

🇬🇧 ENGLISH 🇪🇸 ESPAÑOL 🇫🇷 FRANÇAIS 🇩🇪 DEUTSCH 🇮🇹 ITALIANO 🇵🇹 PORTUGUÊS

Wall Street International

ART

Tale of the Wonderland

19 Sep — 11 Nov 2017 at Blindspot Gallery in Hong Kong, Hong Kong

26 SEPTEMBER 2017



Tale of the Wonderland. Courtesy of Blindspot Gallery

“Tale of the Wonderland”, a group exhibition that borrows Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (1865), the Victorian fantasy novel written by Lewis Carroll, as the framework to construct a collective narrative of the 20 years of post-colonial Hong Kong. Having bid adieu to the colonial era, she was thrown into the rabbit hole, and in 20 years she had to re-learn how to position herself in face of an uncertain future. Her beliefs about her identity and understanding of reality collapse in Wonderland, as she approaches such identity displacement in terms of a fairy tale.

The exhibition is divided into eight chapters, each abstracting elements from the storyline of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland. Each chapter is represented by the works of eight respective artists, who employ different methodologies and diverse mediums to interpret and realise the respective ideas. The eight chapters are “White Glove” (Sarah Lai), “The Rabbit Hole” (Lam Tung Pang), “Drink Me” (South Ho Siu Nam), “Who in the World am I” (Isaac Chong Wai), “Pool of Tears” (Leung Chi Wo), “Alice’s Adventures” (Amy Cheung), “White Rose Red” (Chow Chun Fai), and “Book – A Speechless Goodbye” (Pak Sheung Chuen). The exhibition opens with Sarah Lai’s painting, titled White Glove, and a video work. With her signature low-contrast pale palette, Lai depicts a waving hand in a white glove.

The gloved hand is devoid of warmth and ambiguous in intention: is the waving hand greeting, declining or bidding farewell? Through the symbolism of white glove, Lai reflects on the hypocritical nature of colonialism and the undecidability of politics. At the same time, Lai satirises Hong Konger's idealised memory of the British rule during the colonial period.

Lam Tung Pang revisits a self-portrait, titled *Folding* (2017), created ten years ago whilst studying in the UK. The work resembles a folding screen, in which the artist upholds his empty palms, seemingly holding a cloud of air. Ten years later, Lam reinterprets this work by drilling holes on the wooden panels, visualising the unspeakable voids accumulated in a decade of emptiness. Another work of Lam's is *The Sinking World No.6* (2014), an elegant landscape on wooden panel in which weightless human figures fall without gravity.

South Ho Siu Nam's installation titled *drunken life dreaming death*, which includes two kinds of beer brewed by the artist himself, a wooden table split and recombined, as well as dim illumination from hand-made lanterns. The work is a metaphor for people's divergent memories of the past. Ho uses the bitter-sweet taste of beer as medium, creating a communal experience through the audience's drinking, sharing, interacting, and

participating. In addition, the artist has custom made a camera lens filter that contains liquid beer, transforming the tipsy state into a photographic eye to see the world.

Isaac Chong Wai painted the phrase “Is the World Your Friend?” on canvas as a response to a traumatising attack by a stranger on the street in a foreign country, which led him to contemplate one’s position in the society and in the world. Two other video works, *Falling Exercise* and *Help! Help? Help*, document the collective performances of falling and aiding. Through the cyclical processes of falling and standing up, and the reciprocal role of helping and being helped, Chong uses his performances to investigate the formation of individual and collective consciousness, as well as the consolidation of societal norms. Another featured work is an installation titled *Hong Kong and Hong Kong*, in which a recording plays the gentle humming of the Chinese national anthem, while a Hong Kong SAR flag is “frozen” in a resin crystal.

Leung Chi Wo’s *Untitled Waterscape* series captured the variably colourful surfaces of the Victoria harbour in different seasons and times of the day, recording the temporal and mnemonic impressions unperceivable by the naked eye. Leung’s other work, *Before Sunrise*, is a set of 6 photographs that documents the artist’s response to Yoko Ono’s performance *Morning Peace*. Set to the accompaniment of *Im Abendrot* (At

Sunset), one of the Four Last Songs Richard Strauss wrote before his death, the artist and attending audience witnessed together the twilight of sunrise.

Amy Cheung's work documents a performance she enacted, titled 72 Hours, lasting the duration of three days starting on 30 June 2017, the day before the 20th anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong, until 2 July 2017, the day after. During the performance, the artist blindfolded herself and relied on the physical guidance of a different participant each hour to walk, trace and verbalise his or her respective narratives about self and society in the past 20 years, weaving individual stories together into a collective memory. Chow Chun Fai will install an artwork consisting of 2046 flags, as a metaphor for the discolouration and distortion in the authoritarian rule of the Red Queen. Also featured are signature paintings of Chow's that take their subject matters from local Hong Kong news reports, depicting scenes of iconic moments and speeches made by the various Chief Executives in the past 20 years, along with insightful subtitles.

Pak Sheung Chuen's work Adult Library Series: LXB originates from the Library Series during Pak's residency in New York in 2008. The artist sees the listing of the year of birth and year of death of an author in the library system as a metaphorical memorial to an author. Pak's work thus acts as a

commemorative gesture to a recently deceased writer, while reflecting on the definition of “banned books”, as well as the porously indefinable and permeable border between Hong Kong and China.

The eight featured artists began their conceptual creation at the intersection between realism and fantasy, reflecting on the coexisting dialectics of self and collective, power and freedom, reality and fiction, and past and future.

Blindspot Gallery

PO Box 15/F, Po Chai
Industrial Building
Wong Chuk Hang Road, 28
Hong Kong Hong Kong

Ph. +852 2517 6238
info@blindspotgallery.com
www.blindspotgallery.com

Opening hours

Tuesday to Saturday
From 10am to 6pm



Share 0

Tweet

Share

G+



Captions

1. Tale of the Wonderland. Courtesy of Blindspot Gallery
2. Tale of the Wonderland. Courtesy of Blindspot Gallery
3. Tale of the Wonderland. Courtesy of Blindspot Gallery

Related articles