

# I Think It Rains

Burger COLLECTION



## I THINK IT RAINS

*I Think It Rains*, at Cattle Depot Artist Village,  
To Kwa Wan, Hong Kong  
17.Mai–30.June 2013  
Curated by Daniel Kurjakovic

Organized together with 1a space, an independent artist run space, and held at the Cattle Depot Artist Village the project explored collaborative curating and research. The project brought forth innovative forms of thinking about exhibition agency, e.g. how to activate the exhibition on the level of in-depth explorations of artistic methodologies, of redefining spectatorship, of undertaking artist-oriented research and of examining the potential social impact of cultural production.

Situated in To Kwa Wan, the Cattle Depot Artist Village is Hong Kong's only alternative art village. The site itself was part of the project's semantics as the To Kwa Wan area is intensely marked by local community life with diverse ethnicities—with Cattle Depot Artist Village functioning as a leisure area rich with a variety of both grassroots and professional cultural productions. Visitors could meander their way through six exhibition spaces spanning some 1 000 m<sup>2</sup> in the grade II historic site of the Cattle Depot Artist Village. Since 2011 this site, formerly used as a slaughterhouse, is the home for numerous art and culture organizations as well as artist studios.

Straying away from one pronounced thematic focus, at the core of the exhibition was the inquiry into and questioning of notions of history, time, and artistic process through artistic methodologies. Apart from a wide variety of works—spanning newly commissioned works, installations, video works, drawings, or works in the public space—visitors could leaf through so-called source materials, compiled onto shelves, full of notes, photographs, drawings, and findings on topics as varied as crystals, African masks, twin façades, empty studio spaces, and more. They allowed one to construct a parallel reading, one that was different from the experience of contemplating the works.

In the exhibition's various works there was a pervading sense of duality or dialectics present, between, on one hand precise conceptual *dispositifs*, and on the other hand historical, social or political undertones: the reverberations of various forms of violence (Filipa César, Vittorio Santoro), the protocols of radicalized politics (as in Bani Abidi), or the effects of neoliberal urban development (Lau Ching Ping, Ng Ka Chun). Likewise, various works allowed for a deeper reflection on the subliminally felt changes, which affect culture's material base, such as books (see the work of Alejandro Cesarco, Choi Yan-Chi, or Annie Lai-Kuen Wan), or again works that, more onto-poetically, propose alternative notions of time, space, and consciousness, in direct or indirect opposition to the thriving globalist protocols of subjectivity (Pak Sheung-Chuen, Enoch Cheung, Muhanned Cader).

Appraised as a feat in engaging with the site and with the local artistic community, the exhibition presented both existing works from the Burger Collection and the commissioning of new works from the more than 30 artists and writers (of which several have been acquired for the collection, including Lam Tung Pang's audio installation *Ghost – Disappeared Hong Kong Art (1): 90s*, Kurt Chan and Annie Lai-Kuen Wan's installation *Time Regained*). Lee Hyo-Won of BlouinArtinfo described the exhibition as "a novel, exciting challenge in rethinking the complexity of the creative process and its temporal and spatial impulses."

The opening week saw various events unfold, including the one-day festival *From Dusk Till Dawn* wherein real-time activities by some fifteen artists were presented, as well as the start of a short-term residency program for foreign artists such as Muhanned Cader (Sri Lanka), Filipa César (Portugal), Florian Germann (Switzerland), and Fiete Stolte (Germany), all represented in the Burger Collection.

### Participating Artists

Bani Abidi, Fiona Banner, Pierre Bismuth, Muhanned Cader, Filipa César, Alejandro Cesarco, Enoch Cheung, Reds Cheung, Clara Cheung, Gum Cheng & Price Chu, Choi Yan Chi, Chow Yiu Fai, Ryan Gander, Gao Weigang, Florian Germann, Jon Kessler, Kong Chun Hei, Lam Siu Wing, Lam Tung Pang, Lau Ching Ping, Ng Ka Chun, Kingsley Ng, Pak Sheung Chuen, Vittorio Santoro, Fiete Stolte, Annie Lai, Kuen Wan, Wen Yau, Wong Wai Yim, Cally Yu















