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For immediate release

Spring Workshop Hong Kong Summer 2016 Program Announcement

Wong Wai Yin: Without Trying
August 20 – October 16, 2016

Spring Workshop is thrilled to announce the first solo show in 5 years of established Hong Kong artist Wong Wai Yin. The exhibition *Without Trying* is all new work, and marks a change in the direction of Wong's artistic practice as she introduces the profound ways that motherhood has transformed her personal convictions and philosophy on making art.

During her 5-year professional hiatus, Wong embarked on a learning adventure, taking lessons in dog training, spiritual response therapy (SRT), ukulele and French as she attempted to recalibrate herself to a new identity. The resulting videos, paintings and installations lay bare the ways in which she has come to terms with her fears and aspirations.

The works presented in *Without Trying* were created in part during her two-month residency at Spring Workshop this summer, and stem from ideas and life lessons she gleaned when the time and energy she had previously spent making art was usurped by childcare duties. With self-effacing humor, her videos dramatize the handful of ways in which she confronts her obstacles, which range from stomping on various foods to purge herself of negativity, to standing in 22-cm thick platforms in order to be taller than her partner, to filming herself in a permanent state of reincarnation where she surpasses personal hurdles via rebirth. Branching out from her personal catharses, Wong employs her newly-acquired SRT techniques on three close friends who are successful male figures on the art circuit to help them confront their own angst, and to figure out how they find purpose in making art.

In *Wish You Were Eternal*, an installation that enmeshes her old and new identities, Wong makes a grand gesture and annihilates a key obstacle tethering her to the past: her existing works. To say farewell to her creations, she invited a psychic medium to relay messages to her from the old works (2006 – 2013) before she chopped them up into shapes which she then entombed in a trio of wooden

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pyramids. As she lets go of—and simultaneously gives new life to— the relics of her past, Wong kicks off a new era in her life, where things happen without trying.

Wong Wai Yin is artist-in-residence at Spring Workshop from June through August 2016. The exhibition is curated by Christina Li, Director of Spring Workshop.

A publication featuring Wong Wai Yin's personal reflections on art-making will accompany the exhibition. It will be published in late September 2016.

Wong Wai Yin will present *Talking Archive* at Asia Art Archive (AAA) as part of their special programme series **15 Invitations for 15 Years** (September 26 – November 26, 2016). A two-part public program will be organized at Spring and AAA for this occasion. Please check our website www.springworkshop.org for updates.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, August 19, 2016

Press Luncheon

12.30pm – 2.00pm

Saturday, August 20, 2016

Exhibition opening

3.00 – 7.00pm

Saturday, September 24, 2016

3pm – 4pm (part of *South Island Cultural District Art Day program*)

** Program dates and time are subject to change. Check our website www.springworkshop.org for updates.*

Exhibition Opening Hours

August 20 (Sat) – October 16 (Sun), 12pm to 6pm
(Tuesday to Sunday, open on Public Holidays)

Opening Reception

August 20 (Sat), 3pm to 7pm

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Christina Li and Wong Wai Yin are available for interviews by request.

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 9,500 audience members to its 128 programs and events featuring 200 artists, residents and collaborators. In 2016, Spring Workshop received the Prudential Eye Award for Best Asian Contemporary Art Institution.

ABOUT WONG WAI YIN

WONG Wai Yin graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2004, and the University of Leeds, UK (Master of Fine Art) in 2005. Wong experiments with a variety of media, ranging from painting, sculpture, collage, installations and photography. Her work is about autobiographical experience, episodic memory and playful intervention with art history.

Wong's selected solo shows in Hong Kong and abroad include *Becoming a Different Person Might be Hard – A Painting Exhibition of Wong Wai Yin*, iPERCIATION (2011), *From Wong Wai Yin's Collection to the Hong Kong Art Archive*, Asia Art Archive (2011), *Woofers Café Ten*, Woofers Ten (2010) and *L'Écume des choses – l'art de Wong Wai Yin*, Observation Society, Guangzhou, China (2009).

Her works have been presented at Edouard Malingue Gallery, Hong Kong (2015), Para Site, Hong Kong (2015), Gallery EXIT, Hong Kong (2013), Osage Kwun Tong, Hong Kong (2013), M+, Hong Kong (2012), Collectors House,

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the Netherlands (2011), Taipei Biennial 2010, Taiwan (2010), OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, China (2010), International Studio & Curatorial Program, USA (2009), Chinese Art Centre, UK (2009), Worksound, USA (2008), Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong (2007), and MoCA Shanghai, China (2007). Wong is one of the co-founders of the Observation Society in Guangzhou.

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