

WEI LENG TAY



UNTITLED (SISTER)
2022, archival pigment print mounted on metal composite, painted wood, nonreflective glass, and vinyl wallpaper print, variable dimensions, edition of 3

Wei Leng Tay, born 1978, Singapore.

Incorporating archival research, firsthand interviews, and collaborative processes, Wei Leng Tay's practice investigates the intersections of memory, history, identity, and migration. She employs a wide range of photographic processes—from cyanotypes to smartphone cameras—guided by the conceptual framework of each project. At the heart of her work is an inquiry into the medium itself, probing how the photographic image carries and creates meaning. Her works often enact a tension between intimacy and distance, exploring how personal and familial narratives converge with broader sociopolitical contexts. In *Untitled (sister)*, the artist took as her material a collection of slides taken by her parents in the late 1960s and 1970s, documenting their path across Australia, Malaysia, and Singapore. Reprocessing and abstracting the slides, Tay turned to an electronic microscope to reveal what she described in a 2022 interview with curator Lee Weng-Choy as “the sedimentation of history.” Here, one of the images is enlarged, cropped, and duplicated; the degradation marks on the surface of the slide resemble viral networks, spreading and infecting the scene. The subject of the photograph—hinted at in the title—is rendered anonymous, becoming a cipher of experience, rather than any singular existence. Through these transformations—from analog to digital, from specific to unidentified—Tay shows how the past can be continually reconsidered and reformed.—KL