinements, *Calendar of Dilation* is an exploration of how perceptions of the passage of time are altered and shaped by the environments one finds oneself in, anchored to the endless expanse of the ocean as a point of departure.

Partly inspired by Chang's experience throughout Singapore's recent Circuit Breaker period, during which most of the works were produced, the relationship between humanity's desire to mark time and the way it is warped by prolonged social and spatial isolations comes to the fore, set against the framing of a nautical journey. In *Seasick Sketches*, an experimental short film jointly directed with artist-curator Alfonse Chiu, aphoristic rumination accompanies footage of an undulating seascape to posit an alternate cosmology where time simultaneously exists and vanishes. Meanwhile, in the sculpture *Storyboard of a Fruit Soon to be Eaten by an Interdimensional Snake*, Chang toys with the conventions of linearity in visual perception to create a segmented view of causality and how it may be manipulated to create illusions of depth, progress, and narrative. The interplay of abstraction and structure is similarly found in *Sea's Guts*, a large scale watercolour painting where Chang highlights a sense of delirium and disorientation through a vivid depiction of a stormy sea.

In *Calendar of Dilation*, Chang experiments with a bold visual language across a variety of media—such as paintings, sculptures, and the moving image—to articulate the relationship between time and the body: the way the former flows, alters, and disorients. Characterised by his signature style of a whimsical yet rigorously analytical approach to formalism, the works featured are suffused with a sardonic humour that explicates the incorporeal entanglements between the self and the world.



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FEATURED ARTWORKS:



Image caption: Detailing on Twin Eyes. 2020, Watercolour on Paper, 150 x 80 cm

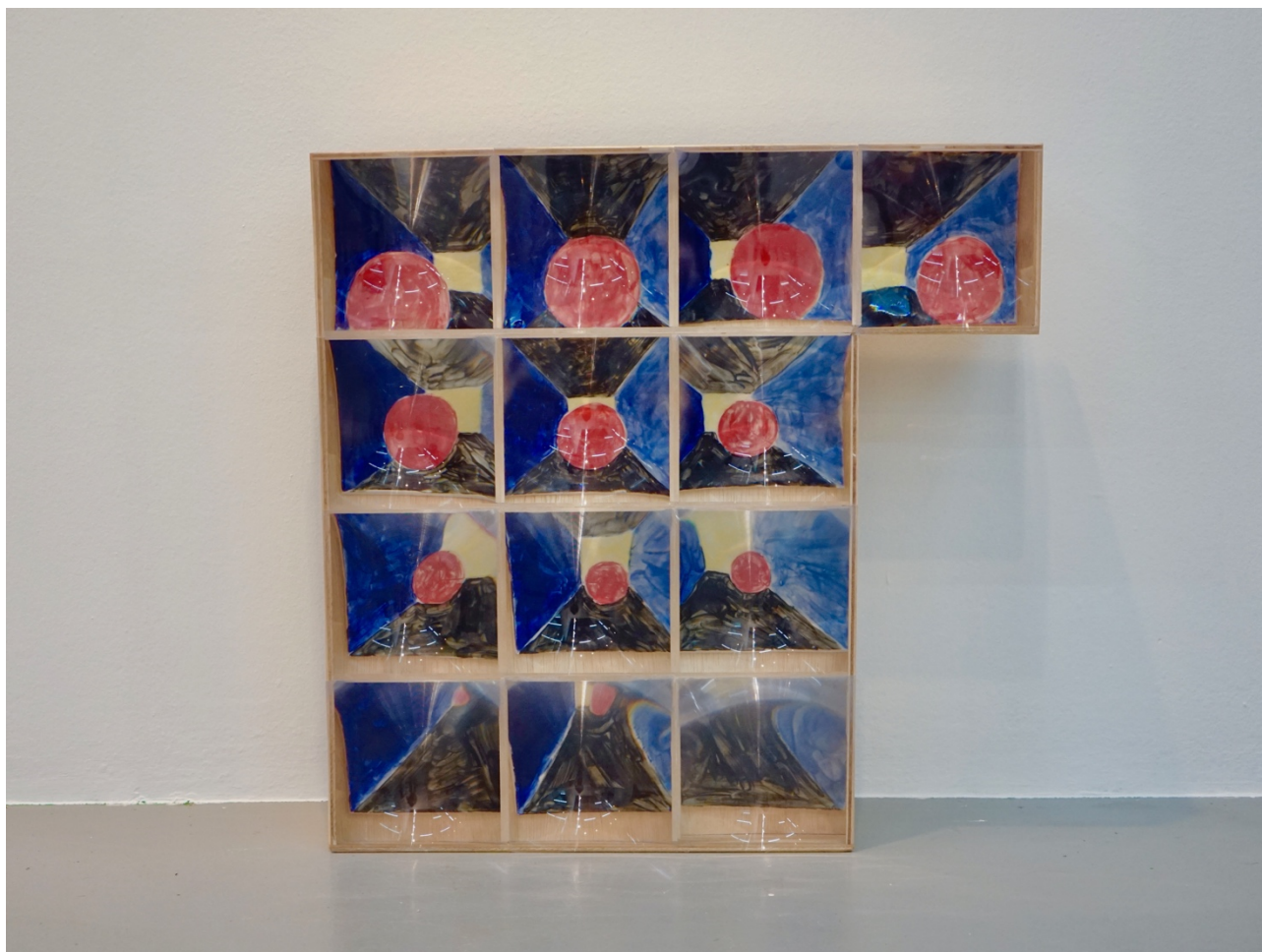


Image caption: Mike HJ Chang, Storyboard of a Fruit Soon to be Eaten by an Interdimensional Snake. 2020, Wood, ceramic tiles, magnifying glass, 72 x 70 cm



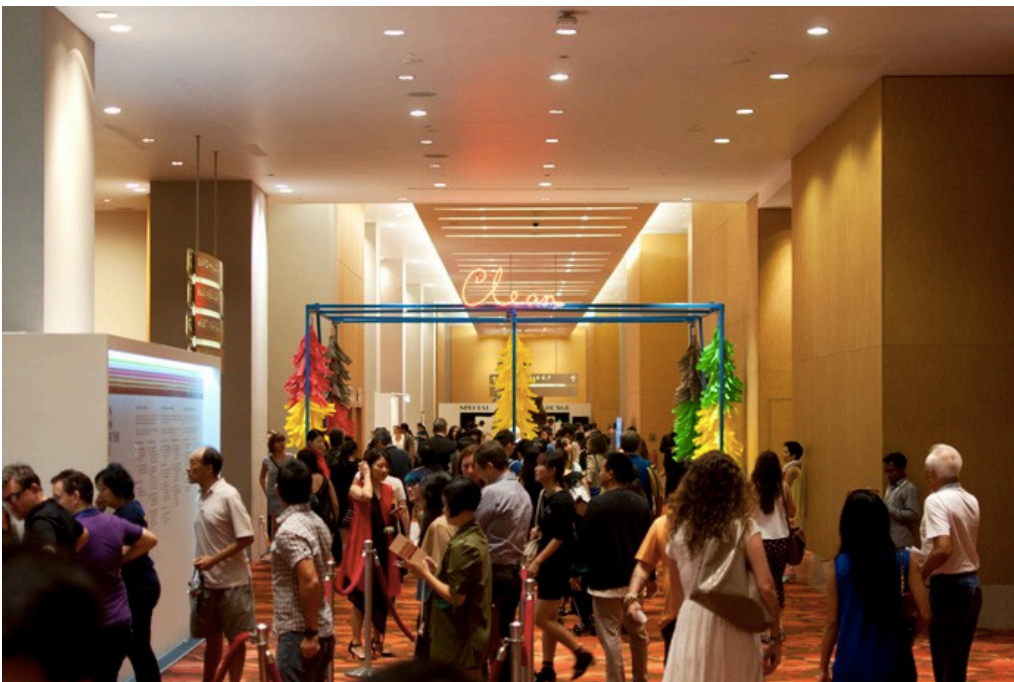
Image caption: Mike HJ Chang, Flame Always Points Up, Paper Mache Sculpture, Acrylic paint, Metal Stand



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mike HJ Chang is a Taiwanese-American artist and fine arts educator currently living and working in Singapore. He holds a BA from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a MFA from the California Institute of the Arts. Characterised by a dedication to craftsmanship and a sense of wry wit, Chang's works straddle the boundary between rigorous formalist inquiries in colour, composition, and material, and thematic explorations of the relationality between bodies, spaces, and time.

A regular fixture of Singapore's artistic landscape, Chang's oeuvre has been shown in and by prominent local spaces and institutions such as Sculpture Square, Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, Jendela (Visual Arts Space), OH! Open House, Asian Film Archive, Peninsular, and galleries such as Chan Hampe Galleries, Chan + Hori Contemporary, and Yeow Workshop. Chang also runs Foxriver, an independent art space.



Inage caption: Clean (Mike's Car Wash), Kinetic installation commissioned by Singapore Art Stage 2015, 6 motors with motion sensors, car wash fabric, metal fabric & neon sign.



Pilots, 2017 by Mike HJ Chang
Sculpture installation, mixed media, dimension variable

About the Gallery

Yeo Workshop is a contemporary art gallery based in Gillman Barracks, Singapore since 2013. The gallery is dedicated to advancing art knowledge and access through education, it represents local and international artists and has created unusual experiences, such as, a pop-up exhibition with large scale installation at a warehouse conversion space (2 Cavan Road), an artist talk in a car workshop (Wong Lip Chin), and performance art choreography within the gallery (Mike HJ Chang/ Edward Clydesdale Thomson).



About the Curator

Alfonse Chiu is a writer, artist, curator, and researcher working at the intersection of text, space, and moving image. His practice investigates the histories and representation of the built and natural environments in Southeast Asia, with a focus on colonial, political, and sensorial imaginaries, particularly through forms such as maps, graphic design, and archival documents. He is currently the Editor-at-Large and Creative Lead of SINdie, an editorial platform exploring Southeast Asian film culture(s), where he heads editorial direction, research, and special projects. He is also the founder of the Centre for Urban Mythologies, a research collective and platform interested in Southeast Asian urbanism, architecture, and eco-criticism.

An independent culture journalist and researcher, he has worked with the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore and the Singapore Heritage Society on projects concerning urban development and heritage conservation. His texts have been published on platforms such as KINEMA (University of Waterloo), Cinematheque Quarterly (National Museum of Singapore), NANG, Hyperallergic, and commissioned by institutions such as The Substation and the Asian Film Archive.