

HOMELAND IN TRANSIT : THROUGH THE CLOUDS

Luke Ching
Copa & Sordes
Hung Fai
Lo Lai Lai Natalie
Dorothee Sauter
Wai Pong Yu
Yim Sui Fong

curated by Angelika Li

Vernissage
16 September 2021

Exhibition
by appointment only
17 September – 2 October 2021

Pfeffergässlein 25
Basel, Switzerland

Previous venues of this chapter:

Ein Fenster inmitten der Welt,
Wolkenhof
Murrhardt, Germany
4 June – 22 July 2021

Momentum
Kunstquartier Bethanien
Berlin, Germany
11 July – 25 July 2021

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LUKE CHING
COPA & SORDES
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A CURATORIAL PROJECT
BY ANGELIKA LI

VERNISSAGE
THU 16 SEPTEMBER 2021
17 - 21H

EXHIBITION
17 SEPTEMBER - 02 OCTOBER 2021
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
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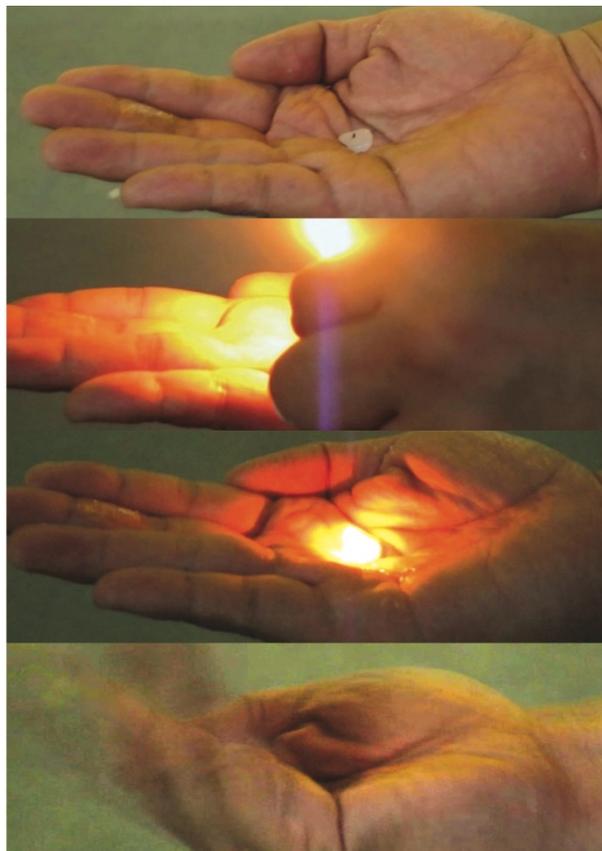
PFEFFERGÄSSLEIN 25
[VIA NADELBERG 33]
4051 BASEL, SWITZERLAND

PREVIOUS VENUES OF THIS CHAPTER:

EIN FENSTER INMITTEN DER WELT
WOLKENHOF 14, MURRHARDT, GERMANY
04 JUNE - 22 JULY 2021

MOMENTUM, KUNSTQUARTIER BETHANIEN
MARIANNENPLATZ 2, BERLIN, GERMANY
11 JULY - 25 JULY 2021

WWW.ONKILI.COM
Still images from *Pixel*, 2014, video, 43 seconds by Luke Ching. Courtesy of the artist.



Homeland in Transit 2019 – 2020 – Now

In the short time since the inaugural exhibition of 'Homeland in Transit' in 2019, our world has changed dramatically and each word in this title has developed a wider scope of meaning and expanded relevance. From the extraordinary situations of 2020, we set sail along the forces of water – an intrinsic and characteristic element of Hong Kong – through the notions of migration, self-searching and our human resilience to further our expedition.

The new expansion of 'Through the Clouds' opens in Basel in September 2021. Following exhibitions in Murrhardt and Berlin during June and July that featured works by Hong Kong artists Luke Ching, Lo Lai Lai Natalie and Yim Sui Fong, curator Angelika Li has invited German/Swiss duo Copa & Sordes, Swiss sculptor Dorothee Sauter as well as Hong Kong painters Hung Fai and Wai Pong Yu to join in this latest chapter. With diverse mediums including paintings, ink on paper, sculptures, videos and installations, this transit further explores the boundless idea of the cloud as part of the hydrological cycle along with the wind and rain.

How does this cycle impact on and reflect our current climate and situations? From different perspectives in Hong Kong and Europe, how do the artists perceive the transformations, if not turbulences? Are we going through a test of our resilience in unpredictable environments? Are we bound within the new realities or breaking through? Are we like clouds, going where the wind blows, by chance?

Wolkenhof - Berlin - Basel **June - July - September**

In this chapter 'Through the Clouds', we first arrived at Ein Fenster inmitten der Welt, a window amidst the world, situated in a natural reserve forest area near Stuttgart, with two interfaces: one to the real world, one to the [virtual](#). The exhibition was physically located in Wolkenhof, in the home of the painter Heinrich von Zügel (1850-1941), a founding member of the Munich Secession and pioneer of German Impressionism. In the 19th century, Wolkenhof was a meeting place for artists and the name literally means 'Clouds Court' in German.

The environment of Wolkenhof and its name serve as points of departure for this transit through the dynamics of the hydrological cycle: clouds, wind and rain. The boundless nature of clouds has inspired many in the arts across different cultures.

Clouds appear in many poets' work including 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' (1798) by English poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850) who personifies himself as a melancholic cloud that aimlessly drifts 'high o'er vales and hills'. His poem illustrates that we do not realise the significance of the simplest things until they are gone forever. By using daffodils as a metaphor for the voice of Nature, the poet reminds humankind of its restorative power and value. Are the clouds floating in hopes that they will discover fulfillment in life?

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud (1798)
William Wordsworth (1770-1850)

I wandered lonely as a Cloud
That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden Daffodils;
Beside the Lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:—
A Poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the shew to me had brought:
For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the Daffodils.

In a very different context and in his tempestuous style, Chinese poet Xu Zhimo (1897–1931) opens his poem 'By Chance' (1926) with 'I am a cloud in the sky...', expressing the inevitable nature and qualities of change, unpredictability and impermanence between the cloud and water, I and you, 'the sea in the darkness' and 'the glow that sparked between us as we crossed our paths'. The clouds lightly float in the sky, yet their movements, direction or destination cannot be decided according to its own will, without other forces, such as the wind.

By Chance (1926)

XU Zhimo (1897–1931)

I am a cloud in the sky,
A chance shadow on the wave of your heart.
Don't be surprised,
Or too elated; In an instant I shall vanish without trace.
We meet on the sea of dark night,
You on your way, I on mine.
Remember if you will,
Or, better still, forget
The light exchanged in this encounter.

The sense of floatingness and helplessness echoes Hong Kong novelist Xi Xi's (1937–) 'The Floating City' (1986), with René Magritte's 'The Castle of the Pyrenees' (1959) on a big rock suspending in the air above a rough sea as the visual imagery accompanying the opening chapter. The imagery accentuates the feeling of loneliness, isolation, rootlessness and escape: 'The floating city appeared suddenly before everyone's eye in the middle of sky like a hydrogen-filled balloon on a clear, bright day many years ago. Rolling clouds swirled by above; waves crashed on the swelling sea below... There had been a violent collision of clouds lighting up the sky with flashes and roars of thunder... Suddenly the floating city had dropped from the clouds and hung in midair.' The floating city and its people have no control over their destiny, they can only fluctuate as external factors change.

THE FLOATING CITY
Xi Xi
TRANSLATED BY LINDA JAYNE WITH GILBERT BRANT

I. FLOATING CITY

The floating city appeared suddenly before everyone's eye in the middle of sky like a hydrogen-filled balloon on a clear, bright day every year ago. Floating clouds swirled by above; waves crashed on the swelling sea below. The floating city hovered, going neither up nor down as it maintained its position, buffeted slightly by the breeze.

Only our grandparents' grandparents witnessed how it all began. It had been an unbelievable and terrifying experience, one they recalled fearfully. There had been a violent collision of clouds lighting up the sky with flashes and rumbles of thunder. On the sea countless junks were laid out on the deck and wreckage and food their common sunset. Suddenly the floating city had dropped from the clouds and hung in midair.

Many years passed. Our grandparents' grandparents passed away, and our grandparents followed them into a deep sleep. By and by the story they had told became a mysterious legend.

The grandchildren settled in the city and gradually adapted to living there. Even in legend faded. Finally, the majority of people came to believe that the floating city had always hung in the sky, neither rising nor sinking. Even when it was buffeted by the wind and shook over on slightly, it was like swinging on a swing.

Many more years passed.



II. THE MARRIAGE

It takes courage to live without roots. That's what it said on the jacket of a novel. To live in the floating city required not only courage, but willpower and faith. In another novel there is a moment of insight when nothing more than an empty seat of armor. Emperor Charlemagne asks him, what keeps you going? Willpower and faith, he replies.

With their willpower and faith, the inhabitants of the floating city talked to create a livable home. Within a few dozen years their efforts made the city vibrant.

The Floating City (1986) Xi Xi (1937 -)

'...People who want to have a look in the clouds can climb the ladders or go up by balloon, while visitors to the sea can use parachutes or go by helicopter. However, over half of the people in the floating city want to grow wings themselves. All in all, these people find it scary to live in a city that floats in midair. The people who are really terrified agonise night and day, finally deciding to pack up their belongings and they behave like migratory birds, moving elsewhere to build an ideal new nest.

A novelist has recorded the following story: A man went to apply for a passport. The official asked where he wanted to go. He said it didn't matter. The official gave him a globe of the world and asked him to make his choice. The man studied it, turned it around slowly, and finally said: Don't you have another one?... It is a difficult decision to know where to go once you've left the floating city. Where can you find a city where you could live in peace forever? All those leaving the city have to have very strong wings, and they have to be very careful when in flight. If they go too near the sun, the wax that keeps the wings together melts and, like Icarus, they plummet to earth.'

Soon after she received the Cikada Prize in 2019, Xi Xi spoke in an interview with Hong Kong Economic Journal about her recent observation on Hong Kong: 'the reality now is way more surreal than any fiction.'

From different perspectives, how do Hong Kong artists perceive the transformations, if not turbulences? What are the exchanges of experiences with Europe? Wordsworth's allegory might invoke contemplation on the disappearance of things dear to us. Are we going through a test of our resilience in unpredictable environments? Are we staying within the new realities or breaking through? Are we like clouds, going where the wind blows, by chance?



01

Luke CHING 程展緯

Pixel 像素, 2014

Video, 43 secs

Edition 2/5



02

YIM Sui Fong 嚴瑞芳

Black Bird Island 黑鳥島, 2017

Video, 6 mins 32 secs

Edition 1/3

The exhibition opens with **'Pixel' (2014)**, a video by **Luke Ching** about the annual Tiananmen candlelight vigil which was took place annually on June 4th between 1990 and 2019 at Victoria Park in Hong Kong. To the artist, a droplet of wax represents a candle, which becomes a cluster of pixels. Every year on June 4th, the media focus much attention on the resolution of the Victoria Park image: behind each candlelight was a holder of flesh and blood. In this video, the pixel of a candle extinguishes with a trace of smoke. According to the report of South China Morning Post on June 4th, 2020, the organisers estimated the vigil was attended by millions since 1990. For the first time, the vigil was banned in 2020.

From 1989, we fast-forward to the 1997 handover of Hong Kong. **Yim Sui Fong's 'Black Bird Island' (2017)** stems from her interview with a former Hong Kong pigeon seller Mr. Leung Kam Hung and the history of the official handover celebration that the Regional Council of Hong Kong organised where thousands of pigeons transported from the Chinese border were released at the Sha Tin Sports Ground. Due to severe rainstorms, most birds could not return to their homeland and were stranded.

The artist creates a fiction with friction comprising multiple layers of social commentary based on two observations: a field study of the sky-coastline shaped by pigeon colonies since the handover in 1997 where the birds were being observed; and an encounter with a young girl being bullied where the bird becomes an observer. The jump-cuts bridge the story of the pigeons in Hong Kong, and through their lens into the psychological state of the society at the time.



03

LO Lai Lai Natalie 勞麗麗
 Weather Girl , Halo Daisy 天氣女郎, 2016
 Video, 6 mins 32 secs
 Edition 2/5

04

LO Lai Lai Natalie 勞麗麗
 Cold Fire 冷火, 2019-2020
 Video, 10 mins 18 secs
 Edition 2/5

What is a halo cloud? In the format of weather reporting narrated by a cheerful female voice, **Lo Lai Lai Natalie** shares her records of emotions in **'Weather Girl, Halo Daisy' (2016)**. It is her repertoire to deploy a lighthearted approach with superficially soothing trivial imagery to engage the viewer on heavy content, often of social and personal issues in the real world. The volume and temperature of sweat, tears and emotions can be detected in this video. Farming is a therapeutic process for the artist and she often sets a camera randomly in the field while she is at work. By chance the natural phenomenon of the halo cloud was captured. The clouds look calm on the surface, yet with the fierce undercurrents, the phenomenon is formed with a ring of rainbow in the everchanging conditions. This video is part of Lo's 'Slow-So TV' series. The music chosen is 'Siko Horepse Sirtaki', a Greek folksong selected as the weather forecast music on TV in Taiwan in the 1990s.

Unlike 'Weather Girl', the level of expression and emotion on the surface has heightened in Lo's **'Cold Fire' (2019-2020)**. One might be fascinated by the mysterious beings rippling through the sensual body of smoke, clouds or water. In the next scene, the viewer is on a plane with safety cards and a window view of clouds, eavesdropping on conversations about a mixture of fear of plane crashes, life and death:

'Cut off her relationship with the iron bird.'
 'Floating on the ocean with her unknown companies,
 towards an unknown future.'
 'Do you know where we are heading?'

'No, I don't. I never do.'

'It seemed calm looking from thousands of feet from above.'

'Only because we could not see the thriving, indomitable bacteria.'

The music selected for this work cultivates another layer of narrative. The melancholic theme in 'Vallée d'Obermann' by Franz Liszt (1811-1886) was composed during his journey across the Swiss Alps in 1835 along literary sources including Étienne Pivert de Senancour's novel 'Obermann' with notions of solitary despair, overcoming hopelessness, human existence, and immensity of suffering in this world. Could it be a coincidence or the artist's déjà vu or the reflection on her many memories accumulated during the creation of this work?

Through the fermentation process to the revelation of the mysterious being – i.e. the fire used for fermentation – the cold fire at the same time represents the energy and solidarity of people, yet by no surprise, people do get hurt from it.

Transit Expansion in Basel

In the Basel edition of this chapter, Hong Kong artists Hung Fai and Wai Pong Yu, Swiss sculptor Dorothee Sauter and German/Swiss artist duo Copa & Sordes (Birgit Krüger and Eric Schmutz) also join the journey through the clouds amidst the hydrological cycle.

In 'A Rhythm of Landscape 9' (2019), with its horizontal lines drawn on a manually erased newspaper, **Wai Pong Yu** inflicts damages and holes in the process of eradicating all the printed details on a July 4th 2019 copy of the Hong Kong newspaper Apple Daily (which ceased operation on June 23rd, 2021), physically expressing feelings of suppression, anxiety and desperation arising from the recent turbulent sociopolitical climate in Hong Kong. Amidst the clouds of uncertainty, the colourful lines drawn in repetition act as a therapeutic process for the artist to retain a sense of hope and relief: the truth always comes to the light.



05

WAI Pong Yu 韋邦雨
A Rhythm of Landscape 9, 2019
Ballpoint pen on paper
57.5 x 68.4 cm
Photo: Eddie Lam

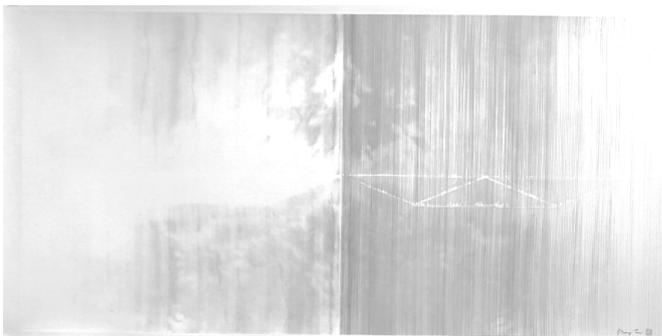


06

HUNG Fai 熊輝
Wild Grass 17, 2019
Ink on Chinese Paper
150 x 108 cm
Photo: Eddie Lam

With a similar sentiment, ink artist **Hung Fai's 'Wild Grass 17' (2019)** builds an emotional outlet to release the feeling of powerlessness. By using basic tools and material including a metal ruler, ink pen, xuan paper and the quintessential element of water, he creates lines and dots in mechanic and laborious repetition. Forms and lines spontaneously and allegorically come to life by forces on the ruler against the xuan paper like a knife on skin. As the water and ink flows, his thoughts and emotions are injected into the work. At first glance, a mountainscape with clouds above appears. When one goes into the details, images of individuals emerge and come to life. The impression almost suggests that a battle scene is about to begin. What Hung creates here is not merely a landscape but more of a collection of mindscapes at pivotal moments.

Through this project, Hung also discovered details about his mother's childhood as a Chinese migrant in Indonesia and her homeward migration journey by sea with a lack of food on the ship from Indonesia to Fujian, China during the so-called 'return of the tidal flow' in the 1960s, which led him to reflect on the notion of origin, safe zones and self-searching. This intimate space for his own reflection in **'Vessel IV' (2019)** seems like a sacred mothership encapsulated by the veil of fog he has woven with his paper and lines.



07
 Hung Fai 熊輝
 Vessel IV, 2019
 Ink on Chinese Paper
 69 x 136 cm



08
 Dorothee Sauter
 Instability - 2, 2021
 Fired clay, pigments
 37 x 15 x 15 cm
 Photo: Marco Schibig

Emerging from the water element, the tentacular movements of **Dorothee Sauter's** enigmatic sculptures created in 2021 **'Instability - 2'**, **'Inflammation - 1 & 2'** and **'Dry palate - 2 & 3'**, suggest a terrestrial or underwater world that is charged with potent life force. Each appears to have a mind of its own. Can the swirling movement also indicate where the strong wind blows or turbulences are? This creates an almost-palpable fluctuation in atmosphere with immense resilience and willpower, resonating with the vibrancy and monochromatic drama in Hung's **'Wild Grass 17'**.

Xi Xi's depiction of 'the floating city' can somewhat be imagined with inhabitants populating in Sauter's **'Mumps'** (2020), **'Looking for a reason'** (2021) and **'New guest'** (2021) as rhizomic geological dwellings in cloud formation.

On the opposite wall, one finds a puzzle of cloudscares. Are they reflecting the sky through the windows? Yet they are not imitations of clouds or depictions of reality but the idea of clouds which is central to the practice of **Copa & Sordes** for more than 30 years.

To the artist duo, the cloud has no borders, each is light and free, unique and indescribable. Their clouds are never neutral and are subject to interpretation. Time passes slowly during the process that leads to a state of meditation. Instead of looking inward, the painting of clouds guides them to look to the outside. With the idea of the cloud and its abstraction in mind, the only physical form present in the process is their bodily movement. Uncertainty plays a big part in their creative process of which the notion and repetition recalls the allegory of gambling and fermentation in Lo's **'Cold Fire'**. One can relate **'Cold Fire's** scene and conversation on the plane to **Copa & Sordes'** white cloud trails made by jets in **'181010'** (2018) and the infinity sign or **'SOS'** signal in the sky in **'180904'** (2018).

Another quintessential motive of their cloud paintings is the Baroque reference – more than a century of changes in society and politics, in markets, in art and architecture through the Baroque cultural movement which the duo finds similarities to the situations of our times. The question is when will the next age of enlightenment approach with new movements, values and hopes?



09
Copa & Sordes
181010, 2018
130 x 100
Acrylic on cotton



10
Copa & Sordes
180904, 2018
55 x 45
Acrylic on cotton

Installations at Wolkenhof and Berlin

Two installations were set up in Wolkenhof and Berlin: the community programme **'A big tree makes good shade and the shade gathers'** (2021) by Ching and **'Unlocked Space'** (2017) by Yim.



Luke CHING 程展緯

A big tree makes good shade and the shade gathers people

樹大可成蔭 樹蔭好聚人, 2021

Leaves collected and punched by Hongkongers in Europe

Size variable

The concept of **'A big tree'** stems from a community project of Ching in a district called Happy Valley in Hong Kong with a local art space C&G Apartment in April and May 2021. Happy Valley is the home of the horse-racing course and is often associated with the phrase 'horses will race, dances will continue' referring to the fifty years of autonomy the city was promised after the handover of 1997.

Observing another phenomenal migration wave in Hong Kong, Ching prepares the mini leaves as souvenirs for the people who are leaving. The leaves in our palms act as pixels of camouflage landscapes, urging us to reflect on the notion of change: climate/temperature, nature/environment, synchronising indoor/private lives. This contemplation is believed to have a therapeutic effect.

Ching was invited by the curator to expand the project and its spirit with the Hong Kong communities in Switzerland and Germany. In this installation, the leaves are collected by Hongkongers in Switzerland and Germany from their everyday living environments and punched to

create a new diasporic landscape and memory to reflect on the notion of transition. Camouflage is a combination of a plural colour spectrum and corresponds to different terrains. In the artist's eyes, with many leaving Hong Kong, the concept of 'we' will have to transcend physical space and territory from now on and rebuild many small reasons to come 'together'.

The Chinese saying 'A big tree makes good shade and the shade gathers people' echoes the pixel nature highlighted in Ching's video work, and also the solidarity of people. The audience can take some leaves home as souvenirs and Hongkongers are welcome to add some leaves to the gathering of new landscapes and stories.



Berlin
Photo: Electra Winter



Wolkenhof
Photo: Cope & Sordes

YIM Sui Fong 嚴瑞芳
The Unlocked Space 大門沒有上鎖, 2017
Photo Installation
Size variable

Yim's installation **'The Unlocked Space' (2017)** is on housing, always a major issue in Hong Kong. From illegal settlements improvised with scraps and salvaged materials in the 1950s, to the implementation of cooperative buildings, Hongkongers once hoped that they could build their own homes. However, with ever-surging property prices, housing now brings only staggering pain to the majority of the population.

Yim's father used to live in the squatter area near 'Wong Ka Chong' which was formerly a government-owned factory during the British colonial period. Tracing the old address, the artist found a six-storey civil servants' cooperative building which has been left abandoned after

having been sold in 2016 to a developer from China which has grand redevelopment plans for high-rise luxury apartments on the site. Walking into the obsolete building, Yim found a large unlocked empty apartment. Her curiosity was provoked by the frozen time encapsulated in the objects of daily life and memory of the former-realities inside: a newspaper from 31 May 1989 and handwritten calendar; documents of the Cooperative Building Society and pieces of personal particulars; five to eight-digit telephone numbers; postcards from overseas and a collection of VHS tapes; statues of deities from different cultures and copies of pornography. Their existences have been forgotten along with their functions. Metaphorically speaking, do they belong to a piece of history in oblivion which can be manipulated, reinterpreted and disappeared? The artist questions if all these represent the nature of transition. Are the objects left only with emotions floating and the temperature remaining amidst the dust cloud at the scene she has captured through her camera lens?

In the Berlin edition, the curator has engaged artists Lo and Yim in the **Video Talks** series as part of the exhibition at Momentum, Kunstquartier Bethanien. The artists sat together under an old large tree at one of the scenes in Yim's 'Black Bird Island'. The duo created a conversation piece responding to the curator's questions and also shared their views on the notion of homeland. Different emotions are expressed under the same sky.

The Video Talks can be viewed
on the website of Momentum.



Biographies

Luke Ching (b.1972, Hong Kong) received his MA in Fine Arts in The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Broadly acknowledged as one of the most active conceptual artists in Hong Kong, Ching works on the ground and walks into different communities twisting the roles of an artist and an observer in our society, as demonstrated in his 'Undercover Worker' series that spread in Hong Kong and beyond. Ching creates artworks that transcend conventional forms, restriction and control. He breeds a discursive system with a good mix of humour, responding and interrogating the cultural and political collisions occurred in Hong Kong. Recent exhibitions include solo exhibitions 'Glitch in the Matrix' (Para Site Art Space, Hong Kong, 2020), 'Liquefied Sunshine' (Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong, 2019), 'For Now We See Through a Window' (Gallery EXIT, Hong Kong, 2016), 'Folk Art Series' (Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery, Blackburn, UK, 2008); group exhibitions 'So Long, Thanks Again For The Fish' (Helsinki Biennial, Finland, 2021); 'Dismantling the Scaffold' (Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong, 2018), 'Imagine Border' (Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, Korea, 2018); residency programmes at Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (Japan, 2006) and P.S.1 Contemporary Arts Center (New York, 2000). Ching was awarded the Artist of the Year (Visual Art) Award by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in 2016. Ching currently lives and works in Hong Kong.

Copa & Sordes

Birgit Krueger (b.1967, Munich, Germany) is both a medical doctor and artist who studied medicine in Lausanne and Basel and later at Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria from 1995 to 1999 where she taught between 2000 and 2003. She was Professor at the Bern University of the Arts (HKB) from 2003 to 2008.

Eric Schmutz Krueger (b.1962, Zofingen, Switzerland) studied at the School of Arts Bern and from 1983 to 1990 studied language, linguistics and history at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

The duo's most recent solo exhibition was "schwere Arbeit" (Städtische Galerie Murrhardt, Germany, 2018). They were involved in group exhibitions including the Srinagar Biennale Basel, 2018; "das Leben ist kein Ponyhof" (Kunstmuseum Olten, 2017); "die nächsten 100 Jahre" (tête, Berlin); "Blumen im Haus ersparen den Psychiater" (Westwerk, Hamburg, 2016); "...passage...", (Fabrikulture Hégenheim, France); "Cut the Fence" (plateform, Art Athina, Athens; "Auswahl" (Aargauer Kunsthau Aarau, 2014); "Songs for a Pigeon" (Earth Gallery, Plaza Gallery, Swiss Embassy, Tokyo, Japan, 2013; "10 000 Stunden" (Kunstmuseum Thurgau, 2011). The duo is recipient of studio grants of Kuratorium Aargau in Paris and Berlin respectively in 2018 and 2015 and awarded by Kunstkredit Basel-Stadt for "Helping Points" in 2010. The duo was grantee of iaab-studio in Marseille and New Caledonia and the award recipient of Fachausschuss Audivision Multimedia beider Basel and Göhner Foundation for "Concrete and Flowers" in 2009.

Hung Fai (b. 1988, Hong Kong) graduated from the Fine Arts Department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2013. His work focuses mainly on the field of contemporary ink art. Hung has developed unique expression and presentation techniques on both paper and canvas. Through the deconstruction of elements in traditional Chinese ink paintings, his works are reconstructed conceptually through a series of experimentation and transformation.

Hung has been exhibited in museums, institutions, galleries and art fairs including 'The Weight of Lightness: Ink Art,' M+ Museum, Hong Kong, 2017; 'Ink Painting. Two Cities – Shenzhen and Hong Kong Works Exhibition of Ink Painting and Metropolis,' Shenzhen Fine Art Institute, 2016 & 2017; 'The Twelfth National Exhibition of Fine Arts & Exhibition of Nominated Works for Chinese Fine Art Awards, Creative Awards,' The National Art Museum of China, Beijing, 2015; Art Basel, Hong Kong (2014–2019); Ink Asia (2015–2019); and Fine Art Asia (2013–2015). His solo exhibitions include 'The Departing Landscape – Hung Fai Ink Project,' (2016) and 'Movement – Hung Fai' (2014) both in Grotto Gallery, Hong Kong. Hung has received the Certificate of Merit – The Twelfth National Exhibition of Fine Arts, China 2014; Certificates of Merit – Hong Kong Art Prize 2013; and the Wucius Wong Creative Ink Painting Award 2013. His work is in the collections of M+ Museum for Visual Culture, Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Museum of Art, as well as various private collections.

Angelika Li (b. 1975, Hong Kong) is committed to engaging with the essence of local culture, heritage and valued stories, and driving a continuous dialogue between local and international communities. She is the founder and curator of the on-going curatorial project HOMELAND in TRANSIT (Basel 2019, 2020, 2021; Berlin 2020, 2021; Murrhardt, 2021; Zollikon, Ishigaki, 2022) and the co-founder of PF25 cultural projects, a non-profit research initiative and cultural exchange programme focusing on the everyday life and ecologies of Hong Kong and Basel – and extending to other regions of Switzerland. Her most recent exhibition is 'Dorothee Sauter: Geology, Cooking Heart, Curious and other stories (Basel, 2021).

Before moving to Switzerland in 2017, Li was the founding director of MILL6 Foundation in Hong Kong bringing it to ICOM museum status and achieving the Award for Arts Promotion by Hong Kong Arts Development Council in 2016. Her previous curated projects in Hong Kong include The Mills Heritage Project 'Chim↑Pom – It's the Wall World' (2015), the public art by VHILS at The Mills (2015), 'Tracing some places. Leung Chi Wo' (2015); 'Social Fabric. New works by Kwan Cheung Chi and Mariana Hahn' in collaboration with David Elliott (2016), 'Old Master Q: What The @#\$% Is Going On? Original Works by Alphonso Wong' (2014); 'Beyond the Paper Screen – An Exhibition of Japanese Erotic Prints from The Urugami Collection' (2013), 'NEW INK: an exhibition of ink art by post 1970 artists from The Yiqingzhai Collection (2013)' and as the director of MILL6, she co-organised with Zhejiang Art Museum 'Textile Thinking – The International Symposium' at Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art 2016.

Lo Lai Lai Natalie (b. 1983, Hong Kong) received her Bachelor of Art (Fine Arts) and Master of Fine Arts from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Lo is a former travel journalist and is interested in the development and the construction of nature. She is a learner at the collective organic farm Sangwoodgoon (Hong Kong) where she explores the lifestyle of she calls “Half-Farming, Half-X”, a practice that seeks alternatives and autonomy as an artist and a Hongkonger. Lo finds her interests on food, farming, fermentation, slow-driving, surveillance, and meditation. Her artworks are mostly moving images, photography, mixed media and installation.

Lo solo exhibitions include ‘Give no words but mum’ (Tomorrow Maybe, Hong Kong, 2020), ‘Down into the Abyss’ (bonacon Gallery, Guangzhou, China, 2018), ‘Slow-So TV - Ann Eilathan’s Gaze’ (Floating Projects, Hong Kong, 2016) and ‘Souvenir and Gift’ (The Observation Society, Guangzhou, 2014). She received the WMA Commission Grant on Opportunity in Hong Kong and her works had been exhibited in San Francisco, Paris, Dresden, Johannesburg, Yogyakarta, Beijing and Shanghai and in the collection of the Sigg Collection and Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

Dorothee Sauter (b.1956, Aarau, Switzerland) was exposed to the distinctive regional techniques in Switzerland, to the well-preserved ancient wood-firing heritage in Sifnos, Greece, to the Asian aesthetics, philosophy and practice inspired by traditional Japanese porcelain-making in Henrichemont, France. She studied at the Ecole des Arts Décoratifs (section céramiques) in Geneva, Switzerland. She had multiple study trips to the United States including the San Francisco Art Institute; Sun Valley, Center for Arts and Humanities, Idaho and the archaeological investigation in the Southwest. She pursued her postgraduate study in landscape architecture at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign between 2001 and 2004.

Sauter’s solo exhibitions include: ‘Geology, Cooking Heart, Curious and other stories’, (ONKILI, Basel, Switzerland, 2021); ‘9.5 Room for exhibiting Art’ (Champaign IL, USA, 2001); Galerie Francesca Pia, Bern, Switzerland, 2000; Poste d’Art contemporain, Fribourg, Switzerland, 1998; Haus Salmegg, Rheinfelden, Germany, 1997; Kabinett, Bern, Switzerland, 1994; Kunsthalle Bern, 1993; Kunstraum Burgdorf, Switzerland, 1990; Galerie Toni Gerber, Bern, 1998. Group exhibitions include: Biennale de céramique contemporaine, Château d’Aubonne, Céramique Contemporaine Suisse, Maison de la Céramique, Mulhouse, France, 1996; ‘hauttief’, Helmhaus, Zürich, Switzerland, 1994; ‘Körper II’, ‘Künstler aus Bern’, Shedhalle, Zurich, 1988; Six fois la porcelaine, Limoges, France, 1985. Sauter was recipient of the Kluesing Fellowship of the University of Illinois, USA in 2000, Werkbeitrag der Kommission für Kunst und Architektur, Kanton Bern, Switzerland in 1998; Aeschlimann/Corti Stipendium, Switzerland, 1995; Werkbeitrag Stadt und Kanton Bern in 1987 and 1988; and Prix de l’oeuvre, Ecole des Arts décoratifs, Genève in 1981.

Wai Pong Yu (b. Hainan Island, China, 1982) moved to Hong Kong from Hainan Island at the age of 2. He graduated from the Fine Arts Department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2006. Wai has developed his own oeuvre with ink from ballpoint pen on paper, spinning the thread of his emotion and mind continuously as one line as it multiplies in rhizomatic manner. His subject matter often relates to the notion of the cosmos, time, nature, across the fields of juxtapositions and metaphysical forms.

Wai's work has been collected internationally by public museums and institutions including the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and the Ashmolean Museum at the University of Oxford. His recent exhibitions include his collaborative project with Hung Fai in 'Same Line Twice' Grotto Fine Art, Hong Kong, 2017; 'The Spirit of Ink: 12 Hong Kong Artists' Sotheby's Gallery, Hong Kong, 2013; 'New Ink, An Exhibition of Ink Art by Post 1970 Artists from Yiqingzhai Collection' Sotheby's Gallery, Hong Kong, 2013. Solo exhibitions include 'Moment of Truth - The Synergy of Ink' (2013) and 'Ceaseless Lines' (2009) both at Grotto Fine Art, Hong Kong. His works have also been shown at Art Basel (2015-2019), Ink Asia (2015-2019), Fine Art Asia (2015-2017), Asia Week, New York (2015) and SCOPE, New York (2013).

Yim Sui Fong (b. 1983, Huidong, China) is a multi-disciplinary Hong Kong artist, a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) graduate from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is the co-founder of the artist-run organisation Rooftop Institute and a member of the Hong Kong artists' collective, L sub. Yim's artistic practice focuses on the actionable aspects behind image creation, pursuing questions such as how we re-read history and how we could connect communities through artistic action. She often uses methods of visual documentation to intervene in real-life texts; through anecdotes, she reveals relationships between people, objects and geography which are overlooked by history. By combining interviews and reference documents, she creates semi-fictional and semi-realistic audio-visual narratives through installations. In the process, revealing realities through illusions. Her works are inspired by three recurrent themes: performativity, images and the study of sounds. She explores various forms of uneasiness people face in society and examines the relationship between individuality and collectivity. Through artistic action and workshops, she provides a platform to connect collective consciousness, while refracting the perplexity and imagination of social phenomena.

She was the recipient of the Award for Young Artist (Visual Arts) 2021 by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, the WMA Masters Award 2017/18 and finalist of Hong Kong Human Rights Arts Prize 2017. Her book project 'The man who attends to the times', commissioned by Oil, Hong Kong (2018). Recent exhibitions include 'Artists' Film International', Whitechapel Gallery (2019), 'Hic Sunt Leons', Surplus Space, Wuhan, China (2019), 'The Wall 2019', Cattle Depot, Hong Kong (2019), 'Talkover/Handover 2.0', 1 a Space, Hong Kong (2017), 'Mountain Sites: Views of Laoshan', Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing, China (2016), L sub is the selected artist group to present in Hong Kong House at Echigo-Tsumari in Japan in 2020.

HOMELAND
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About Homeland in Transit

"Where are you from?" This simple question opens up thoughts and conversations about the notion of homeland and triggered the idea of the curatorial project HOMELAND in TRANSIT.

The word 'homeland' evokes a physical and permanent form on the surface, yet when we dive a little deeper into our memories and emotions, the word urges us to reflect on its complex and shifting nature. The project channels narratives of 'homeland' from Hong Kong perspectives: borders, boundaries, roots, diaspora, cultural identity, colonial ideologies and beyond.

Despite many differences in our backgrounds, the sense of homeland is constantly being questioned and reinterpreted. How do artists perceive these transformations and how do they represent it in their art?

HOMELAND in TRANSIT was conceptualised by Angelika Li in 2018 soon after her move from Hong Kong to Switzerland in 2017. The inaugural exhibition started in Basel 2019 with further chapters at Kunstquartier Bethanien in Berlin (2020) and 'By the River Rhine' on Florastrasse in Kleinbasel (2020) and 'Through the Clouds' at Ein Fenster inmitten der Welt in Wolkenhof, Murrhardt (2021), Momentum in Berlin (2021), and 'Heimat im Wandel' in Zollikon (postponed to 2022).

The HOMELAND in TRANSIT identity is a neutral alphanumeric typeface with monospace structure mixed with Morse code, designed by Donald Mak. Based on the everyday elements we encounter on journeys and travels - train station and airport display boards, baggage tags, boarding passes, electronic tickets - the layout is a mix of simple information presented to be universally understood with incomprehensible codes and symbols applied for professional or technical purposes. Letters, numbers, dots and dashes flow erratically to fill whatever area it needs to cover.

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