

TAI KWUN CONTEMPORARY OPENS NEW EXHIBITION *MY BODY HOLDS ITS SHAPE*
A walk through limits and constraints

Hong Kong, 25 May 2020, Monday



Installation view of *My Body Holds Its Shape*

Tai Kwun Contemporary is pleased to announce the new exhibition *My Body Holds Its Shape*, with newly commissioned works from five artists: Tap Chan, Thea Djordjadze, Jason Dodge, Eisa Jocson and Pratchaya Phinthong. The exhibition looks at how existing limits and constraints can emerge as artistic materials and clues for associations, with processes that embrace poetics and improvisations. Curated by Xue Tan, the exhibition is on view from 25 May through September 2020.

Set in the historic F Hall — a former printing facility and women’s prison — the exhibition takes the metaphorical shape of a body as it becomes live from the first hour with Eisa Jocson’s work-in-progress performance *Zoo*. Sculptures, photographs and narratives cohabit the space with songs, moving bodies and an escape route. The exhibition is carefully conceived as an experience akin to a walk through lines of limits, divisions and connections — unveiling ways to tie our worlds together.

Xue Tan, curator of the exhibition, says, “This exhibition experiments with concepts of ‘sculpture’; the artworks are ways of exploring our multifaceted facts and ecologies, spanning lived-through stories and realised imaginations. At this very unusual time, we are struck by



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this sudden shift in our lives, and the global experience of self-isolation and loneliness. I hope this exhibition on limitation and distance would bring some reflection on sustainability, our connection to nature, and empathy for those who are distant and confined.”

Tobias Berger, Head of Art at Tai Kwun, says, “From the beginning, we at Tai Kwun Contemporary have produced conceptually oriented exhibitions with some of the most formidable contemporary artists of today. This exhibition, curated by Xue Tan, also takes as its starting point the site and history of Tai Kwun, using the notion of confinement and limits to reflect on the relation between the former space of imprisonment and the contemporary ‘white cube’ as a catalyst for imagination. Producing 9 new works especially for this exhibition, this is another example of how the very best of contemporary art can intelligently and inventively reflect on the rich history of Victoria Prison.”

Artists on show include:

- Hong Kong artist **Tap Chan (陳沁昕)**, whose work explores the idea of liminality embedded in daily life, where the boundaries between fiction and reality are often blurred. Chan creates a site-specific kinetic installation that presents the duality of dreams and reality.
- Berlin-based Georgian artist **Thea Djordjadze**, known for her sculptures and installations developed in situ as responses to the space or context of an institution. Thea’s new works *.pullherawaypull.*, and *Needle* modify the “white cube” of the exhibition space and opens it up to a new view.
- Berlin-based American conceptual artist **Jason Dodge**, whose works embrace narratives with twists. His works in the exhibition *Above the weather* measures the distance from Earth to the weather through weavers’ palms, and *When darkness falls...* literally disables a family villa in a forest in Hong Kong from being visible at night.
- **Eisa Jocson**, a choreographer, dancer and visual artist from the Philippines, whose body of work investigates the labour conditions of migrant workers. The new work *Zoo* is a durational and work-in-progress performance, exploring the emotional influx that comes with the displacement of the living, and furthermore on the quarantine life today.
- Thai artist **Pratchaya Phinthong**, whose works often rise from the confrontation between different social, economic and geographical systems — an alchemist, as some describe. Phinthong brings new sculptures, transformed from war-time bombshell materials in polluted farmlands in Laos, to enter in dialogue with some of his past works.

Visitor information

My Body Holds Its Shape on view from 25 May through September 2020, every day from 11am to 8pm (except Monday from 2pm to 8pm), at the art galleries in Tai Kwun (F Hall; entry through JC Contemporary). Free Admission; guided tours are available. Tai Kwun is open to the public daily from 10am to 11pm. Along with *My Body Holds Its Shape*, visitors can visit *They Do Not Understand Each Other*, a group exhibition of contemporary art focusing on the issue of cultural exchange and (mis)communication, co-presented by the National Museum of Art, Osaka and Singapore Art Museum.

The entire site of Tai Kwun is open to the public daily from 10am to 11pm, while JC Contemporary is open from 11am to 8pm daily (except Monday from 2pm to 8pm). Visitors are encouraged to book their free Tai Kwun Pass online via

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https://www.taikwun.hk/en/visit/taikwun_pass prior to visiting for guaranteed admission. Walk-ins are also welcome, subject to site capacity conditions.

Please note that appropriate sanitary measures are in place with regards to the ongoing coronavirus situation.

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Editor's notes:

Please click [here](#) to download exhibition guide, and hi-res images with captions.

Tai Kwun — Centre for Heritage and Arts

Opened in May 2018, Tai Kwun — Centre for Heritage and Arts is the fruition of a joint partnership between The Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Government of the HKSAR to conserve and revitalise the buildings of the Central Police Station (CPS) compound. The site is managed and operated by The Jockey Club CPS Limited.

The CPS compound comprises three declared monuments (the former Central Police Station, Central Magistracy and Victoria Prison), with a total of 16 heritage buildings and some outdoors spaces, on a 13,600 square-metre site in the heart of Central. An international-grade non-commercial art gallery and an auditorium have been added to contribute to the adaptive reuse of the site.

Tai Kwun is the colloquial name used by police officers and the public alike to refer to the former police headquarters and the surrounding CPS compound. The name has been adopted by The Jockey Club CPS Limited as a reminder of the historical importance of the site.

In 2019, Tai Kwun received the Award of Excellence in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation in recognition of its achievement in conservation and revitalisation. This is the Awards' highest honour.

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