

Isaac Chong Wai

Isaac Chong Wai (b. 1990) uses performance, video, installation, photography and drawing as mediators to investigate contemporary global phenomena. His work transforms the emotions, tensions, and memories from human interactions into performative materiality and immersive experiences. Treading the line between the individual and the collective, he examines the vulnerability of the body and the inherent violence within social systems and historical traumas and imagines alternative microcosms of human relations.

Chong participated in the Main Exhibition of the 60th Venice Biennale in 2024. His recent solo exhibitions were shown at Städtische Galerie Nordhorn (Nordhorn, 2025) as part of being selected as Winner of the Art Award of the City of Nordhorn 2024 in Germany, Liste Art Fair Basel (Basel, 2023), Museum Schloss Moyland (Moyland, 2023), Una Boccata d'Arte (Sicilia, 2022), Bilsart (Istanbul, 2021), and Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong, 2019). Chong's works have also been featured in group exhibitions at Deichtorhallen Hamburg (Hamburg, 2025), Bangkok Kunsthalle (Bangkok, 2025), Kunsthalle Barmen (Wuppertal, 2024), Bangkok Art Biennale 2024 (Bangkok, 2024), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin, 2024), ifa-Galerie Stuttgart (Stuttgart, 2024), UTS Gallery (Sydney, 2024), the 22nd Biennial of Videobrasil (São Paulo, 2023), Brücke-Museum and Schinkel Pavillon e.V. (Berlin, 2023), daadgalerie (Berlin, 2023), Hamburger Bahnhof–Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart Museum (Berlin, 2023), esea contemporary (Manchester, 2023), Taikang Space (Beijing, 2023), Tai Kwun Contemporary (Hong Kong, 2022), Kindl Museum (Berlin, 2022), Bundeskunsthalle Bonn (Bonn, 2022), Neues Museum Staatliches Museum für Kunst und Design Nürnberg (Nürnberg, 2022), National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Seoul, 2020), IFFR International Film Festival Rotterdam (Rotterdam, 2020), Museum of Contemporary Art (Taipei, 2019), and M+ (Hong Kong, 2018), amongst others.

Chong currently lives and works between Berlin and Hong Kong.

Education

2016 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

Selected Solo Exhibition

2025 "Traces in Silence", Städtische Galerie Nordhorn, Nordhorn, Germany

2024 "Falling Carefully", Zilberman Berlin, Berlin, Germany

2023 "Breath by Breath", Liste Art Fair Basel (Blindspot Gallery), Basel, Switzerland
"Isaac Chong Wai in dialogue with Joseph Beuys: The End of Growth," Museum Schloss Moyland, Moyland, Germany

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 Selected, 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 "An Artistic Archive of Borders", Kunstraum München, Munich, Germany
 "Future of The Past – Past of The Future: Creating Time in Public Space Through Performance", Goethe-Institut, Hong Kong
 "The Rehearsal of the Futures", Apartment der Kunst, Munich, Germany
 "Transcultural Transience: Is the World Your Friend?", ACUD Galerie, Berlin, Germany
- 2016 "What is the future in the past? And what is the past in the future?" Bauhaus Museum, Weimar, Germany

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2025 "States of Rebirth: The Photographed Body in Motion", Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
 "we gather", Bangkok Kunsthalle, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2024 "Politics of Love", Kunsthaus Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany
 Bangkok Art Biennale - "Nurture Gaia", Bangkok, Thailand
 "Shared Spaces", Kunsthalle Barmen, Wuppertal, Germany
 "Forgive Us Our Trespasses / Vergib uns unsere Schuld—Of (Un)Real Frontiers, Of (Im)Moralities, and Other Transcendences", Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Berlin, Germany
 The 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia "Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere", Venice, Italy
 "Out of the Box: Traces of Interest", ifa-Gallery Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Berlin
 "Memory/Myth", Ames Yavuz, Sydney, Australia
 "A Moment in Extended Crisis", UTS Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2023 The 22nd Biennial of Videobrasil, São Paulo, Brazil
 "Homeland in Transit: Artists from Hong Kong, Taipei and the Diaspora", Galerie für Gegenwartskunst, Freiburg, Germany
 "The Assault of the Present on the Rest of Time", Brücke-Museum and Schinkel Pavillon e.V. Berlin, Germany
 "If the Berlin Wind Blows My Flag. Art and Internationalism Before the Fall of the Berlin Wall", daadgalerie, Berlin, Germany
 "The Nationalgalerie: The Collection of the 21st Century", Hamburger Bahnhof–Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart Museum, Berlin, Germany
 "Practice Till We Meet", esea contemporary, Manchester, United Kingdom
 "Bodily Reaction: Vitalizing the Bare Life," Taikang Space, Beijing, China
- 2022 "Myth Makers—Spectrosynthesis III", Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong
 "Spheres of Interest", ifa-Galerie, Berlin, Germany
 "Chains of Interest", ifa-Galerie, Berlin, Germany

- "Forming Communities: Berliner Wege", Kindl Museum, Berlin, Germany
 "BEYOND", Hamburger Kunssthalde, Hamburg, Germany
 "Identity Not Proven", Bundeskunsthalle Bonn, Germany
 "Difference/Indifference", Kunsttages Basel 2022, Basel, Switzerland
 "Carried by the Wind", PF25, Atelier Mondial, Basel, Switzerland
 The 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
 "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

Grants & Awards

- 2024 Nordhorn Art Prize 2024 (Winner)
Désirée & Hans Michael Jebsen New York Fellowship, Asian Cultural Council, Hong Kong and New York
- 2023 NEUSTARTplus-Stipendium für freiberufliche bildende Künstler:innen, Stiftung Kunstfonds, Bonn
- 2022 Scholarship, INITIAL 2 Special Grant–New Cooperations together with Dagmar Aigner, Akademie der Künste, Berlin
- 2021 Research Stipends Awardee, Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Berlin
Scholarship Awardee at AArtist in Residence by German Federal Foreign Office and Galleries

Association of Berlin (LVBG), Berlin

Long-listed for the Preis der Nationalgalerie, Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, Berlin

Fellowship Awardee at Kulturakademie Tarabya, Germany Embassy and Goethe Institut, Istanbul

- 2020 Talent Award Winner at Jutta Cuny-Franz Memorial Award, Kunstpalast Museum, Düsseldorf
- 2019 Huayu Youth Award Finalist, Huayu Foundation, Sanya
Shortlist of the Berliner Festspiele Theatertreffen: Stückemarkt, Gropius Bau, Berlin
- 2018 Finalist of the Han Nefkens Foundation—Loop Barcelona Video Art Award 2018, Barcelona
- 2017 Hong Kong Human Rights Art Prize—First Runner-up, Hong Kong
TOY Award Nomination, Berlin Masters Foundation, Stiftung Brandenburger Tor, Berlin
- 2016 Burger Collection “Artist Scholarship Program”, Hong Kong
“ART-UNI-ON” Scholarship, Seoul
- 2015 Bauhaus Essentials Award, Marke 6, Bauhaus Universität Weimar, Weimar
- 2014 Bauhaus Essentials Award, Marke 6, Bauhaus Universität Weimar, Weimar
- 2013 2nd OZON International Video Arts Festival - Honorable Mention

Collections

Akeroyd Collection, UK

Burger Collection, Hong Kong and Switzerland

Bundeskunstsammlung (Federal Collection of Contemporary Art), Germany

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, Germany

ifa collection (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen), Germany

KADIST, France and USA

Museum Schloss Moyland, Germany

Sunpride Foundation, Hong Kong

White Rabbit Gallery, Australia

Publications

2024 *Falling Reversely*, Istanbul, Turkey

2022 *If We Keep Crying, We Will Go blind.*, Istanbul, Turkey

2021 *Isaac Chong Wai*, Artist-in-Residence, Berlin, Germany
Leaderless, Istanbul, Turkey

2019 *WHAT IS THE FUTURE IN THE PAST? AND WHAT IS THE PAST IN THE FUTURE?*, Berlin, Germany