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The Unwanted Population: An Autopsy, Excavation and Intervention of A Forgotten History



Tiffany Chung, 13 Oct 2013 NY Times/ UNHCR: Syria 4,250,000; Jordan 543,000; Turkey 504,000; Lebanon 790,000; Iraq 197,000; Egypt 126,000, 2014. Oil and ink on vellum and paper

*Evening discussion with artist Tiffany Chung
 Drinks Reception 6:30pm;
 Discussion 7:00pm;
 Close 8:00pm*

Transgressing space and time, the body of ongoing works by Tiffany Chung unveil the connection between imperialist ideology and vision of modernity. In this evening dialogue, Chung will discuss her ongoing project of tracking the current Syrian humanitarian crisis in concurrence with her in-depth study of the Vietnam mass exodus between 1975-1995, by reading selected entries from her upcoming monograph and research notes. The aftermath of the Vietnam Conflict and the new government's denial of antithetical ideologies and refusal of harboring people with different views in postwar Vietnam led to a mass outflow of almost two million boat people with an estimated one third dying at sea. An immense number of the populations of Syria and Iraq are being driven out of their homeland as a result of the colonial partitioning in the Middle East [1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement] and the failure of the Arab world to confront the divergence in its own social fabric, reveals that history repeats itself time and again. The current crisis provides different perspectives for looking into Vietnam conflict, through which Chung's personal refugee experience can be analyzed and understood within a larger global context. Her interest in imposed political borders and their horrendous, traumatic impacts on different groups of human populations have underpinned her commitment to exploring and recording other histories. These projects function as a form of protesting – a protest against politically driven historical amnesia, a protest against the politics of memory and forgetting.

EVENT DETAILS

30 October 2015
 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Asia Society Hong Kong Center,
 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty

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HK\$200 Asia Society members; HK\$250 Non-members

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Tiffany Chung is one of Vietnam's most respected and internationally active contemporary artists. She is noted for her cartographic drawings, sculptures, videos, photographs, and theater performances that examine conflict, displacement, migration, urban progress and transformation in relation to history and cultural memory. Chung's work studies the geographical shifts in countries that were traumatized by war, human destruction or natural disaster. Her map drawings layer different periods in the history of devastated topographies, reflecting the impossibility of accurately creating cartographic representations of most places. Her maps interweave historical and geologic events, spatial and sociopolitical changes with future predictions, revealing cartography as a discipline that draws on the realms of perception and fantasy as much as geography.

Chung holds an MFA from University of California, Santa Barbara (2000) and a BFA from California State University, Long Beach (1998). She was awarded the Sharjah Biennial Artist Prize in 2013. Selected recent museum exhibitions and biennials include: All The World's Futures, 56th Venice Biennale, Italy (2015); Our Land/Alien Territory, a special project of the 6th Moscow Biennale, Museum & Exhibition Center 'Manege', Moscow, Russia (2015); I Bienal del Sur: Pueblos en Resistencia, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela (2015); My Voice Would Reach You, Rice University & Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA (2014); Residual: Disrupted Choreographies, Carré d'Art - Musée d'Art Contemporain, Nimes, France (2014); and THREADS, Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, Netherlands (2014).

Chung has held solo exhibitions at CAMP (Center for Art on Migration Politics), Copenhagen, Denmark (2015); Tyler Rollins Fine Art, New York (2010, 2012 & 2015); mc2 gallery, Milan, Italy (2014); Lieu-Commun Espace d'Art Contemporain, Toulouse, France (2014); Galerie Quynh, HCMC, Vietnam (2013); and Fukagawa Tokyo Modan Kan, Tokyo, Japan (2011).

Tiffany Chung is a co-founder of Sàn Art, an independent, artist-initiated, non-profit gallery space & reading room in Hochiminh City, Vietnam.