

39⁺ ART SPACE

Wei Leng Tay
(b.1978)

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Wei Leng Tay (b. 1978, Singapore) is a photographer and artist based in Hong Kong and Singapore whose practice spans various multi-media including photography, audio, installation, and video. She focuses on how representation is used in image-making and how differences can be negotiated through perception/reception, and the materiality of photographs. A recurrent theme in her works is the notion of displacement, where she highlights the emotional and psychic uneasiness of migration in relation to agency, home and belonging. Through her work over the years, Wei Leng Tay learns, unlearns, understands, and opens herself up to different ideologies, beliefs, histories and realities through the people she meets and situations she navigates. While working through understanding and communicating the complexities of familial and societal ties and rifts are important, equally so are how these ideas could be articulated in the aesthetic form and its presentation. This aesthetic process functions as an extension, projection and documentation of the processual encounters.

Tay has collaborated with art organisations and institutions in countries such as Japan, Thailand, Singapore and Taiwan to produce works intimately linked to ideas of identity, displacement and the self. Her work has also been featured in numerous exhibitions in venues such as ARTER Space for Art, Istanbul, the Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan, NUS Museum, Singapore, Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, Kosovo, and the Selasar Sunaryo Art Space in Bandung, Indonesia. Her photographic works are in public and private collections across Asia (Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan, Singapore Art Museum, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan, Hong Kong Heritage Museum.)

Tay also works in journalism. She has freelanced as a photographer for publications such as TIME, Fortune, and the New York Times Magazine. She has also worked as a photo editor in Hong Kong for Asiaweek Magazine (2000-2001), TIME Magazine's Asia Edition (2003-2008) and Bloomberg News (2011-2014), assigning and working with photographers across Asia on award winning coverage ranging from politics, natural disasters to business and economics.

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EDUCATION

Master of Fine Art, Photography, Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Bard College, USA

Bachelor of Science, Biology with minor in Humanistic Studies, McGill University, Canada

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Abridge*, WMA Space, Wyng Foundation, Hong Kong
Abridge, University of Sydney Verge Gallery, Australia
- 2019 *Crossings*, NUS Museum, Singapore (4 iterations)
- 2016 *Untitled*, Peninsular, Singapore
The Other Shore, Australian National University CIW Gallery, Canberra, Australia
- 2015 *How did we get here*, Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore
- 2014 *Out of Place*, Lumenvisum, Hong Kong
- 2012 *Convergence*, Chulalongkorn University Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2011 *Discordant Symmetries*, National University of Singapore (NUS) Museum Baba House, Singapore
- 2010 *Slow Cool Breezes*, Month of Photography Asia, Alliance Francaise Gallery, Singapore
- 2009 Winds of the Artist-in-Residence, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan (2 person)
- 2008 Desultory Landscapes, Ooi Botos Gallery, Hong Kong

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Inside the Wild Cube*, Gillman Barracks, Singapore
- 2021 *Progressive Disintegrations*, Objectifs Centre for Photography and Film, Singapore
- 2019 Residencies OPEN, Nanyang Technological University Centre for Contemporary Art (NTU CCA), Singapore
Sightlines, Experimental Gallery, Hong Kong Art Centre, Hong Kong
Concept Context Contestation, Secretariat, with Goethe Institut and Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Yangon, Myanmar
- 2018 *Moving Pledges*, Institute for Contemporary Arts Lasalle, Singapore
The Flying Land, Jut Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Setup, Bard UBS Exhibition Center, New York, USA
- 2017 *Performance of Identity*, Ballarat International Foto Biennale, Australia
New Urban Legend: Resistance of Space, 41 Ross, Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, USA
Mobility: WMA Masters, Comix Home Base, Hong Kong

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- Under the Influence*, Asia Art Archive, Art Basel HK, Hong Kong
- 2016 *We are from somewhere, but where are we going?*, Daegu Photo Biennale 2016, Daegu Arts and Culture Center, Daegu, South Korea
Concept Context Contestation, Cemeti Art House, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Hong Kong Contemporary Photography 2016, JCCAC LO Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2015 *Residue*, Full Circle Gallery, Karachi, Pakistan
Expanded Geographies, Lianzhou Photography Festival, China
Concept Context Contestation, Goethe Institut, Hanoi, Vietnam
Evidence, FORMAT Festival, Derby, U.K
- 2014 *The Roving Eye: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia*, ARTER Space for Art, Istanbul, Turkey
Hong Kong and Macao Visual Arts Biennial, Beijing World Art Museum, China
Basically.Forever – KMOFA, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Japan
Concept Context Contestation: Art and the Collective in Southeast Asia, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2013 *Everyday Life*, Asian Art Biennial, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
300 Families, Hong Kong International Photo Festival Flare, Hong Kong Design Institute, Hong Kong
Samsung Masterpieces, National Museum of Singapore, Singapore
YP13, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Seoul Photo 2013, South Korea
- 2012 *DiverseCity*, 8Q, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
Moving Up, Para/Site Art Space, Hong Kong
STILL BUILDING, Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia
Portraiture Now, Objectifs Centre for Photography and Filmmaking, Singapore
- 2011 *I have also other favourites*, Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, Kosovo
- 2010 *Human Faces*, National Museum of Singapore, Singapore
All About Fukuoka: The 10 Years of FAAM Artist-in-Residence Program, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan
City Flaneur: Social Documentary Photography, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong
Young Portfolio Acquisitions 2009, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Japan
Grid versus Chaos, Gallery VER with Para Site (HK), Bangkok, Thailand
- 2009 *Where do we go from here?*, 3. Internationales Fotografie Festival F/Stop, Leipzig, Germany
Declinations of Joy, Fotografia International Festival of Rome, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome, Italy

SELECTED GRANTS, AWARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- 2022 Finalist, Robert Gardner Fellowship in Photography, Peabody Museum, Harvard University, USA

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- 2019 University of Sydney China Studies Centre Funding, Australia
- 2016 – 2018 Bard MFA Fellowship, Bard College, USA
- 2017 Winner, WMA Prize, Wyng Foundation, Hong Kong
- 2015 Poynter Fellowship, Yale School of Art, USA
Participatory Project, FORMAT Festival and WYNG Masters Award, Derby, U.K. and Hong Kong
- 2013 – 2014 Yuejin Lantern Festival Site-Specific Project, Yanshui, Taiwan
- 2012 Finalist, WYNG Masters Award, Hong Kong
- 2011 Finalist, ICON Martell de Cordon Bleu Photography Prize 2011, Singapore
Hi2P Grant, National Heritage Board, Singapore
12 Oil Street Project, Arts Promotion Office, Hong Kong
- 2009 Arts Creation Fund, National Arts Council, Singapore
- 2007 Finalist, Descubrimientos Prize, PhotoEspana 2007, Madrid, Spain

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- 2020 – ongoing *Progressive Disintegrations*: Wei Leng Tay, Marc Gloede, Hilmi Johandi, Chua Chye Teck
- 2016 – 2019 *Sightlines* (Hong Kong): Wei Leng Tay, Michelle Wong, C&G Artpartment, South Ho Siu
Nam, Kinchoi Lam, Lam Wing Sze

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2021 Co-curated with Chelsea Chua, *Stories that Matter: Mediation/Circulation Public Talks and Workshop*, Objectifs Centre for Photography and Filmmaking, Singapore
- 2020 Exhibition Curator, Documentary Photo Awards: *Rony Zakaria: Pantura: Where are you, Mr Daendels?*, Objectifs Centre for Photography and Filmmaking, Singapore

RESIDENCIES

- 2019 Nanyang Technological University Centre for Contemporary Art (NTU CCA) Singapore Residencies Programme, Singapore
Artist Residency, Centro de Creación Contemporánea de Andalucía, Cordoba, Spain
- 2017 Vasl Artists' Collective Artist Residency, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2016 Visiting Artist Residency, Australian National University School of Art, Australia
- 2015 Vasl Artists' Collective Artist Residency, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2009 Artist-in-Residence, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
The Art Incubator Residency, Singapore

COLLECTIONS

Chau Chak Wing Museum, Sydney, Australia
Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan
Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong
Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Japan
Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, USA
National University of Singapore (NUS) Museum, Singapore
National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan
Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 *Inside the Wild Cube*, Co-authors: Wei Leng Tay, Marc Gloede, Hilmi Johandi, Chua Chye Teck, Brian O'Doherty. Printed on the occasion of the exhibition *Inside the Wild Cube*
- 2021 *Progressive Disintegrations*, Co-authors: Chua Chye Teck, Hilmi Johandi, Wei Leng Tay, Marc Gloede.
Printed on the occasion of the exhibition *Progressive Disintegrations with Objectifs* Centre for Photography and Film, Singapore
Wei Leng Tay, Olivier Krischer: "An Abridged Conversation in Acts," ISSUE No. 9, LASALLE College of the Arts
- 2020 Interview, e-brochure printed on the occasion of the exhibition *Rony Zakaria: Pantura: Where are you, Mr. Daendels?*, at Objectifs Centre for Photography and Film, Singapore
- 2019 *Sightlines II*, Co-edited with introduction co-written by Wei Leng Tay and Michelle Wong. Printed on the occasion of the exhibition *Sightlines* at Hong Kong Arts Centre's Experimental Gallery
Olivier Krischer & Wei Leng Tay. "Excerpts from a conversation," *Crossings*, solo exhibition catalogue, NUS Museum
- 2017 *Sightlines*, Co-edited and essays co-written by Wei Leng Tay and Michelle Wong. Printed on the occasion of the exhibition *New Urban Legend: Resistance of Space*, with 41 Ross, Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco
#Session 2, Co-edited with Siddhartha Perez, Peninsular
- 2015 *How did we get here, essays by Robin Peckham and Lisa Botos*, co-edited by Wei Leng Tay and Lisa Botos, solo exhibition catalogue, Chan Hampe Galleries
- 2013 *Convergence*, monograph

About the Gallery

39+ Art Space is a Singapore-based art gallery that focuses on showcasing internationally-established and emerging contemporary artworks and collections.

“We see 39+ Art Space as a nouveau platform to introduce and promote international artists across Asia, and to springboard Asian artists to the global stage - as well as to be a player in the secondary art market. We are delighted to collaborate with these artists to feature contemporary art pieces, as part of the opening premiere to new possibilities and engagement in art in Singapore from 39+Art Space.”

- Liu Ying Mei, Founder and Director of 39+ Art Space

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