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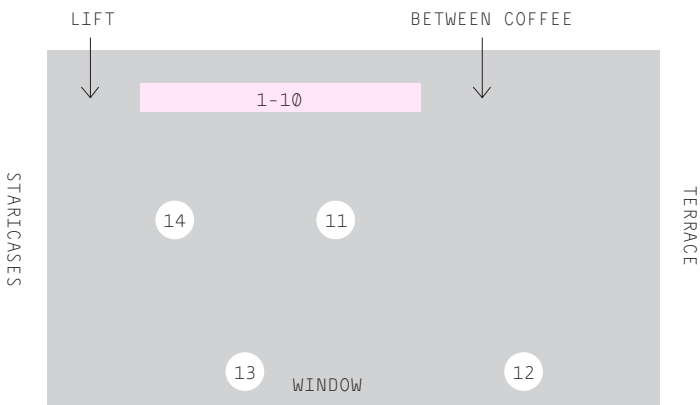
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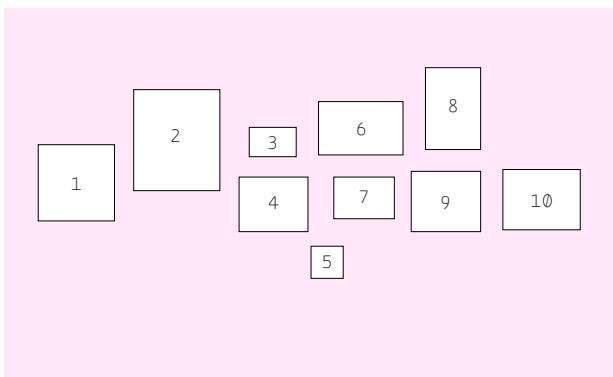
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## 1 Lau Wai (b. 1982, Hong Kong)

### Sam

2020–21 | Inkjet print, sound | 90 x 90 cm

Being the subject of Lau Wai's interview research and photo-collage, Sam Wong Kai Hing is the project manager of 'Concern For Grassroots' Livelihood Alliance' (關注草根生活聯盟), an organisation dedicated to providing social services for low-income families and individuals in Hong Kong from 2011 onwards. Since the onset of COVID-19, there has been a significant rise in the number of individuals reaching out for help, with issues ranging from domestic violence, job loss, single moms raising children, live-alone seniors, to COVID prevention support. While those seeking help certainly experience various kinds of hardship, the staff of the organisation, including Sam Wong, also face a much higher workload and level of stress. With her artwork, Lau Wai wanted to bring Sam into the spotlight and remind viewers of the contribution of social workers in our society—persistently, behind the scenes, all along.

Lau Wai currently lives and works in Hong Kong and New York. Through photography, video, drawing and installation, she explores the multilateral constructions of identity in relation to race, gender and the notion of belonging. She attempts to investigate how history, fiction, personal memory and virtuality collide in the process of identity formation by means of personal and historical archives, cinematic imagery, popular culture and digital media.

## 2 Vivian Ho (b. 1990, Hong Kong)

### I am HA staff

2020-2021 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 100 cm

Vivian Ho portrays front-line medical staff collectively, blurring their faces and bodies, and thus dissimulating their individual identity. Yet the signs they are holding speak loudly of their identity. In Ho's eyes, medics do not fight for glory nor do they aspire to be heroes in their daily work. Their sole wish is to ensure the safety and health of the Hong Kong public. Throughout the pandemic, health workers have been striving their utmost in extremely challenging circumstances and saving people's lives, even if it means putting their own safety at risk. Ho therefore would like to dedicate a huge collective portrait to this group of heroes who take care of our health every day.

Vivian Ho graduated from Wesleyan University with majors in Studio Arts and Economics and has been active in art and design ever since. She focuses on figurative oil paintings that consistently challenge and redefine the conventional aesthetics of the 'ugly' and the 'beautiful'. For her, true beauty lies in an authenticity that at the same time includes elements of the grotesque.

3 Elpis Chow (b. 1996, Hong Kong)

### Maybe Just a Pair of Socks

2020 | Oil on linen | 38 x 23 cm

Elpis Chow believes that sometimes people give away self-made gifts rather than purchased items mainly out of the desire to compliment themselves. Upon the Tai Kwun team's invitation to gift a new artwork to someone heavily affected by COVID-19, Chow decided to gift a psychiatrist a pair of socks alongside this artwork which depicts the very pair of socks hung on the psychiatrist's window.

Elpis Chow graduated from HKICC Lee Shau Kee School of Creativity in 2017, specialising in illustration and painting. Chow's works are often inspired by places that she knows well by heart but has seldom cared to look at closely—places we stroll by time and time again and yet are inattentive to.

4 Cheung Choi Sang (b. 1981, Hong Kong)

### Conversation from Dawn to Dusk

2020–2021 | Photo, archival inkjet print with custom wood frame

26 x 38cm (26 x 84 cm, with cable extended)

As a father himself, Cheung Choi Sang sympathises with working parents during this pandemic. For this project, he interviewed a flight attendant, who is also a mother of two. Every time she returned home from a flight, she would immediately isolate herself in her bedroom for 24 hours to wait for the test result before she could see her husband or children\*; the family would slip notes under the door to chat with each other. Cheung was thus inspired to set up a pair of pinhole cameras at the height of the daughter and the mother respectively to simulate the view of those on both sides of the door during the 24 hours of waiting.

With a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Cheung Choi Sang coincidentally developed an interest in photography and sound art after graduation. Cheung went on to experiment with other mediums including performance, spatial intervention, and installation. In the past few years he returned to what inspired him the most at the beginning of his artist career: building narratives through videos and images. His recent practice mainly involves excavating personal stories in the following roles—as an artist, a professional photographer, and a father.

\* Since 23 Jan 2021, the Hong Kong Government has revised the testing and self-isolation arrangements for air crew.

## 5 Pierfrancesco Celada (b.1979, Varese, Italy)

### One a Day – the Island

2020 | Offset print on paper | 15 x 15 cm

Pierfrancesco Celada sees Lamma Island as a reliable shelter for him and his family as there have been few COVID-19 cases on the island. He has recently spent more time exploring the island and noticed that a vegetable shop owner in the neighbourhood would burn incense every day on a different piece of fruit or vegetable in order to pray for good fortune. By transforming the ritual into a poster, the artist would like to offer all Tai Kwun Contemporary visitors a symbol of protection and shelter during these challenging times.

Pierfrancesco Celada completed a PhD in Biomechanics in 2010 and has since been working on a series of long-term studies investigating contemporary living. He has recently been selected to take part in epea3 – European Photo Exhibition Award with the project Milano, Fuorinovanta. Among Celada's awards are the Happiness ONTHEMOVE Award (2017), the Photolux Leica Award (2014), and the Ideastap and Magnum Photos Photographic Award (2011). Celada has been based in Hong Kong since 2014.

## 6 Lo Lai Lai Natalie (b.1983, Hong Kong)

### The Son of the Soil

2021 | Single-channel video (sound, colour) | 6 min 48 sec

When we talk about frontline roles, we normally give examples of firefighters and medical staff. But what about farmers? Could we be committed farmers who are attentive to our duty? Bearing this question in mind, Lo Lai Lai Natalie's video work here is dedicated to farmers in Hong Kong who work tirelessly in the sun when many other citizens work from home these days.

Lo Lai Lai Natalie received her Bachelor of Art and Master of Fine Arts from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2017. Turning to art from travel journalism and with an abiding interest in the development and construction of nature, she is a learner at the collective organic farm Sangwoodgoon (Hong Kong), where she also explores the lifestyle of 'Half-Farming, Half-X', a practice that seeks alternatives and autonomy as an artist and Hong Konger. Lai Lai finds her interests in food, farming, fermentation, surveillance, and meditation. Her artworks mostly involve moving images, photography, mixed media and installation.

7 Shum Kwan Yi (b. 1995, Hong Kong)

### Leave No Trace

2020 | Ink and colour on paper | 43 x 66 cm

Many Hong Kongers have been wandering around mountains and rivers much more than before in the past year. We have discovered much more about nature—and yet have been leaving behind much more as well. Garbage, however, does not disappear into thin air. While others simply enjoy the view and the fresh air, there is a group of volunteers guarding the land, picking up all kinds of trash and calling for a deeper respect for nature.

Shum Kwan Yi graduated from the Hong Kong Baptist University with a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts in 2018. She also studied as an exchange student at the Nagoya Zokei University of Art & Design in Komaki, Japan in 2017. Specialising in Chinese landscape paintings, Shum investigates intimate connections between human and nature, and explores the possibilities of contemporary landscape paintings. .

8 Stephanie Sin (b. 1984, Hong Kong)

### Bodhisattva

2020-2021 | Oil on canvas | 51 x 76 cm

Stephanie Sin interviewed a veteran flight attendant who has barely flown in the past year due to the pandemic. Instead of serving others as she did most of the time, the interviewee finally found an opportunity for the first time in a decade to focus on enlightening and strengthening herself through meditation, yoga, and mandala drawing.

Stephanie Sin received her Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University in 2008 and her Master of Visual Arts (Studio Arts & Extended Media) from Hong Kong Baptist University in 2013. Sin's inspirations range from fragmented individual lives to collective routines. Her works often probe the paradox of life.

## 9 Kinchoi Lam (b.1988)

### The Practice

2020 | Pencil on paper | 56 x 35 cm

Kinchoi Lam's new work pays tribute to the professional roller skater Katherine Choi and her mother. With the temporary closure of public sports facilities during the pandemic, Choi has had to constantly find new places to practice roller skating, including sneaking into parks before sunrise in her mom's company. Lam finds similarities between Choi's skating and his own drawing practice — both possibly leading to freedom once a concentrated state is reached.

Kinchoi Lam is an artist, picture book creator and printmaker. Lam received his Bachelor of Arts from School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong in 2012 and his Master of Arts in Children's Book Illustration from Anglia Ruskin University in 2020. Lam's art mainly focuses on the pursuit and discovery of wonder through intimate aspects of daily life. Recent exhibitions include "2020 Bologna Illustrators Exhibition", Ishikawa Nanao Art Museum, Japan; "Kowloon City Civil Servants' Cooperative Building Societies Exhibition", The Mahjong, Hong Kong; and "The Practice of Everyday Life", Oil, Hong Kong.

## 10 Fung Kuen Suet Michelle (b.1982, Hong Kong)

### The Unsung Heroine: Lilian Chan

2020 | Japanese pigment and salt on watercolour paper, ink on watercolour paper, A4 paper and clipboard | diptych of 12" x 18" each, and an A4 document

In 2020, exhibitions and lectures were cancelled or rescheduled with barely a moment's notice. Fung Kuen Suet Michelle's 'unsung heroine' Lilian Chan worked behind the scenes, moving mountains and juggling a million unexpected situations to keep her organisation afloat—the experience of which Chan shares with her fellow art administrators. To top it all off, she is a wonderful mother of two. In this work, Fung portrays Chan as a water bear (tardigrade), a cute and resilient microscopic animal that would likely survive an apocalypse. The right side of the diptych features the water bear as the saintly Virgin of Guadalupe while the left shows a team of water bears carrying the Academy of Visual Arts (where Chan works) and Tai Kwun through the midst of a tempest, in a style reminiscent of Japanese ukiyo-e prints.

Fung's ongoing oeuvre revolves around a grand narrative of a dystopian world set in the year 2084. Her works present a fictional geopolitical map of a bizarre future, one impacted by changes in the Anthropocene.



## 11 Tom Chung Man (b. 1994, Hong Kong)

### On The Way Delivery

2021 | Process-based performance art

*On The Way Delivery* is a process-based performance art project, in which Tom Chung Man intends to work as a part-time food delivery rider during the exhibition, carrying a food delivery thermal box, which also happens to be the main physical object in this artwork. While Tom waits for delivery orders, the box is placed on the plinth; the box is removed for use when he is out delivering the food orders he receives. And thus the cycle repeats. The presence of the thermal box in the exhibition space implies the absence of work for the food rider, whereas the absence of the box indicates that the food rider is active in his role and working hard making a living on the street. In response to the exhibition theme of 'Unsung Heroes,' Tom toys with the concept of visibility and invisibility, of presence and absence, through the process of his first-person performance.

Tom Chung Man graduated from Academy of Visual Arts at Hong Kong Baptist University in 2016. He is also the recipient of Hong Kong Arts Development Council's Young Artist (Visual Arts) Award of 2018. His works explore the spiritual dilemma of contemporary individuals. By presenting the creative process in the form of materials and installation, he observes and responds to the loneliness, alienation and predicament of the contemporary world.

## 12 Tobe Kan Kiu Sin (b. 1984, Hong Kong)

### A Rest

2020 | A set of 3, oil pastel on canvas | 12.8 × 17.8 × 3.8 cm each

We perhaps browse digital maps more than ever these days—not just to navigate but also to check up on COVID-19 outbreaks in various neighbourhoods. Tobe Kan Kiu Sin studied Google Street View in order to look for individuals resting alone in the pocket-sized parks in Hong Kong, isolated from each other and from the rest of the city.

Tobe Kan Kiu Sin received her Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University and Hong Kong Art School in 2017. With a passion in psychoanalysis, Kan examines the human condition of insecurity, alienation, and being forgotten through paintings, drawings and installations.

### 13 Lung Yuet Ching (b. 1992, Hong Kong)

#### The Urn of Sharks

2021 | Ceramic | 15 x 15 x 30 cm

Given that squalene, a rare substance extracted from the liver of sharks, can kickstart the human immune system into action, several of the adjuvants in the COVID-19 vaccines being tested are based on shark squalene. NGOs have projected that millions of sharks might be killed if a coronavirus vaccine with shark squalene proves to be effective. Lung's sculpture flags the issue of anthropocentrism and calls our attention to how wild animals are being sacrificed for human well-being.

Lung Yuet Ching attained her Bachelor of Arts from the Academy of Visual Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University with the AVA Award in 2015, and graduated from the School of Art Institute of Chicago with a Master of Fine Art in the Department of Ceramics in 2019. Lung's art practice focuses on issues which include foreign domestic helpers, housing and space, female identities, and her personal experiences.

### 14 Jay Lau (b. 1997)

#### Someone in the World (1)

2020-21 | Woodblock print, concrete | Set of 8 pieces, each 24 x 30 x 1.5 cm

Jay Lau sees the friends around him as tough and resilient gears: each of them makes use of their own talents and competence to provide others with light-hearted experiences and enjoyment, striving their best and forging ahead amid hardship, making their contribution to the world whether they be big or small. While being driven by other gears, they in turn also motivate other gears to run. For this project he has created 8 woodblock print portraits of the 'talents and gears' in his mind, bound by and framed with concrete and presented as an artist's book.

Jay Lau graduated from the Department of Fine Arts, The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2019, and received Hong Kong Open Printshop's 'Hong Kong Fine Print' award in the same year. His practice centres on printmaking while he is also interested in sculpture, moving image and photography. He enjoys using imagery, texts and symbols in his art, selecting different materials and mediums based on contexts and issues.

Curators Jill Angel Chun and Erin Li

Head of Art Tobias Berger

**Exhibition Team**

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Assistant Registrar Pauline Chao

**Technician Team**

Lead Technician Mark Chung

Assistant Art Technician Hill Li

**Exhibition Graphic Design and Brochure**

Texts Jill Angel Chun, Erin Li

Editing and Copy-editing Daniel Szehin Ho, David Chan

Graphic Design Kathy Wong Cheuk Wing

Pamphlet and Publication Printer Colham Printing Company Limited

**Exhibition Support**

Vinyl and Text Panel Fully Advertising Co.

Interns Theodora Chan, Heidi Leung

**Gallery and Docent Team**

Art Education Associate and Gallery Supervisor Jasmine Cheung

Art Education and Gallery Coordinator Kobe Ko

Gallery Operation Coordinator Kylie Tung

The entire docent team

And the entire art team

**Tai Kwun Staff**

Director of Tai Kwun Arts Timothy Calnin, Director of JCCPS Chin Chin Teoh; Lily Kwok, Wallace Cheung, Maria Chan, Sharon Law, Chris Lai and the whole Corporate Services team; Head of Marketing and Communications Kitty Wong and the whole Marketing team; Head of Facilities Management Anita Lo and the whole Facilities Management team; Head of Operations David Rees, Juk Cheung, Mike Ho, Shandy Leung, Juno Tam and the whole Operations team; the entire VE and Security team; and all staff in Tai Kwun



# The Unsong

## Artists

Pierfrancesco Celada

Cheung Choi Sang

Elpis Chow

Fung Kuen Suet Michelle

Vivian Ho

Tobe Kan Kiu Sin

Kinchoi Lam

Jay Lau

Lau Wai

Lo Lai Lai Natalie

Lung Yuet Ching

Shum Kwan Yi

Stephanie Sin

Tom Chung Man

## Curators

Jill Angel Chun and Erin Li

Spring 2021

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