



For immediate release

Spring Workshop Fall Program Announcement

Des hôtes: a foreigner, a human, an unexpected visitor

September 19 – December 13, 2015

with Milena Bonilla, Kasper Bosmans, Raimundas Malašauskas,
Toshie Takeuchi, Luisa Ungar, Trevor Yeung, and Yu Honglei

Curated by Christina Li

Where does hospitality take place? This question is the cornerstone of Spring Workshop's fall program *Des hôtes: a foreigner, a human, an unexpected visitor*. The program takes its title from the French word *hôte*, which means both "host" and "guest". This is a starting point for contemplating the entanglements and blurred territories inherent to the politics of hospitality. *Des hôtes* considers how the definitions of host and guest can be expanded beyond the realms of domesticity and interpersonal relations. By tracing their manifestations through structures of cognitive meaning and behavior, as well as through our relationships with animals, it reveals how we receive and relate to one another as human beings.

The exhibition opens with a first cluster of existing and new artworks by **Kasper Bosmans**, **Toshie Takeuchi** and **Yu Honglei**, which situate the program's enquiry within the private sphere. Yu's uncanny sculptures and household ready-mades form a landscape of estrangement; Takeuchi's film installation and photograph series reflect on the permutations of human-canine relationships; Bosmans' new miniature paintings and sand carpets trace the domestic use of folk art in 18th-century kitchens and annotate his conversations with the curator on the material expression of hospitality and support.

Over the course of three months, the full exhibition gradually takes shape through an ongoing event program: Kasper Bosmans' guided tour of strange tales and anecdotes offers entry points into his paintings on themes from the exhibition; **Raimundas Malašauskas'** post-hypnosis session explores the threshold of our inner subjectivity; **Milena Bonilla** and **Luisa Ungar** invite audience members to join them for a performative gathering and engage in a chocolate scrying session; Luisa Ungar enlists the help of an expert in presenting research on relationships between public space and animality; and finally, **Trevor Yeung** solicits personal stories from

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other Lonesome Georges in the wild. The eventual artworks on view function as prompts for—and evidence of—these artist-led gatherings. Traversing the various circumstances where the host-guest status quo is stretched and ruptured, *Des hôtes* creates a web of relations that magnify the reality of how we negotiate our positions as eternal *hôtes*.

Fall program dates

Saturday September 12

Let's Talk With Our Mouths Full with Toshie Takeuchi

As a prelude to the exhibition and part of Spring's sporadic event series *Let's Talk With Our Mouths Full*, Toshie Takeuchi will share her work-in-progress over a casual dinner. Her project, *A house placed in between*, takes its starting point from a building — the former embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo — in The Hague, Netherlands, which has now been occupied by artists and musicians.

Saturday September 19

Rumored Ornamentation with Kasper Bosmans

As part of his contribution to the exhibition, Bosmans' guided tours will activate his set of miniature paintings entitled *Legend: des hôtes* that annotate his conversations with the curator. The opening performance presents a collection of enigmatic stories which bring together the agents and associative tales that materialized out of exchanges on the topics of hospitality, current affairs, recipes and weird accounts.

Saturday October 10

A Post-Hypnosis Session with Raimundas Malašauskas

Related to *The Hypnotic Show*—his project with Marcos Lutyens that offers a social structure for cognitive and sensual experiments through art and hypnosis—Malašauskas invites you to an event whose name you might forget, but whose feelings you might wish to practice.

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Saturday November 7

Lonesome and George with Trevor Yeung

Inspired by the story of Lonesome George, who was the last known specimen of a subspecies of Pinta Island tortoise, Trevor Yeung will embark on a search for other Lonesome Georges out in the wild, resulting in an evening of tales that Yeung will present in collaboration with a storyteller.

Friday and Saturday November 20 and 21

This Rabbit Looks To The Left: Chocolate Scrying with Milena Bonilla and Luisa Ungar

For this performative gathering, Milena Bonilla and Luisa Ungar invite guests to drink chocolate and take part in a public scrying. The hot chocolate leaves the stains necessary for images to turn into visions and conversations. The inapprehensible character of the liquid plays on fears, affections and expectations, whilst delving into both the past and future, if the cacao allows it.

Friday and Saturday November 27 and 28

Clapping Backwards with Luisa Ungar and expert-guest

Ungar and her invited guest will present their research on relationships between public space and animality. It follows from the studies called *Spontaneous innovation for future deception* (SIFFD) developed in various zoos around the world since the 1940s. On this occasion, the invited animal behavior specialist will focus on the way in which certain local wild species have adapted themselves to staged environments.

Program dates and time are subject to change. Check our website www.springworkshop.org for updates. Please RSVP at rsvp@springworkshop.org listing the event title in the subject line.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Christina Li and participating artists are available for interviews by request.

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Exhibition Opening Hours

September 19 (Sat) – December 13 (Sun), 12pm to 6pm
(Tuesday to Sunday, open on Public Holidays)

Opening Reception

September 19 (Sat), 12pm to 5pm

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ABOUT SPRING WORKSHOP

Spring Workshop is a cultural initiative that brings people together to experiment with the way we relate to art. Committed to an international cross-disciplinary program of artist and curatorial residencies, exhibitions, music, film and talks, Spring serves as a platform and laboratory for exchange between the vibrant artists, organizations and audiences that define Hong Kong's rich cultural landscape and the emerging and established artists, organizations and audiences around the world that seek to engage in far-reaching dialogue. Since opening its space in Wong Chuk Hang in 2011, Spring has welcomed over 8,000 audience members to its 184 programs and events featuring 160 artists, residents and collaborators.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MILENA BONILLA

Milena Bonilla (b. 1975, Bogota, Colombia) graduated in visual arts at the Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano in Bogota, Colombia, in 2000, and followed a post-academic course at the Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 2009-2010. Her current practice involves explorations on knowledge interpreted as a work force, and Nature as an entity colonized by language, consumed in a massive scale through images. The artist uses a variety of media in her production including installations, video, drawing, text, public interventions and photography. She currently lives and works in Amsterdam and has been making collaborative work with Luisa Ungar since 2013.

KASPER BOSMANS

Kasper Bosmans (b. 1990, Lommel, Belgium) is a shrewd observer of the ways in which images can teeter on the edge of nature and fiction, or art and craft. With an intuitive anthropological approach, he looks towards the remnants of local traditions and mythological iconography in contemporary life. Concerned with an associative

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beauty produced by play, Bosmans cuts across performance, painting, drawing, and sculptural installations made up of various components, such as milk, sand or marble – means through which he explores both functional and decorative forms, and evokes subtle correspondences between them. He lives and works in Brussels.

RAIMUNDAS MALASAUSKAS

Raimundas Malasauskas (b. 1973, Vilnius, Lithuania) works internationally and writes on a wide range of topics. His practice consciously expands what it means to curate, and interrogates how we all consume and participate in the production of culture. Malašauskas's notable projects include co-writing the libretto of *Cellar Door* (2007), an opera in Paris; producing a weekly television show; curating the Lithuanian and Cyprus Pavilions at the 55th Venice Biennale, Italy; and working as one of the agents for *dOCUMENTA (13)*. He lives and works in Brussels.

TOSHIE TAKEUCHI

Toshie Takeuchi (b. 1977, Aichi, Japan) mainly uses photography, video and performance in her works, that are based in theoretical, historical and philosophical research, as well as inspirations from people she interviews. Her main interest lies in exploring our fragile position and ambiguous territory in our physical and/or psychological space. Her works often stem from her own experiences in close and personal environments such as the uncertain relationships between man and animal, the private and the public and/or the self vs. the other as they are always uncertain. Thus, they create duality in man's identity. Through her artworks, she offers an alternative perception to the viewer when it comes to considering conventional values of property, thereby creating alternate journeys and narratives of thought. Takeuchi lives and works in Copenhagen.

LUISA UNGAR

Luisa Ungar (b. 1976, Bogota, Columbia) practice explores how social and cultural norms are constructed and institutionalised through language. Her recent work deals with narratives involving animality and the non-human. Looking at mechanisms and thought process that question ways in which western history is constructed, she often seeks to re-connect archived or academic material into everyday popular use. Her varied projects range from zoo visit guides to educational projects, using performance, installation, drawing and text. Luisa's work has been shown at CA2M Madrid, Marrakesh and Mercosul Biennial, Museo de arte Banco de República Bogotá, among other venues; she has been co editor of publication projects such as DISDISDIS (On vampires and other forms of conviviality), and Proyecto Asterisco. She received an MFA from Sandberg Institute (NL) and has been a resident at Gasworks (UK), and Resó (IT). Ungar lives and works in Amsterdam and since 2013 has been making collaborative work with Milena Bonilla.

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TREVOR YEUNG

Trevor Yeung (b. 1988, Guangdong Province, China) graduated from the Academy of Visual Arts of Hong Kong Baptist University in 2010. Since 2010, Yeung has focused on developing personal projects. Yeung's practice uses botanic ecology, horticulture, photography and installations as metaphors that reference the emancipation of everyday aspirations toward human relationships. Yeung recently participated in the Shanghai Biennale 2014 in China and a group exhibition at Witte de With in the Netherlands. He currently lives and works in Hong Kong.

YU HONGLEI

Yu Honglei (b. 1984, Inner Mongolia, China) combines order and emotional memory, and uses literary methods to produce a narrative atmosphere in his works. Through the selection of symbolic objects, the processing and transformation of materials, and intentional repetition and associations, Yu's artworks coalesce into a discourse of unfinished statements. These artworks explore the dialectical relationships between ideas and form. By deliberately situating the audience's points of view, his works explore the distances between degrees and methods as well as objective and subjective existence. He lives and works in Beijing.

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