

How to Make Space

temporary architecture of Migrant Domestic Workers in public space

Organized by:

Rear View (Projects)**(Jennifer Davis and Su-Ying Lee)**Opening reception: **Sunday, June 26**On view: **June 25 - July 23, 2016****The Central Oasis Gallery****Central Market Public Passage 2/F****80 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong**Featuring work by:

Stephanie Comilang

Devora Neumark in collaboration with

Open Door and Rowena Yin-Fan Chan

Tings Chak



How to Make Space takes the tactics of Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs) in Hong Kong as its point of departure. Motivated by the availability of employment, over 300,000 women have migrated to Hong Kong, predominantly from South Asian countries, to be employed as domestic workers. In their navigation of the densely-populated city and restrictive labor and immigration laws, the women have effectively reshaped public space and created multiple networks to support their needs. This social production of space is most tangibly visible on Sundays, the MDWs' only day off. The women can be seen congregating across the public spaces of the city, within temporary structures of cardboard, string, and tarp that are sites for communal activities including meals, socializing, worship, grooming, performances, advocacy, and organization. These adaptations of place and home arise due to the regulation that MDWs must reside with their employers. Surplus space is scarce in the concentrated city and private space is unlikely. The artists in the exhibition have each produced new artworks with the involvement and participation from MDWs in Hong Kong and organizations that work with them. Each work engages with aspects of the spatial realities of a dense urban environment, the conflation of work and life, and concepts of home. Given the widespread expectation that women should yield space, rather than occupy it (physically, verbally, and intellectually), the exhibition *How to Make Space* positions the temporary architectures of Hong Kong's MDWs as a tactical and spatial manifestation of female agency and self-determination.

How to Make Space is a 2015-16 apexart Franchise Program winning exhibition along with *Apricots from Damascus* (Istanbul, Turkey) and *In Vitro (Studies On Entropy)* (Copenhagen, Denmark).

Rear View (Projects) is Jennifer Davis, an architect, and Su-Ying Lee, a contemporary art curator. Both a curatorial collective and an itinerant site for art, they experiment with unconventional platforms to mobilize new interactions between art, place, and audiences. Recent exhibitions include *Flipping Properties*, an installation commissioned for a Toronto Laneway designed by architect Jimenez Lai with Bureau Spectacular.

Jennifer Davis practices architecture and independent curating in Toronto, Canada. Her projects investigate the political and social factors that shape the built environment. Davis graduated with a Master of Architecture (2011) from the University of Toronto and participated in Independent Curators International's curatorial intensive program entitled Curating Beyond Exhibition Making (2012). In the field of architecture, she has received numerous awards including the Power Corporation of Canada Award (2010) from the Canadian Centre for Architecture, and has contributed to publications such as *Edge Condition* (UK) and *Canadian Architect*.

Su-Ying Lee is an independent curator whose projects often take place outside of the traditional gallery platform. Lee is interested in employing the role of curator as a co-conspirator, accomplice, and active agent. She has also worked institutionally, including positions as Assistant Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA) and Art Gallery of Mississauga, and Curator-in-Residence at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery.

For more information please contact Elizabeth.Larison@apexart.org or visit apexart.org/exhibitions/davis-lee.php

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