



Para Site
藝術空間
P a r a S i t e

Islands Off the Shore of Asia

HONG KONG, July 31, 2014 – Para Site and Spring Workshop today announced their groundbreaking joint exhibition, *Islands off the Shore of Asia*, which opens 27 September and runs through 7 December. The show features several artists including Ming Wong, Pak Sheung Cheun, Rosa Barba, and Zheng Guogu and can be viewed at Spring Workshop, located in the Wong Chuk Hang industrial neighborhood of Hong Kong.

This innovative exhibition is based on the ideological, historical, mystical, and fictional interpretations of the remote and largely uninhabited islands claimed by different nations across East Asia. In recent years, these small islets have become the focus of growing nationalism in the region and vehicles through which countries are choosing to project national pride and power.

A diverse panel of international artists has contributed to the exhibition including Rosa Barba (Italy), Alvaro Barrios (Colombia), James T. Hong (Taiwan), Katsushika Hokusai (Japan), Kim Ki-Young (Korea), Takiji Kobayashi (Japan), Charles Lim (Singapore), Pak Sheung Cheun (Hong Kong), Howie Tsui (Hong Kong/Canada) Ming Wong (Singapore), and Zheng Guogu (China).

Curators for the show are Cosmin Costinas, Executive Director/Curator of Para Site and Inti Guerrero, Associate Artistic Director-Curator of TEOR/ética, Costa Rica.

The show represents the second phase of the widely acclaimed exhibition, *A Journal of the Plague Year: Fear, Ghosts, Rebels, SARS, Leslie, and the Hong Kong Story*, which last year launched at Para Site and is now showing through August 3 at The Cube Project Space in Taipei. Its next stop will be the Arko Art Centre in Seoul, where it will be open from 30 August to 16 November 2014.

For Part 2 of the exhibition, Spring and Para Site teamed up to use sci fi and fiction to explore the current ideological turn towards nationalism and confrontation in the region. While the previous show focused on Hong Kong's identity in the context of the SARS epidemic and the city's near shut down in 2003, the current exhibit explores the region's small, largely uninhabited islands, which are effectively invisible on maps but are now the object of territorial claims by every single nation in East Asia.

Costinas explains, “The show explores these small islands, sometimes referred to as “insignificant rocks” but increasingly seen as symbols of national pride – and insecurity. Inti Guerrero and I see this phenomenon as a dangerous sign of the future and hope the exhibition ignites a conversation about why these islands have taken on such an important role in regional politics. Is it chance or are there deeper reasons, rooted in myth and cultural tradition, that these previously invisible landmasses now attract the passion of so many?”

Mimi Brown, founder and director of Spring adds, “Since opening two years ago, Spring Workshop has been delighted to collaborate with Para Site on many projects and artist residencies, ranging from the performance program of *Tai ping Tianguo* to Ming Wong’s ongoing research residency. This upcoming exhibition will be our biggest partnership yet, and we look forward to contributing to Para Site’s excellent program in this way.”

About “A Journal of the Plague Year: Fear, Ghosts, Rebels, SARS, Leslie and the Hong Kong Story” in 2013

A Journal of the Plague Year: Fear, Ghosts, Rebel, SARS, Leslie and the Hong Kong Story starts with the turbulent events that impacted Hong Kong in the spring of 2003: the most significant airborne epidemic in recent years, SARS, coupled with the tragic death of pop figure and icon, Leslie Cheung. The unparalleled shutdown of the city and the atomization of society in quarantined segments led to an unexpected shift in the political awareness of Hong Kong citizens.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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EXHIBITION HOURS

September 27 – December 7
12pm to 6pm (Tuesday to Sunday, Open on Public Holidays)

ABOUT PARA SITE

Para Site is Hong Kong's leading contemporary art space and one of the oldest and most active independent art centres in Asia. It produces exhibitions, publications and discursive projects aimed at forging a critical understanding of local and international phenomena in art and society.

www.para-site.org.hk

ABOUT SPRING WORKSHOP

Spring is a non-profit arts space committed to an international cross-disciplinary program of artist and curatorial residencies, exhibitions, music, film and talks. Anchored in the Wong Chuk Hang industrial neighborhood of Hong Kong, it opened in its current layout in August 2012. Spring serves as a platform and laboratory for exchange between the vibrant artists and organizations of Hong Kong's rich cultural landscape and their international counterparts who seek to engage in far-reaching dialogue.

www.springworkshop.org

SPRING FACTS

Spring is located in a converted book warehouse within the industrial neighbourhood of Wong Chuk Hang, 15 minutes from Causeway Bay and 20 minutes from Central.

Features include:

- 14,500 sq ft total space
- 1,200 sq ft main exhibition space
- 4 working studios
- 2 terraces
- 1 lounge area
- 2 kitchens, fully equipped