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PRESS KIT

FIONA TAN . GEOGRAPHY OF TIME
20/02/2016 – 28/08/2016

Press release

FIONA TAN GEOGRAPHY OF TIME

Exhibition from February 20 to August 28 2016

Curators Christophe Gallois, Eva Klerck Gange

Associated curators Sarah Beaumont


The work of Fiona Tan, with its characteristic visual richness and singular temporalities, examines complex issues such as the relationship between personal and collective history, the presence of the past in the present, the intertwinement of memory and forgetfulness, and the porous nature of identity. As epitomized by *Vox Populi*, a series of works each consisting of several hundreds of photographs borrowed from the family albums of inhabitants of a given city or country, these concerns revolve essentially around the question of the gaze – the way in which we look at images and, through them, at the world that surrounds us, but also the way in which images, like mirrors, sometimes seem to look back at us.

The exhibition *Geography of Time*, which brings together ten works made between 2000 and 2013, highlights the importance in the artist's practice of the intimate links that connect individuals to the space and time they inhabit. The works in this survey, evoking diverse influences such as historic Dutch painting or modern photographers such as August Sander, encourage viewers to reconsider the very idea of portraiture as a fixed entity and focus instead on its permeable, evasive and evanescent dimension. Whether imaginary or real, the protagonists around which Fiona Tan constructs her video installations are often at the centre of the image, as in the six filmed portraits of inhabitants of Amsterdam that form *Provenance*, or in *Nellie*, a portrait of Cornelia van Rijn, Rembrandt's illegitimate daughter, who emigrated to Indonesia at the age of sixteen. In other works, their presence becomes manifest through their absence, as in *Inventory*, which combines sequences shot inside Sir John Soane's Museum in London.

Fiona Tan describes time as 'both a tool with which to shape and chisel, and a material to fold, distort and configure'. Each of the works in this exhibition offers one possible manifestation of this approach to time. As the essence of the videographic or photographic medium, time is considered in its subjective nature – through its lapses, omissions, reoccurrences, slow motions, repetitions, discrepancies, simultaneities, and coincidences. This 'geography of time' is inscribed in the very form of Fiona Tan's works, the editing of her video installations, their spatial and architectural dimensions, the ambiguous relationships they establish between the still and the moving image (which the artist refers to as 'photographic moments'), and the gaps they open up between image and sound.

Fiona Tan was born in 1966 in Pekan Baru, Indonesia. She lives and works in Amsterdam.

Exhibition in collaboration with : National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo. MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main. Tel Aviv Museum of Art.

With the support of:  **M**
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HISTORY'S FUTURE

BY FIONA TAN

ON 02.03.2016

Fiona Tan is best known for her skilfully crafted video installations in which explorations of memory, time, history and the role of the visual are pivotal. In 2015, she realised her first feature film, *History's Future*, which presents the odyssey of a man known only as "MP" (Missing Person) through a Europe in turmoil. The screening of the film at Ciné Utopia as part of the Luxembourg City Film Festival will be preceded by a discussion with the artist at Mudam, in the context of her exhibition *Geography of Time*, creating a link between these two aspects of her practice: visual arts and film.

6 pm - 7 pm

Discussion between Fiona Tan and Christophe Gallois

Mudam Auditorium (EN)

9 pm

Screening of *History's Future* (2015) by Fiona Tan

Feature-length film 95 min.

(EN/DE/FR/NL, subtitles: FR)



Fiona Tan, *History's Future*, 2015, © Fiona Tan

Ciné Utopia 16, avenue de la Faïencerie L-1510 Luxembourg
(Internationale premiere)

Within the framework of Luxembourg City Film Festival, 25.02.2016 – 06.03.2016, www.luxfilmfest.lu



PUBLICATION

Jointly published by the four partner museums of the exhibition, the publication *Fiona Tan - Geography of Time* includes six new and richly illustrated essays which broach notions that permeate Fiona Tan's work, such as its temporal and cinematic dimension and the gaze or focus on specific projects, such as the ambitious *Vox Populi* series and the video installation *Nellie*. Together these texts offer a wide panorama of the artist's practice from her early works addressing the question of archive to her most recent installations *Ghost Dwellings*.

Authors

Eva Klerck Gange, Christophe Gallois, Peter Gorschlüter, Angela Jerardi,
Jenny Hval, Ruth Direktor

In English, German, Norwegian and Hebrew

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FIONA TAN



WORKS PRESENTED IN THE EXHIBITION

FOYER



Vox Populi London, 2012

Photographic installation

264 individually framed colour photographs

13 x 18 cm each

Overall dimensions: 230 x 750 cm

Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London

Installation view

© Photo: Kate Elliott / Photographers Gallery, London



Vox Populi Tokyo, 2007 (détail)

Photographic installation

305 individually framed colour photographs

13 x 18 cm each

Overall dimensions: 230 x 850 cm

Courtesy the artist, Frith Street Gallery, London

and Wako Works of Art, Tokyo

© Photo: Hiroshima Museum of Art



Vox Populi Sydney, 2006 (détail)

Photographic installation

301 individually framed colour photographs

13 x 18 cm each

Overall dimensions: 230 x 850 cm

Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London

© Photo: Sydney Biennale

AUDITORIUM



Kingdom of Shadows, 2000

Documentary film

Black & white, colour, stereo sound

50 min

Digital betacam safety master

Courtesy the artist, Frith Street Gallery, London and Wako

Works of Art, Tokyo

© Photo: Sparnestadt Fotoarchiefn

GALLERY 1



Nellie, 2013

Video installation

Colour, stereo sound

3 min 9 sec, looped

Safety master, video projector, media player,
amplifier, stereo speakers

Dimensions variable

Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London

© Photo: Fiona Tan



Diptych, 2006 – 2011 (detail)

HD video installation

Colour, stereo sound

29 min 38 sec, looped

2 digital safety masters, 2 sync media players, 2 16:10 HD
projectors, 4 rear projection screens, 90 x 67,5 cm each

Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London

© Photo: Gert Jan Rooij and Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam



Island, 2008

HD video installation

Black & white, 5:1 surround sound

15 min

Digital safety master, HD projector, hard disc player,
surround amplifier, surround speakers

Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London

©Photo: Per Kristiansen

GALLERY 2



Provenance, 2008 (detail)

Digital installation

Black & white, silent

3 min 36 sec to 5 min 10 sec, looped

6 digital film file safety masters, LCD monitor 17", LCD monitor 19", 4 LCD monitors 21", 6 mini computers, cables, mounts

Collection National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo

© Photo: Fiona Tan



A Lapse of Memory, 2007

HD video installation, colour, 5:1 surround sound

24 min, looped

Digital safety master, HD projector, hard disc player, surround amplifier, surround speakers

Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London

© Photo: Fiona Tan



Inventory, 2012

HD and video installation

Colour, stereo sound

16 min 30 sec

6 safety masters, 3 3:4 video projectors, 3 16:9 HD projectors, 6 sync media players, network hub, amplifier, stereo speakers

Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London

© Photo: Frith Street Gallery, London

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Address and information

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t. +352 45 37 85 1, info@mudam.lu, www.mudam.lu

Opening hours

Wednesday - Friday: 11am-8pm
Saturday - Monday: 11am-6pm
Public holidays: 11am-6pm
Closed on Tuesday and 25.12

Entrance fee

Adults	7 €
Under 26 years old, groups	5 €
Mudami card (valid 1 year for 2 persons)	50 €
Under 21 years old	free
Students under 26 years old	free
Wednesday, 6pm-8pm	free

By car

Kirchberg -> Avenue John F. Kennedy -> Philharmonie -> Tunnel -> Mudam
GPS : X 49.62 - Y 6.14

Parking

Parking Trois Glands

Images

Available on request

Press contact

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MUDAM THANKS

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