

# PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong SOHO

## The Interstitial:

ALAN KWAN and KENNY WONG two-person exhibition



Left: ALAN KWAN b. 1990, *The Hallway*, 2016. Video game Installation

Right: KENNY WONG b. 1987, *Last Walk on Thirteen Streets*, 2016. Staircase, microcomputer, custom software, LCD panels, solenoid, microcontroller, custom electronics, steel

Exhibition Dates	22 July–15 September, 2016 Monday–Saturday, noon–7pm; Sunday, noon–5pm
Venue	Pearl Lam Galleries Hong Kong SOHO No. 1, G/F & 1/F, SOHO 189, 189 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan

---

Hong Kong—Pearl Lam Galleries is delighted to bring together the work of Alan Kwan (b. 1990) and Kenny Wong (b. 1987), two young artists from Hong Kong, for a joint exhibition entitled *The Interstitial/Interstitial Space*. Taking place 22 July–15 September, the exhibition will feature a series of installations, prints, and video games by the artists, who will present a dialogue about the interstitial space between the physical and the virtual to narrate emotion and memory.

The exhibition will showcase works from various stages of the artists' careers and will use computational technologies to compose motion, memories, and ideas from the imagination in dynamic and fluid forms. The use of computer software accurately simulates physical phenomena, but the two artists will attempt to excavate beyond the material nature of reality to assess our psychological and emotional conditions. By creating a displacement from the objects of our lived environment, the works on display will explore the mental state of "stuckness", as well as the space in the artists' minds, presenting unsettled feelings and recollections that allow for further exploration. The works of these artists naturally intersect, placing us in an in-between state and making us ponder the inherent bodily and psychological qualities that structure our perception in real time.

Exhibition highlights will include Alan Kwan's *The List* (2008), a video work that served as a suicide note created by the artist when he was 18. The video lists the names of the women Kwan loved at the time and is a piece about love, confession, and honesty.

Also on display by Kwan will be *The Hallway* (2016), a single-player video game inspired by Kwan's childhood experiences, in which the player assumes the perspective of a five-year-old child who has wandered into the hallway outside his home, having been kicked out by his father. The player encounters evocative spaces that give concrete shape to childhood experiences of rejection and insecurity, and is forced to confront spatial paradoxes that allow them to share the anxiety felt by the child.

Kwan has also drawn on his own speech impediment to create other works in the exhibition. In *The Words After* (2016), footage of the artist stuttering is pieced together from a previous documentary work that involved the artist attaching a video camera to his glasses. The artist has edited the footage, causing it to visually stutter, while also amplifying and exaggerating his own speech in order to express the anger and anxiety caused by difficulties in verbal communication.

Kenny Wong explores the delicate relationship between daily experiences and perceptual stimulations, merging kinetic and digital representation to create computational kinetic installations. Presented at this exhibition will be *Last Walk on Thirteen Streets* (2016). Shot in the Thirteen Streets area in To Kwa Wan in Hong Kong, four customised kinetic LCD panels that incline randomly will be placed on stairs, and will show a continuous loop of a man endlessly walking down some stairs. The random movement of the screens gives the illusion of the man's descent down the stairs. The work explores the interchange and relationship between the real and virtual space, or reality and dreams. Another highlight will be Wong's *Dist* (2016), an ongoing project that includes *dist.solo*, *dist.intervene*, and *dist.duo* (a future project). *Dist.solo* involves an LCD panel, featuring close-up video of a pair of eyes, suspended from a pendulum. The work is inspired from the moment of intimacy that occurs when two people make eye contact and the indefinite variables in relationships. *Dist* combines rational and irrational rules, expressing the artist's personal feelings towards human relationships.

"It is a pleasure to welcome two young artists from Hong Kong to SOHO 189 for their first joint exhibition, as Pearl Lam Galleries is dedicated to discovering fresh, new talent. Both of these artists harness new digital mediums to explore human nature and emotion in a powerful manner, and I believe that the works on display will resonate with a wide-ranging audience."

—Pearl Lam

## About the Artists

### Alan Kwan

Alan Kwan was born in 1990 in Hong Kong. Kwan attained his BA in Creative Media at City University of Hong Kong in 2012, followed by an MSc in Art, Culture and Technology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA, USA in 2016. Kwan currently lives and works in Boston, MA, USA.

Alan Kwan transforms his personal experiences through the mediums of film, video games, and immersive virtual reality to study the nature of pain, human memories, and simulation technology. Kwan is an independent filmmaker, as well as a media artist. With more than 10 years of filmmaking experience, he wanted to use technology to bring cinema to another level, which prompted him to transfer invented ideas from real life to film. In Kwan's work *Bad Trip* (2012), the artist used a video camera mounted on his glasses to document his life. Having started this in November 2011, the artist has produced an expanding database of digitised visual memories. Using custom virtual reality software, Kwan has created a virtual mindscape that people can navigate to experience the artist's memories and dreams. The virtual world is perpetually evolving as he loads fresh virtual memories every night.

Kwan's previous projects were shown at international venues including the Ars Electronica Centre in Austria, the ZKM Centre for Art and Media in Germany, and the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Shanghai. In 2015, Kwan was awarded first prize by the MIT Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts. Other recent accomplishments and awards include the Asian Cultural Council Fellowship and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council Award for Young Artists (Media Art) for his body of work that combines art and technology.

## Kenny Wong

Kenny Wong was born in 1987 in Hong Kong. Wong's works explore the delicate relationship between daily experiences and perceptual stimulations by hybridising analogue and digital representations.

Wong is interested in exploring visual patterns, motions, and sound textures, as well as presenting works in the form of computational kinetic sculptures. Wong actively works as a collaborating artist, multimedia designer, mechanical engineer/designer, and art researcher.

Wong's solo and collaborative works have been exhibited in over 10 countries, including Ars Electronica Festival (Austria), WRO Media Art Biennale (Poland), Athens Video Art Festival (Greece), Phoenix Cinema and Art Centre (UK), BIAN Montreal (Canada), LOOP Barcelona (Spain), FILE Festival (Brazil), 404 Festival (Argentina), Seoul International NewMedia Festival (Korea) and numerous important exhibitions in Hong Kong. Wong has named one of the Golden 15, as part of the 3rd International Emerging Artist Award (Dubai). He also received the Award for Young Artist 2014, Media Arts (Hong Kong) and was unanimously selected for the Bloomberg Digital Arts Initiative 2013 (Hong Kong).

Wong is currently pursuing his MFA in Sculpture at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada. He was a part-time Lecturer at the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong in 2015. Wong received his BA in Creative Media from the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong in 2011.

## About Pearl Lam Galleries

Founded by Pearl Lam, Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. With over 20 years of experience exhibiting Asian and Western art and design, it is one of the leading and most established contemporary art galleries to be launched out of China.

Playing a vital role in stimulating international dialogue on Chinese and Asian contemporary art, the Galleries is dedicated to championing artists who re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice from the region. The Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore collaborate with renowned curators, each presenting distinct programming from major solo exhibitions, special projects, and installations to conceptually rigorous group shows. Based on the philosophy of Chinese Literati where art forms have no hierarchy, Pearl Lam Galleries is dedicated to breaking down boundaries between different disciplines, with a unique gallery model committed to encouraging cross-cultural exchange.

The four branches of Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore represent an increasingly influential roster of contemporary artists. Chinese artists Zhu Jinshi and Su Xiaobai, who synthesise Chinese sensibilities with an international visual language, are presented internationally with work now included in major private and public collections worldwide. The Galleries has also introduced leading international artists, such as Jenny Holzer, Leonardo Drew, Carlos Rolón/Dzine and Yinka Shonibare MBE, to markets in the region, providing opportunities for new audiences in Asia to encounter their work. Pearl Lam Galleries encourages international artists to create new work which engages specifically with the region, collaborating to produce thought-provoking, culturally relevant work.

---

## Press Enquiries

Eleanor Porter / SUTTON  
[eleanor@suttonpr.com](mailto:eleanor@suttonpr.com) / +852 2528 0792

Alberta Leung / Pearl Lam Galleries (Hong Kong SOHO)  
[alberta@pearllamgalleries.com](mailto:alberta@pearllamgalleries.com) / +852 2857 1328