

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"A Permanent Instant: instant photography from 1980s-2000s by Hong Kong artists "

Featured artists: Choi Yan Chi, Almond Chu, Joseph Fung, Hon Chi Fun, Lai Lon Hin, Lee Ka Sing, Wing Shya, Blues Wong, Hisun Wong and Wong Wo Bik

5 March - 23 April 2016

Opening Reception: Saturday, 5 March 2016, 4 - 6:30pm

Artists will be present.

Venue: Blindspot Gallery (15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong)

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm (Sunday and Monday by appointment only); closed on public holidays



Hon Chi Fun

Blindspot Gallery is delighted to present "Permanent Instant: instant photography from 1980s-2000s by Hong Kong artists", an exhibition featuring the original and unique instant photography works by ten Hong Kong artists who practice photography and other artistic media. Instant photography as an open photographic medium because of its low-tech, impromptu and private nature, which allows different forms of photographic artistic experiments both conceptually and technically, was widely used by photographers and artists alike during the 1980s-2000s. The works on display also reflect a facet of the Hong Kong photography scene influenced by western art trends and icons, films and ideologies including Andy Warhol, pop art, abstraction and futurism.

As a creative platform, instant photography possesses a distinctive appeal for the sense of physicality and craftsmanship it conveys. With each print being a unique work of art, the hidden history of the image, which ranges from the studio setting to the motion of the emulsion being pulled, is revealed in the visual language and personality of the final image¹. The works of Joseph Fung highlight the artist's craftsmanship where they incorporate abstract drawing, scratching and other artistic treatments. Also created with direct manipulations on the works, Hon Chi Fun's works accentuate a one-of-a-kind uniqueness resembling that of his paintings, as they feature compositional elements and effects like photomontage and scratching. Choi Yan Chi's experiment with operating the Polaroid cameras unconventionally, like using exposure delay to create distorted lighting and colours, marks the photographer's manipulation of visual effects in the pre-photoshop era. The only Hong Kong artist who works exclusively in instant photography, Hisun Wong showcases in his painterly works of Polaroid transfers the diverse technical possibilities and creative expression inherent in the medium.



Joseph Fung

¹ Jeff Enlow: *Parallelograms*, <http://20x24studio.com>



Wong Wo Bik

The aesthetics and cultural imagination of the changing eras also run through the artists' experiments in encapsulating the "Permanent Instant". A collage of staged scenes alluding to the classic film as well as Hong Kong's handover in 1997, Blues Wong's re-creation of the red lantern spells the artist's political concern and sheds light on story-telling in instant photography. Beyond the feminine touches to the everyday objects and body parts she photographed, Wong Wo Bik's works are partial portrayals that anticipate and resist the sexist view on femininity, and which resonate with an east-meets-west aesthetics. Lai Lon Hin, whose works on display were produced from the 2000s onwards, presents intriguing glimpses of everyday objects and people in snapshots taken around the city.



Hisun Wong



Almond Chu

Between commercial studio shots and personal captures, the works of Almond Chu, Lee Ka Sing and Wing Shya illuminate the use of instant photography both as a means for composition preview and an end in the creation of stand-alone works. From screen captures from iconic 1980s films to studio shots of still life and self-portraits, Almond Chu's works point to instant photography as a highly personal medium, where the manual manipulation of images denoting a dimension of handicraft. Originally composed for commercial photography and printed materials such as magazine covers, Lee Ka Sing's images encompass abstract imagery and popular artistic sensibilities of the 1980s. In Wing Shya's Polaroid slideshow video, which comprises 1,100 head shots of people he came



Lee Ka Sing

across at film sets, the impromptu and private glimpses are recreated as an unfolding that goes far beyond the vision of the initial instants.

Blindspot Gallery will also open a solo exhibition "Fragments of Future Histories" by Cédric Maridet on the same day. Artists will be present at the opening reception. Interviews are welcome and can be arranged.

Blindspot Gallery will be participating in Art|Basel Hong Kong this year in the GALLERIES section (Booth 3C36) during 24-26 March featuring Leung Chi Wo, Trevor Yeung and Zhang Xiao.

About Blindspot Gallery

Blindspot Gallery was set up in 2010 to bring contemporary photography, an art form that was in the blind spot of the Hong Kong art scene, to a higher degree of visibility. We feature contemporary photography and image based works of established and emerging artists, mainly from the region but also beyond.

For enquiries and media interviews, please contact Ms. Lesley Kwok at 2517 6238 or by email info@blindspotgallery.com

Image captions:

Hon Chi Fun, *Untitled*, 1983, Mixed media, 10.7 x 8.8 cm

Joseph Fung, *Garbage Bin*, 1988, Instant film, 10.7 x 8.8 cm

Hisun Wong, *Glass Milk Bottle*, 1995, Instant film transfer on watercolor paper, 25.6 x 20 cm

Wong Wo Bik, *A Bundle, Hong Kong*, 1981, Instant film, 10.7 x 8.8 cm

Lee Ka Sing, *Fragments from four artists in a picture show*, 1991, Mixed media, 10.3 x 14.6 cm

Almond Chu, *Self-portrait No.2*, 1984, Marker on instant film, 10.7 x 8.8 cm

(Images courtesy of artists and Blindspot Gallery)