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Photography as Witness, Memory, Activism, and Recognition

A 10-month Workshop designed for the LGBTQ+ Communities in Hong Kong

Facilitator: Tse Ka-Man

June 2019 - April 2020

PHOTOGRAPHY AS WITNESS, MEMORY, ACTIVISM, AND RECOGNITION

Objective

1. To support image makers from the LGBTQ+ communities in Hong Kong who wish to explore different genres and strategies of photography and storytelling;
2. To expand people's ideas of gender and to support diversity – among the audience and the media;
3. To foster values of inclusiveness, respect and compassion by giving a voice to marginalised communities.

Introduction

Everyone has their own stories, and the same goes for the LGBTQ+ communities. As members of the LGBTQ+ communities share their unique stories, it brings us to a deeper understanding of the diverse spectrum of gender identities, leading us to grasp the richness of the world we live in.

Tse Ka Man, photographer, media artist and arts educator, has been exploring identity and subjectivity among the LGBTQ+ communities in the US and the Asia-Pacific region. In this workshop series designed for the LGBTQ+ community in Hong Kong, Tse will guide participants to explore photography as an act of self-recognition and to encapsulate their stories in images. The exhibition and public programmes featuring the participants' work will put a spotlight on these marginalised voice, and illuminate their experiences for a wider audience.

Throughout the 10-month learning process, participants will experiment with different forms of expression and story telling by engaging in various genres and strategies of photography and video making. They will also learn new approaches to presenting their self-identification through image-making as a reflection of their subjectivity, perspectives and inner experiences.

The workshop will provide a safe environment for participants to explore presentation of gender, sexuality, gender non-conforming and non-binary identities, as they develop new tools of self-empowerment in their creative practice.

Workshop Outline

Session 1

Introductions. Group Activities and Icebreakers. Community Agreements. Definitions and Terms, eg LGTBQ+, gender, sexuality, identity, representation.

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Brief history of LGBTQ+ photographers. Visual presentation of LGBTQ+ art and projects. Outline of Topics covered in the four sessions:

- Interviewing and Storytelling.
- Storytelling through an object / place.
- Materiality, Space, Abstraction, Feeling and Affect. Intervention and Performance. Personal Histories. Re-Imagining.
- Photography as witness, memory, archive, activism, and recognition.

Homework video assignment titled: myself—one truth and one lie.

Session 2

Sharing of work and discussion. Visual presentation of artists and projects. Fieldwork.

Session 3

Oral interview assignment Sharing; fieldwork

Session 4

Personal history assignment and Sharing

Session 5

Zine-making workshop by Queer Reads Library.

*The number of sessions is subjected to change according to the availability of the selected participants.

Application Guidelines

1. Applicants should be members of the LGBTQ+ communities or of any under-represented sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression residing in Hong Kong;
2. All ages welcome, as long as you are willing to share your stories and interact with others;
3. Applicants should possess basic photography skills and knowledge;
4. Those considering a serious pursuit in photography are most encouraged to apply. Throughout the workshop, the facilitator will review each participant's work and their learning progress;
5. There are no prerequisites in terms of the applicants' fields of study. Applicant selection is entirely based on applicants' responses to the questions in the application form/questionnaire and the work samples submitted.

Important Notes

1. Participants should bring their own cameras; mobile phone photography will not be used throughout this workshop. Please contact us in advance if you require equipment support.
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2. The content of this workshop does not include photography basics, as it is not designed for beginner photographers. Please consider whether this workshop may be suitable for you before applying.
3. Confirmation of application will be sent via email upon receipt of the deposit.
4. If a selected participant fails to complete the workshop, the deposit will not be refunded.
5. If the Black Rainstorm Warning, or the Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal No.8 or above is issued and is still in force at 9am on the day of a workshop session, the session will be rescheduled.

Tentative Workshop and Exhibition Timeline

Apr-May 2019	Open call for participants
Early Jun 2019	Participant selection finalised
Late Jun to mid-Jul 2019	5 weekly workshops (schedule to be confirmed with selected participants)
Mid-Jul to mid-Nov 2019	Participants to work on individual projects
Mid-Nov 2019	Ka Man to review participants' work online
Early Jan 2020	Ka Man to review work in person; curate exhibition
Feb 2020	Exhibition production
Mid-Mar 2020	Exhibition opening; Public programmes (Artist talks, curator talks, slide shows, and Human Library)
Apr 2020	Exhibitions to run concurrently with HKIPF 2020; docent-guided tours
Late April 2020	Exhibitions to conclude

About Tse Ka Man

TSE Ka Man is a Hong Kong-born photographer, video artist and educator who now lives and works in New York. She received her MFA from Yale University, her BA from Bard College, and has exhibited widely Asia and North America. Tse taught at the Yale University School of Art from 2013–2018 and is currently on the faculty at Parsons School of Design, The New School. Awarded the 2014-2015 Robert Giard Fellowship, the 2017-2018 Research Award from Yale University Fund for Lesbian and Gay Studies, and the 2018 Aperture Portfolio Prize, she was selected as an Artist in Residence at Light Work in Syracuse, New York, in 2019.

Tse co-curated “Daybreak: New Affirmations in Queer Photography” (2018) at the Leslie-Lohman Museum with Matt Jensen. She has exhibited at the Lianzhou Foto Festival in Guangdong; and at Lumervisum (a solo show), Para Site, WMA Masters Exhibition, “Transition”, 2016 Hong Kong Contemporary Film Festival, Videotage's “Both Sides Now III – Final Frontiers”, and Eaton Hotel in Hong Kong. Her U.S.-based exhibitions include the Museum of

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Chinese in America in New York, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Palm Springs Art Museum, Cornell University, Alfred University, Capricious Gallery, Philadelphia Photo Arts Center, the Eighth Veil in Los Angeles and several solo shows: at Aperture in New York, Silver Eye Center for Photography in Pittsburgh, and the New York Public Library. Tse's photographs have been featured in a range of publications: *Art Asia Pacific*, *iD*, *Dazed*, *Nueva Luz*, *Aperture*, *Papersafe Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *NEWSPAPER*, *Monocle*, *Capricious Magazine*, *O*, *The Oprah Magazine*, *Salon*, *The Huffington Post*, *Slate Magazine*, *Hyphen Magazine*, *Time Out New York*, *Time Out Hong Kong*, and *Ming Pao*. Her monograph *narrow distances* was published by Candor Arts in July 2018.

Workshop Venue

JCCAC L7-19
30 Pak Tin Street, Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Quota

A maximum of 20 participants

Language of Instruction

In Cantonese, supplemented with English.
Course materials will be distributed in English.

Fee

Participation in this workshop is free of charge. To encourage participants to complete the 10-month workshop, each participant will be required to pay a HKD 1,000 deposit, to be reimbursed upon completion of the exhibition. Participants who have financial difficulties should enquire with us about special arrangements regarding the deposit.

For exhibition production, each participant will receive technical guidance and a subsidy.

Application

[Please click here to fill in the application form.](#)

Contact Us

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