



SPRING WORKSHOP to present
“The Permeability of Certain Matters” exhibition,
featuring the works of Christodoulos Panayiotou and
Philip Wiegard

HONG KONG, May 2, 2014 – Spring Workshop is proud to present “The Permeability of Certain Matters” by artists Christodoulos Panayiotou and Philip Wiegard, created during their residency at Spring Workshop in Hong Kong.

The exhibition is the culmination of research and workshop programmes hosted at Spring, and features Panayiotou’s new photographic works against the backdrop of Wiegard’s handcrafted wallpaper.

During his residency, Panayiotou embarked on a project in China’s Guangdong province, researching what has become home to the world’s largest concentration of artificial flower factories. Speaking about his interest in artificial flowers, Panayiotou says:

“For a while now, I have been overwhelmed by the desire to get to the production source of these globalized and aesthetically-charged objects. A sort of “reverse pilgrimage”, one could say. Upon my first meeting here I understood that all my projections were but an eloquent misunderstanding. The first person I met, Pat Tsui, a florist specializing in artificial flowers, informed me that it is practically impossible “to get the good stuff here.” The policy of the factories is to export “first quality” products and make only inferior or defective items available to the local market. From that point forward, I decided to abandon any efforts to come up with a specific style - having already rejected the idea of working within the tradition of documentary photography - and to work instead, loosely, on a series of arrangements composed of materials sourced at factories, showrooms and markets, in an attempt to inhabit this empty centre of our contemporary elsewhere, everywhere and anywhere.”

Accepting Panayiotou’s invitation to collaborate, Wiegard directed production of a handcrafted wallpaper titled “Festoons” inspired by a German design from the 1770s. This pattern uses an artisanal technique that benefits from the dexterity of children’s small fingers. The wallpaper was produced during an eleven-day workshop attended by 32 children recruited from across Hong Kong. Alluding to different labor practices of the pre-Industrial and Industrial Age, Wiegard choreographed a workflow that optimized the labor-intensive creation of large quantities of wallpaper. Aged from 8-15 years, the children worked from 10am to 4pm for several days in April, complete with rest and meal breaks and an allowance of HK\$40/US\$5.13 per hour (more than Hong Kong’s minimum wage of HK\$30/US\$3.85 per hour). Speaking about the significance of the children’s involvement, Wiegard says:

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“My work contradicts the idea of a workshop in the context of art or pedagogy by inverting its commonplace values of self-expression and creativity. Instead, the children have to function within a standardized framework and workflow to produce the geometrical and repetitive pattern. But their signatures inevitably remain in the gestural expressiveness of the manual rendering. It creates a sense of instability and awkwardness that paraphrases the state and appearance of adolescence.”

The photographs on view are just a small selection from a larger series of floral arrangements photographed by Panayiotou, and along with Wiegard’s wallpaper, reference topics such as artisanship and mass production, pre-industrial and globalized production, representation, economy and the history of child labor, all of which are central to the exhibition.

Hong Kong’s independent artist-in-residency space Spring Workshop, dedicated to an international cross-disciplinary arts program, is hosting “The Permeability of Certain Matters” exhibition to coincide with Art Basel Hong Kong (May 15-18).

Christodoulos Panayiotou and Philip Wiegard are at Spring at the invitation of Mimi Brown, Spring’s Director and Defne Ayas, Spring’s Curator-at-Large.

EXHIBITION HOURS

Press Preview: May 2 2014 (Fri), 4-5pm

Opening: May 3, 2014 (Sat) 6-9pm (speech at 715pm)

May 3 to July 13

12pm to 6pm (Tuesday to Sunday)

*Art Basel period from May 15 to May 18

10am to 9pm daily

MEDIA ENQUIRY

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(High res images available via the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cxhpqt61abb8k7e/qTiwOkR6pG>)

ABOUT CHRISTODOULOS PANAYIOTOU

Born in Cyprus in 1978, Christodoulos Panayiotou lives and works between Limassol (Cyprus) and Paris (France). His work has been widely exhibited around the world. His recent solo exhibitions include Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (2013); Casino Luxembourg, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg (2013); CCA

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Kitakyushu, Kitakyushu, Japan (2013); Museum of Contemporary Art St. Louis, St. Louis, US (2012); Museum of Contemporary Art, Leipzig, Germany (2011); and Cubitt, London, UK (2010).

He has also participated in a number of group exhibitions, including: dOCUMENTA 13 Kassel, Germany (2012); Witte de With, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2011); Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden (2010); Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, US (2010); and Ashkal Alwan Center for Contemporary Arts, Beirut, Lebanon (2010).

ABOUT PHILIP WIEGARD

Born in Germany in 1977, Philip Wiegard currently lives and works in Berlin, Germany. He works in diverse media such as photography and sculpture. Wiegard has collaborated with many artists and art collectives, such as assume vivid astro focus (avaf), and basso Berlin, as well as with fashion design labels Meadham Kirchhoff and Bernhard Willhelm.

His recent exhibitions include Funeral Charade of Poses, Hebbel Theater (HAU1), Berlin, Germany; Turtle Salon, Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre, Paris, France; Rooms without Walls, Hayward Gallery, London, UK.

ABOUT DEFNE AYAS

Spring Curator-at-Large, Defne Ayas spends most of her time in Rotterdam, the Netherlands where she is the Director and Curator of the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam. She was an art history professor at New York University in Shanghai (2006-2011) and co-founded (with Davide Quadrio) Arthub Asia in 2007, an Asia-wide active research and production initiative, (co-)curating and producing a number of projects including *Double Infinity*, together with Van Abbemuseum (2010), *Final Cut* with the Shanghai Cultural Development Foundation, *RMB City* opera by Cao Fei (2009), and *The Making of the New Silk Roads* symposium (2009). Ayas remains a Director of Arthub Asia. Since 2005, Ayas has been a Curator of PERFORMA, the biennial of visual art performance of New York City (founded by RoseLee Goldberg), and remains Curator-at-Large. In September 2012, Ayas co-curated the 11th Baltic Triennale (with Benjamin Cook, LUX, in collaboration with artists Ieva Misevičiūtė and Michael Portnoy), as well as the Istanbul and Bandung city pavilions as part of the Intercity Project of the 9th Shanghai Biennale.

ABOUT ART BASEL

Art Basel stages the world's premier modern and contemporary art shows, held annually in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong. Founded by gallerists in 1970, Art Basel has been a driving force in supporting the role that galleries play in the nurturing of artists, and the development and promotion of visual arts. Art Basel in Hong Kong is held from May 15-18, 2014. More information at www.artbasel.com/hong-kong

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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.

Visit <http://www.springworkshop.org> for directions to Spring.

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

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