

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Anonymous Society for Magick”

Featured artists: Chen Wei, Hao Jinban, Lam Tung Pang, Wang Tuo, Trevor Yeung

Curator: Ying Kwok

31 March 2020 – 23 May 2020

Opening Reception: 28 March 2020, Saturday, 4 – 6:30 pm

South Island Art Day: 4 April 2020, Saturday, 11 am – 6:30 pm

Venue: Blindspot Gallery (15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong)
Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10.30am to 6.30pm; closed on Sunday, Monday and public holidays



“Anonymous Society for Magick” is a group exhibition featuring works of various media by Chen Wei, Hao Jingban, Lam Tung Pang, Wang Tuo, and Trevor Yeung. Curator Ying Kwok borrows the concept of *Magick* from early nineteenth century occultist and ceremonial magician Aleister Crowley’s definition of *Magick* as the ‘science of understanding oneself and one’s conditions,’ in a comparative study of how artists apply that understanding to their own artistic practices.

Lam Tung Pang’s *The Great Escape* (2020) is a large-scale kinetic video installation specially commissioned for the exhibition. Referencing street magician Harry Houdini’s daring escape acts, Lam creates moving illusions that project the desire to escape from the social turbulence and viral feverishness of his home city. **Chen Wei** meticulously

stages scenes of urban amazement and theatrical distraction, working across photography and mixed media installations. The ensemble includes a neon light installation *Drifting Along (Hong Kong)* (2020), which offers a diagnosis of the contemporary social conditions in China and Hong Kong.

Hao Jingban’s newest video, *Opus One* (2020), follows a young Chinese couple’s obsessive quest to master the Swing Dance, the jazz dance form popularized in 1930s and 50s Harlem New York by African Americans. Resulting from Hao’s winning the Han Nefkens Foundation – ARCOMadrid video art award (2019), the work is recently debuted in Matadero Madrid. **Wang Tuo’s** latest video and drawings, *Symptomatic Silence of Complicit Forgetting* (2020), chronicles the complicated relationship between present and historical past, human and supernatural beings. Like a magic show, it





provides a psychological escape for those who want to believe in an alternative reality. **Trevor Yeung** recreates *Mr. Butterflies* (2012), an immersive site-specific kinetic installation in which bamboo palms propagate a carefully orchestrated environment. The human transformation of natural elements finds expression in Yeung's *Night Mushroom Colon* (2020), a stealthy bioluminescence that suggests an otherworldly realm. Thriving in unlikely places, the fecundity and resilience of these mushrooms provide a case for survival in precarious times.

Historically, magic has been conceived as the desire to use invisible forces to change the visible world. The link between art and magic displays the hidden rules of nature, investigates the visible world, and showcases the realm of dreams and desires. Against the complexity of social reality, "Anonymous Society for Magick" summons amazement whilst simultaneously revealing the immanent truth within our surroundings.

Interviews with the curator and artists are welcome and can be arranged.

About Blindspot Gallery

Set up in 2010, Blindspot Gallery is a Hong Kong-based contemporary art gallery. The gallery began with a primary focus on contemporary photography and image-based art, and has evolved to include diverse media in contemporary art. The gallery represents both emerging and established artists, mainly from Hong Kong and the region but also beyond.

About the Curator

Ying Kwok has been an independent curator working internationally since 2013. She curated "Samson Young: Songs for Disaster Relief" in the Hong Kong pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale (2017), LOOK17 International Photography Festival in Liverpool (2017), and co-curated "Harmonious Society" at Asia Triennial Manchester (2014). Kwok also co-founded Art Appraisal Club to develop critical thinking in local art discourses in Hong Kong.

About the Artists

Chen Wei (b. 1980, Zhejiang, China) constructs personal narratives using found objects, fabricated props and staged scenes, all of which are meticulously constructed and assembled in his studio. Chen's solo exhibitions include "Chen Wei: The Club" (Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, Australia, 2017), and "Chen Wei: In the Waves" (K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, 2015).

Hao Jingban (b. 1985, Shanxi, China) has had solo and group exhibitions at Matadero Madrid (2020), OCAT Xi'an (2019), Centre Pompidou in Paris (2017), UCCA (2016) and Taikang Space in Beijing (2016), and the 11th Shanghai Biennale (2016). Hao is the recipient of the Young Artist of the Year award at the 11th Award of Art China (2017), the Han Nefkens Foundation – ARCOmadrid Video Art Award (2019), and the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin residency programme (2020).

Lam Tung Pang (b. 1978, Hong Kong) belongs to a generation of Hong Kong artists whose coming-of-age coincides with drastic social changes, a result of the decolonisation and handover of Hong Kong. His work engages the themes of collective memories and fleeting nostalgia, which articulate an ongoing negotiation of the overlapping city-state's reality. Lam is the recipient of the Asian Cultural Council fellowship in 2012. His recent solo exhibitions include "Hi! House – Lam Tungpang x Old House at Wong Uk Village" (Wong Uk Village, Hong Kong, 2017); and "The Curiosity Box" (Chinese Culture Center, San Francisco, USA, 2013).

Wang Tuo (b. 1984, Changchun, China) has had solo and group exhibitions at museums and institutions such as Queens Museum in New York (2017), Taikang Space in Beijing (2016), National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts in Taichung (2015), and Gezira Art Center in Cairo (2014). From 2015 to 2017, Wang was the artist-in-residence in the studio programme of the Queens Museum in New York. He won the 10th Three Shadows Photography Award in 2018.

Trevor Yeung (b.1988, Guangdong province) uses botanic ecology, horticulture, photography and installations as metaphors that reference the emancipation of everyday aspirations towards human relationships. Important exhibitions Yeung participated in include Lyon Biennale (Lyon, France, 2019), "Cruising Pavilion" at the 16th International Architecture Biennale (Venice, Italy, 2018); the 38th EVA International Biennale (Limerick, Ireland, 2018); the 4th Dhaka Art Summit (Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2018); and the 10th Shanghai Biennale (China, 2014).

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

Image Captions:

Chen Wei, *Mushroom*, 2016, Archival Inkjet Print, 150 x 187.5 cm, edition of 6+2AP

Hao Jingban, *Opus One*, 2020, Dual-channel video installation, 32'41", edition of 5+2AP. Produced by the Han Nefkens Foundation.

Trevor Yeung, *Night Mushroom Colon (Six)*, 2016, Night lamp, various plug adaptors, Size Variable, edition of 3

Image Courtesy of artists and Blindspot Gallery