

“Play and Loop II”

Curated by Nick Yu

Featured artists: **Sophia Al-Maria, Patty Chang, Luke Ching Chin Wai, Hao Jingban, Isaac Julien, Jiang Zhi, Lai Lon Hin, Leung Chi Wo, Nira Pereg, Shen Xin, Victoria Sin, Angela Su, Pilvi Takala, Eason Tsang Ka Wai, Wang Bing, Wong Kit Yi, Ming Wong, Wong Wai Yin**

30 June – 22 August 2020

Venue: Blindspot Gallery (15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong)
Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30 am to 6:30 pm (Sunday and Monday by appointment only); closed on public holidays

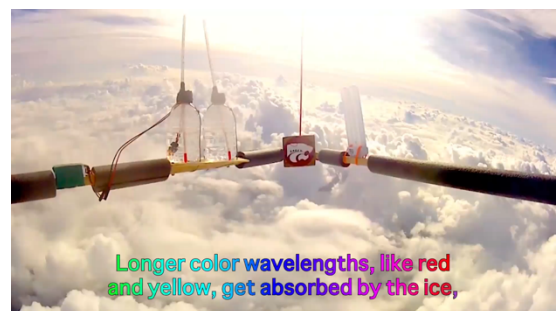
WEEK 4: Going Away | Patty Chang, Wong Kit Yi

Week 4, “Going Away”, features Patty Chang’s *Shangri-La* (2005) and Wong Kit Yi’s *A River in the Freezer* (2017). In a moment of restricted international travel and nationalist border-guarding, the neo-liberal paradigm of tourism and movement is under pragmatic re-evaluation. To go away is not just to escape one’s reality, but to feel the expansion of the world, and to co-evolve with an ever more precarious earth. Conceiving land as an inherently meaning-making site, “Going Away” rethinks what the landscape means to travellers, and how the imagination of travellers reciprocally transforms such land. “Going Away” anchors the seemingly inanimate glaciers and snow-mountains as departure points, and taps into the innate human desire to mythologize otherness, seek belonging, and extract significance from wherever one finds oneself.



Shangri-La is a 2005 video installation documenting various attempts to recreate its fictional, eponymous subject, in the real-life Shangri-La, a town in China’s Yunnan province renamed in 2002 to attract tourism. By hiring local non-actors and using the existing economies to reproduce symbols such as the sacred snow mountain, the project reflects on the link between tourism, site specific artistic practices and documentary practices. Dotted with a mirror-faceted mountain being driven across the barren landscape, Buddhist monks in makeshift oxygenated chambers, wedding dress fitting and bridal photoshoots, *Shangri-La* manifests a landscape that is as much a magical-realist lost horizon as a lived kitsch populated and terraformed by real people.

Wong Kit Yi’s *A River in the Freezer* is an essay film born out of the artist’s three-week expedition at The Arctic Circle residency in 2015. The wide-ranging film combines directed and found footage to meditate upon glaciers, cryogenics, Longyearbyen, Norway (a town where by law no one is allowed to die), the fair-haired manga character Cygnus Hyōga, 19th-century global ice trade, Camp Century in Greenland (a sub-glacial US project for research and secret nuclear warfare) and color wavelength theory in regard to ice, among other topics. Wong shows that the snow-capped Arctic is far from an uninhabitable wasteland, but an immense site of knowledge creation, fantastical topophilia, and itinerant belongings.



We’d rather have the iceberg than the ship,
although it meant the end of travel.

- *Imaginary Iceberg* by Elizabeth Bishop

About Play and Loop II

“Play and Loop II” is the second iteration of an eight-week screening programme at Blindspot Gallery, featuring works by 18 regional and international artists. Each week, video works by two artists will be featured and played continuously on loop during the opening hours of the gallery. The selected works congeal into weekly themes pertinent to our current state of affairs and being. Sedimenting, speculating and fantasizing, these weekly artwork pairings become navigation points between an unruly past and an uncharted future.

Screening Schedule:

Week 1 27.6 – 4.7	Heavy Hands	Pilvi Takala Leung Chi Wo	<i>The Stroker</i> (2018) <i>Sign</i> (2008)	15'16" 13'00"
Week 2 7 – 11.7	Still Dancing	Ming Wong Hao Jingban	<i>Next Year L'Année Prochaine 明年</i> (2016) <i>An Afternoon Ball</i> (2013)	17'40" 24'21"
Week 3 14 – 18.7	Daily Phobia	Patty Chang Nira Pereg	<i>Milk Debt Hong Kong, Jun 8, 2019</i> (2019) <i>67 Bows</i> (2006) <i>and Melancholy</i> (2009)	13'11" 5'51" 3'02"
Week 4 21 – 25.7	Going Away	Patty Chang Wong Kit Yi	<i>Shangri-La</i> (2005) <i>A River in the Freezer</i> (2017)	40'00" 25'25"
Week 5 28.7 – 1.8	Exile	Wang Bing Shen Xin	<i>Traces</i> (2014) <i>Strongholds</i> (2016)	29'00" 71'00"
Week 6 4 – 8.8	Chase	Isaac Julien Jiang Zhi	<i>Baltimore</i> (2003) <i>In the Woods</i> (2018)	11'56" 22'31"
Week 7 11 – 15.8	Stellar Contagion	Angela Su Sophia Al-Maria + Victoria Sin	<i>Cosmic Call</i> (2019) <i>BCE</i> (2019)	12'43" 9'43"
Week 8 18 – 22.8	Progress	Wang Bing Jiang Zhi	<i>Crude Oil</i> (2009) <i>The Nail</i> (2007)	14 hrs 85'15"
Also on view		Luke Ching Chin Wai Lai Lon Hin Eason Tsang Ka Wai Wong Wai Yin	<i>Screensaver: Sunsets</i> (2014) <i>Black Dream</i> (2019) <i>Music Box</i> (2018) <i>Housework No.3</i> (2016) <i>Clearing ten thorns</i> (2016)	39'07" 6'22" 8'16" 11'34" 1'33"

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.

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

Image Caption:

Patty Chang, *Shangri-La*, 2005, single channel video, 40'00" (Image courtesy of artist and Blindspot Gallery)

Wong Kit Yi, *A River in the Freezer*, 2017, HD single channel video with sound, 25'25" (Image courtesy of artist and Blindspot Gallery)