

Isaac Chong Wai

Isaac Chong Wai (b. 1990, Guangdong, China) works with diverse media, including performance, site-specific installation, public art, video, photography and mixed media. He transforms the tensions, intervention and interactions of human bodies into a microcosm of human relationality in social systems. Influenced by personal events and global phenomena, he engages themes of collectivism and individualism, politics of time and space, border, migration, war, militarism, racism, identity politics, LGBTQ, public sphere and human rights.

His recent solo exhibitions include “Post-Mythical Accidents” (Una Boccata d’Arte, Fondazione Elpis and Galleria Continua, Castiglione di Sicily, Italy, 2022); “If we keep crying, we will go blind” (Zilberman, Istanbul, Turkey, 2022); “Leaderless” (Bilsart, Istanbul, Turkey, 2021); “What is the future in the past? And what is the Past in the Future?” (Zilberman, Berlin, Germany, 2019); “Chapter A: The Rehearsal of the Futures” (Apartment der Kunst, Munich, Germany, 2018); and “Chapter B: An Artistic Archive of Borders” (Kunstraum München, Munich, Germany, 2018). In 2018, Chong was commissioned by M+ to produce the performance work “Rehearsal of the Futures: Police Training Exercises”.

Chong’s recent group exhibitions include “Spheres of Interest” (ifa-Galerie, Berlin, Germany, 2022); “Forming Communities: Berliner Wege” (Kindl Museum, Berlin, Germany, 2022); “BEYOND” (Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany, 2022); “Carried by the Wind” (PF25, Atelier Mondial, Basel, Switzerland, 2022); “17th Contemporary Istanbul” (Istanbul, Turkey, 2022); “transeuropa [X]” (European Festival for Performing Arts, Hildesheim, Germany, 2021); “Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong” (Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Hong Kong, 2020); “The Racing Will Continue, The Dancing Will Stay” (Times Museum, Guangzhou, China, 2019); “Living Sound—Expanding the Extramusical” (MOCA Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan, 2019); “The D-Tale: Video Art from the Pearl River Delta” (Time Art Center, Berlin, Germany, 2018), “BERLIN MASTERS” (Stiftung Brandenburger Tor, Berlin, Germany, 2017); and “Forecast Forum” (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany, 2017).

Chong currently lives and works in Berlin and Hong Kong.

Education

2019 MFA in Public Art and New Artistic Strategies, Bauhaus-Universität, Weimar, Germany

2012 BA in Visual Arts, the Academy of Visual Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Solo Exhibition

2022 “Post-Mythical Accidents”, Una Boccata d'Arte, Fondazione Elpis and Galleria Continua, Castiglione di Sicily, Italy

“If we keep crying, we will go blind.”, Zilberman, Istanbul, Turkey

2021 “Leaderless”, Bilsart, Istanbul, Turkey

2019 “What is the future in the past? And what is the Past in the Future?”, Zilberman, Berlin, Germany

- "Is the World Your Friend?", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
 "I Made a Boat in Prison—A Journey to the Shore", Zilberman Project Space, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2018 "Chapter B: An Artistic Archive of Borders", Kunstraum München, Munich, Germany
 "Chapter A: The Rehearsal of the Futures", Apartment der Kunst, Munich, Germany
 "Future of The Past – Past of The Future: Creating Time in Public Space Through Performance",
 Goethe-Institut, Hong Kong
- 2017 "L'Homme et la Mer", Serlachius Residency by Serlachius Museum and Mänttä Art Festival,
 Mänttä, Finland
- 2016 "What is the future in the past? And what is the past in the future?" Bauhaus Museum,
 Weimar, Germany
- 2011 "An Unknown Artist – Chong Wai Solo Exhibition", Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 "Spheres of Interest", ifa-Galerie, Berlin, Germany
 "Chains of Interest", ifa-Galerie, Berlin, Germany
 "Forming Communities: Berliner Wege", Kindl Museum, Berlin, Germany
 "BEYOND", Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany
 "Identity Not Proven", Bundeskunsthalle Bonn, Germany
 "Difference/Indifference", Kunsttages Basel 2022, Basel, Switzerland
 "Carried by the Wind", PF25, Atelier Mondial, Basel, Switzerland
 "17th Contemporary Istanbul", Istanbul, Turkey
- 2021 "Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin", Louvre Museum Auditorium, Paris
 "Videotage - Digital Birth: Zooming in on NFT", Art Basel Hong Kong
 "Recurrence 2", Zilberman, Berlin
 "transeuropa [X]", European Festival for Performing Arts, Hildesheim, Germany
 "Studio Bosphorus Festival for the 10th Anniversary of Tarabya Cultural Academy", Kunstraum
 Kreuzberg/ Bethanien, 2021
- 2020 "Looking For Another Family", National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul,
 Korea
 "Next Act: Contemporary Art from Hong Kong", Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Hong Kong
 "Viral Self-Portraits", Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova (+MSUM), Ljubljana, Slovenia
 "Human Capital", Innsbruck International Biennial of the Arts, Innsbruck, Austria
 "Ordinary Heroes: Made in Hong Kong", IFFR International Film Festival Rotterdam,
 Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2019 "The Racing Will Continue, The Dancing Will Stay", Times Museum, Guangzhou, China
 "Bad Bodies", Tomorrow Maybe, Eaton, Hong Kong
 "Imaginary Bauhaus Museum", Schiller-Museum, Weimar, Germany
 "Living Sound—Expanding the Extramusical", MOCA Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2018 "The D-Tale: Video Art from the Pearl River Delta", Times Art Center, Berlin, Germany
 "Kotodama", Para Site, Hong Kong
 "M+ Live Art: Audience as Performer", Goethe-Institut, Hong Kong
 "The Collective Individual Exercises", SPRING Festival, Utrecht, the Netherlands
 "Freiraum", Kanuti Gildi SAAL and Goethe-Institut, Tallinn, Estonia

- "Transcultural Transience", ACUD Galerie, Berlin, Germany
- 2017 "Urban Nomadism: 2017 Hangzhou Liangzhu Big Rooftop Moving Image Exhibition",
Liangzhu Village Culture and Art Center, Hangzhou, China
"Tale of the Wonderland", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
"BERLIN MASTERS – TOY AWARD", Stiftung Brandenburger Tor, Berlin, Germany
The 3rd Berliner Herbst Salon, Maxim Gorki Theater, Kronprinzenpalais, Berlin, Germany
"Forecast Forum", Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
"Carnival", Amnesty International Hong Kong, Hong Kong
"Have You Ever Measured the Reality?", Das Weisse Haus, Vienna, Austria
- 2016 "The 5th Large-Scale Public Media Arts Exhibition – 'Human Vibrations'", Kai Tak Runway Park,
Hong Kong; May 18 Democracy Square, Gwangju, Korea; K11 Artist Village, Wuhan, China
"Gwangju Media Art Festival", Gwangju, Korea
"Faith and Terror – Performance Art Festival", Meinblau, Berlin, Germany
"WECHSELRAUM", Deutsche Künstlerbund, Berlin, Germany
"Going Somewhere at ZK/U /// Ortstermin Moabit", Ortstermin - Kunstverein Tiergarten,
ZK/U, Berlin, Germany
"Touch the Reality – Rethinking the Keywords of Political Performance", Kunstraum
Niederösterreich, Vienna, Austria
"SHIFT: AVA 10th Anniversary Exhibition", Academy of Visual Arts, Baptist University of
Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2015 "The Human Body: Measure and Norms", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
"FLUCHTPUNKTE", ACC Galerie Weimar, Weimar, Germany
"Near and Far 1914-1918 Events, History, Memory", Macura Museum, Serbia
"Acting Space - Bauhaus Goes Kunstfest '15", Kunstfest, Weimar, Germany
"Imaginary Bauhaus Museum, the second Berliner Herbstsalon 'Flucht,'" Maxim Gorki
Theater, Berlin, Germany
"Montag Modus #4: 'Transgression/Creation'", CHB Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin, Germany
- 2014 "A Time for Dreams", Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, National Centre for
Contemporary Arts (NCCA), Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMOMA) and Museum of
Moscow, Moscow, Russia
"Works on Paper II", Momentum Worldwide, Berlin, Germany
"La quema de tiempo. Muestra de video del colectivo La Decanatura", Plataforma Bogotá,
Bogota, Colombia
"Illuminate the Darkness", Viehauktionshalle, Weimar, Germany
"The Quiet Land", Vitrine Gallery, Weimar, Germany
- 2013 "The 2nd OZON International Video Art Festival", Rondo Sztuki Gallery, Katowice, Poland
"Walk of Art: 20th Anniversary of Art and Design Faculty", Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Weimar,
Germany
"Bodied Spaces be/verkörperte Räume", Collective Patty & Britty; ART CLAIMS IMPULSE, Berlin,
Germany
"TRAVA(I)L", The A.lift Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2012 "Haptic InterFace", Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
"Fresh Trend 2012", 1a space, Hong Kong
"Discordia", 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong

“OSTRALE’012: International Exhibition of Contemporary Arts”, IAM international art moves,
Dresden, Germany

“Cabinet of Curiosity”, Hong Kong Contemporary, The Park Lane Hong Kong, Hong Kong

“Home Grown”, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

“Shine: HKBU Christian Student 2nd Art Exhibition”, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

2011 “Point to Point Art Exhibition”, Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation, Hong Kong

Awards

2017 Hong Kong Human Rights Art Prize – First Runner-up

2016 Best ART-UNI-ON Artist Award

2015 Bauhaus-Universität Weimar - Bauhaus Essentials Award

2014 Bauhaus-Universität Weimar - Bauhaus Essentials Award

2013 2nd OZON International Video Arts Festival - Honorable Mention