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JUST A MATTER OF TIME

Text: EDMUND LEE



DAYS PUSH OFF INTO NIGHTS Spring Workshop

DURING THE NEXT two months, visitors to Spring Workshop – the host of one of Hong Kong's best multidisciplinary residency programmes – will be offered moments of reflection and reminded of the elusive moments that pass unnoticed in their busy lives.

Called "Days push off into nights", the group exhibition, which presents artworks and performances, is set to tackle two dimensions of time. It does this by documenting times past and showing works and



PRECIOUS MOMENTS: Magdalen Wong's Golden Curtain unfurls to mark the passing of time. Subway Writers (top) was photographed in New York.

scenarios that keep changing over the duration of the exhibition.

"The works point to an array of quiet quotidian moments that we commonly encounter. They are presented as enriching and lyrical experiences," says curator Christina Li, who will further explore the relationship between art objects and ephemeral events when she commences a one-year directorship at Spring in August.

"It is also a reflection and an emphasis on the value and meaning of solitude, writing – as a form of selfexpression – and self-reflection, all of which are rare in our fast-paced lives."

Most works at the exhibition are existing pieces that will be given a new, site-specific treatment. But there is a new commission for local artist Lee Kit, which he will create during his stay at Spring Workshop.

Cevdet Erek's performative work SSS/Shore Scene Soundtrack (2012) will be interpreted during the February 28 opening by local musicians. Meanwhile, Elmgreen & Dragset's new production Hong Kong Diaries – based on a project they presented in Paris in 2003 and Istanbul in 2013 – will be given a local context by using five Hong Kong residents as diarists. The artists' everyday experience of repose is a key theme of the show. Installed in front of a row of windows in the exhibition space, Magdalen Wong's minimalist *Golden Curtain* (2011) is made out of metallic tapes that gradually unfurl and cover the windows, serving as tangible markings of time's passage.

The idea of contemplation is also evoked in Moyra Davey's *Subway Writers* (2011), a series of photographs of commuters writing on the New York subway. Drawing on the history of mail art, the photos have been creased, stamped and scuffed as a result of being posted as letter wrappers.

"These works relate to everyday situations, such as sitting in the MTR, reading and writing a diary," says Li. "They are not static objects. They are are vessels of past and present time within, and beyond, the exhibition at Spring Workshop."

Spring Workshop, 3/F Remex Centre, 42 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Tuesday-Sunday noon-6pm. February 28-April 26. Inquiries: 2110 4370