

TAI KWUN CONTEMPORARY LAUNCHES MYTH MAKERS—SPECTROSYNTHESIS III
(24 Dec 2022 to 10 Apr 2023)

The first major survey exhibition on LGBTQ+ perspectives in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, 23 December 2022, Friday



Tai Kwun Contemporary is proud to present *Myth Makers—Spectrosynthesis III*, the first major survey exhibition on LGBTQ+ perspectives in Hong Kong. Curated by Inti Guerrero and Chantal Wong, and co-presented with Sunpride Foundation, *Myth Makers* circles around the core notion of “queer mythologies”. At the same time, the exhibition explores contemporary mythologies and practices of the body by gathering a diverse range of artistic vocabularies related to LGBTQ+ perspectives from over 60 artists from Asia and its diasporas. *Myth Makers* includes over 100 artworks in all Tai Kwun Contemporary galleries, with one third of the works loaned from Sunpride’s collection; the exhibition expands on the “Spectrosynthesis” series, starting with Taipei, Bangkok, and now Hong Kong. Moreover, a publication collaboration with Queer Reads Library is also featured.

Myth Makers draws inspiration from artists addressing “queer mythologies”, who highlight either same-sex love/desire or gender fluidity as found in ancient belief systems and traditions in Asia. The exhibition also foregrounds the “new traditions” of our times, of spectacle and celebrity, playful and/or transgressive, along with non-normative bodily practices and histories in artworks by contemporary artists. The exhibition unfolds through three distinctive chapters and encompasses more than 100 works, which include new productions, historical works from the 1940s to the 1990s, and artworks on loan from the collection of the Sunpride Foundation. In bringing together such a plethora of artistic perspectives and vocabularies, *Myth Makers* endeavours to present a multiplicity of conversations, representations, and anti-representations of stories, individuals and communities. While the bulk of the exhibition focuses on living artists, some visionary and transformative figures of the past will also be underscored, including artists who lived in times when present-day LGBTQ+ identifications were not possible.

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Chapter 1 Queer Mythologies: On and Off the Stage

“Queer Mythologies: On and Off the Stage” brings together artists who evoke mythological figures, creation stories, and traditions based on homoeroticism, androgyny, cross-dressing, and gender ambiguity. In doing so, they probe the possibilities of “queering” dominant cultural values—including religion—and highlight queer mythological representations that already exist in traditions across Asia. In counterpoint, other artists playfully unpack idol veneration in contemporary celebrity culture, a mass cultural formation with a significant role in weaving contemporary mythologies, which bind collective identities across the continent.

Chapter 2 Body Politics: Criminalisation, Control, and Counter-Narratives

“Body Politics: Criminalisation, Control, and Counter-Narratives” is firmly weighed down by the violence of history, delving into body politics, power, control, and criminalisation. Such themes moreover reflect the historic location of F Hall: originally a government printing shop, F Hall was later turned into a reception and fingerprinting office with remand cells as well as visitation booths. The physical venue thus offers a historical prism through which to engage the curatorial theme.

Chapter 3 Queer Futurities: Dematerialisation, Transformation, and New Vocabularies

“Queer Futurities: Dematerialisation, Transformation, and New Vocabularies” presents a darkness that suggests without revealing, for obscurity brings a sense of freedom, self-determination, and disinhibition. The body alludes and is alluded to, forming a ground for exploration and potentiality. By darkening the gallery space, the body is removed from sight, opening up the possibility for new meanings and horizons; at the same time, one moves away from a notion of the body as stable—in the imagination of Eurocentric science and medicine—or as sacred, as taught by different religions. On the contrary, the body is reconceived as a site of transformation and potentiality, made up of cells, atoms, organs: a site that can be disassembled, re-designed, and morphed. It is not a limit but a ground to be reclaimed.

Over the course of the exhibition, Tai Kwun Contemporary will also host a wide range of public programming and educational events. These include “Tai Kwun Conversations” series; “Myth Makers After Hours” in collaboration with Dr. Sonia Wong, *Corrupt the Youth*, and various guests, deconstructs the world of *Myth Makers* from the perspectives of literature, philosophy, subculture and gender studies; Teacher’s Morning and Teacher’s Workshop; Family Day; other guided public tours. (See appendix)

Already rich in its gender offerings, the current heritage exhibition *Gender & Space* (until 15 January 2023) explores the contrasting elements of the former prison compound’s masculine and female traits. Past exhibitions have explored issues related to the body and sexuality at Tai Kwun, including; *Performing Society: The Violence of Gender* in 2019, which articulated power and made traces of brutality that had previously been concealed and rendered invisible, and, as well as *My Body Holds Its Shape* in 2020 and *trust & confusion* in 2021.

This exhibition contains sensitive and sexually explicit content that may not be suitable for children or young adults.



Exhibiting artists include

Bunny Cadag, Oscar Chan Yik Long, Shu Lea Cheang, Christopher Cheung, Isaac Chong Wai, Club Ate (Justin Shoulder & Bhenji Ra), Roy Dib, Jes Fan, Chitra Ganesh, Sadao Hasegawa, Fan Chon Hoo, Hosoe Eikoh, Hou Chun-Ming, Yuen Hsieh, Andrew Thomas Huang, Bones Tan Jones, Siren Eun Young Jung, Bhupen Khakhar, Jiaming Liao, Amy Lien & Enzo Camacho, Zihan Loo, Ly Tran Quynh Giang, Zoë Marden & Sonia Wong Yuk Ying, Josef Ng, Patrick Ng Kah Onn, Alfonso Ossorio, Beatrix Pang, Ellen Pau, Sornchai Phongsa, Khairullah Rahim, Ren Hang, Anne Samat, Joshua Serafin, Tejal Shah, Shang Liang, Raqib Shaw, Sin Wai Kin, Sputniko!, Ho Tam, Hiram To, Kwong Chi Tseng, Virtue Village, Danh Võ, Wang Shui, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Ka Ying Wong, Martin Wong, Wu Jiaru, Xiyadie, Maru Yacco, Yau Ching, Trevor Yeung, Alex Yiu & Kei Ying Wong, Kohei Yoshiyuki, Samson Young, Zheng Bo, Bruno Zhu

Myth Makers—Spectrosynthesis III

24 December 2022–10 April 2023
11:00am-7:00pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
Closed on Mondays
Tai Kwun Contemporary

Special holiday schedule: open on public holidays (24–27 December 2022 and 1–2 January 2023) but closed for maintenance on 28 December 2022 and 3 January 2023.

For Chinese New Year, the galleries are closed on 22–23 January and 26 January 2023.

www.taikwun.hk

About the curator

Inti Guerrero

Independent curator and art historian, Inti Guerrero has curated exhibitions across Asia, Europe, and Latin America. He was the artistic Director of *bap - bellas artes* projects in the Philippines (2018–2022), the Estrellita B. Brodsky Adjunct Curator at Tate, London (2016–2020), curator of the 38th EVA International, Limerick (2018) and Artistic Director of TEOR/éTica, San Jose. He has also curated or co-curated many exhibitions around the world, including: “Soil and Stones, Souls and Songs” (touring at MCAD, Manila, Para Site, Hong Kong, and Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, 2016–2017); “Afterwork” (touring at Para Site, Hong Kong; and ILHAM, Kuala Lumpur, 2016–2017); “A Journal of the Plague Year” (touring at Para Site, Hong Kong; The Cube, Taipei; Arko Art Center, Seoul; and Kadist Art Foundation and The Lab, San Francisco; 2013–2015). He has edited and contributed his writing to numerous books, magazines, and exhibition catalogues and has taught and lectured at different universities, art academies, and institutions. Recently, he was named co-Artistic Director of the upcoming 24th Biennale of Sydney (2024).

Chantal Wong

Chantal Wong is the co-founder of three charities in Hong Kong: Things That Can Happen, an art space set up to connect art to the socio-political context of the city; Learning Together, empowering refugee and asylum seeker youth to take on leadership through access to



education, scholarships, and leadership training; and Women’s Festival, a platform promoting gender awareness and equality through public discourse. She is a Ford Global Fellow, a global community working to combat inequality brought together by the Ford Foundation.

From 2017 to 2021 she was the founding director of culture at Eaton in Hong Kong, a purpose-driven hospitality brand where she led a culture and programming team to transform the property into a champion for creativity, artistic experimentation and safe-space for intersectional communities, in particular those who have been historically marginalised, and activists. Prior to this she worked with Asia Art Archive, a research centre and archive of modern and contemporary art from Asia as head of strategy helping to build up an invaluable resource for the (re)writing of histories with post-colonial perspectives from the region.

Visitor information

The entire site of Tai Kwun is open to the public daily from 8am to 11pm, while Tai Kwun Contemporary at JC Contemporary is open from Tuesdays to Sundays from 11am to 7pm.

Tai Kwun’s social distancing measures comply with the latest safety regulations. Please check the Tai Kwun website for the latest anti-pandemic arrangements: https://www.taikwun.hk/en/visit/visiting_tai_kwun.

Programme details are subject to change, so please refer to the Tai Kwun website for news and updates.

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Editor’s notes:

Please click [here](#) to download the hi-res images with captions.

Tai Kwun — Centre for Heritage and Arts

Tai Kwun is Hong Kong’s Centre for Heritage and Arts — a cultural destination for inspiration, stimulation and enjoyment. We aspire to offer the best heritage and arts experiences, and to cultivate knowledge and appreciation of contemporary art, performing arts and history in the community.

Tai Kwun invites all visitors on a journey of discovery that unites across multiple genres of arts, heritage, culture and lifestyle in Hong Kong. Here, visitors will discover the rich heritage of the site through the thematic exhibitions and immersive public programmes that explore Hong Kong’s history and culture, alongside a multitude of vibrant and inclusive contemporary art presentations and performing arts offerings all year round.

Opened in May 2018 and operating on a not-for-profit model, Tai Kwun 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 historic Central Police Station compound, which represents one of the most significant revitalisation projects in Hong Kong. The site comprises three Declared Monuments of Hong Kong — the former Central Police Station, Central Magistracy and Victoria Prison — all have been meticulously conserved, with unflinching attention to authenticity. The site also includes two new buildings — JC Contemporary and JC Cube, by renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron — and several



outdoor spaces – Parade Ground, Prison Yard and Laundry Steps – providing an exciting venue for the public programmes presented by Tai Kwun and its partners.

Tai Kwun, which means “big station” in Chinese, is the colloquial name used by Hong Kong people to refer to the former police headquarters and the surrounding compound. The name has been adopted as a reminder of the historical importance of this living heritage site.

In 2019, Tai Kwun received the Award of Excellence in the 2019 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. This is the highest honour of the prestigious Awards, which bestows an international recognition of the outstanding achievement in the conservation and revitalisation efforts of Tai Kwun.

Tai Kwun Contemporary is the not-for-profit visual art programme of Tai Kwun. Realising six to eight exhibitions a year and curatorially driven, Tai Kwun Contemporary showcases and commissions artists from Hong Kong and beyond, while offering an extensive range of public programming. With the aspiration to contribute to and transform the experience and understanding of contemporary art in Hong Kong, Tai Kwun Contemporary is devoted to inspiring the Hong Kong public with an inquisitive attitude and committed to offering a conducive platform for learning and experimentation.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.TaiKwun.hk>.

About Sunpride Foundation

Sunpride Foundation was launched in 2014 with the mission to embrace and promote the rich, creative history of the LGBTQ community. The Foundation aims to foster a stronger, healthier, and more equitable world for LGBTQ people and their allies and to encourage and inspire a generation of young artists to take action and create positive changes to the LGBTQ+ experience by exhibiting and preserving art that speaks to society at large. In 2017, Sunpride Foundation and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei co-hosted *Spectrosynthesis – Asian LGBTQ Issues and Art Now*, the first LGBTQ-themed exhibition staged in an art museum in Asia. Two years later, the Foundation and Bangkok Art and Culture Centre presented *Spectrosynthesis II – Exposure of Tolerance: LGBTQ in Southeast Asia*, the largest-ever survey of regional contemporary art exploring lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and queer creative history in Southeast Asia and beyond.

For more information, please contact:

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