

Biographies The Hartwig Art Production | Collection Fund x Kunstinstituut Melly

ARTISTS

Kent Chan

Kent Chan is an artist, curator and filmmaker based in the Netherlands and Singapore. His practice revolves around our encounters with art, fiction, and cinema that form a triumvirate of practices porous in form, content, and context. He holds particular interest in the tropical imagination, the past and future relationships between heat and art, and contestations to the legacies of modernity as the epistemology par excellence. The works and practices of others often form the locus of his works, which have taken the form of film, text, conversations and exhibitions.

He is a former resident of Jan van Eyck Academie (2019/20), NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (2017/18) and Rupert's Residency Program (2015). He has held solo presentations at Bonnefanten Museum, National University Singapore Museum and SCCA-Ljubljana, Centre for Contemporary Arts, Slovenia. His works have been exhibited in venues including De Appel, Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam, EYE Film Museum, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Busan Biennale, Drosdesera Festival of Performing Arts and National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts. His work is collected in the Rijkscollectie, Netherlands and the Bonnefanten Museum.

Joy Mariama Smith

A native Philadelphian currently based in Amsterdam, Joy Mariama Smith's work primarily addresses the conundrum of projected identities in various contexts. A sub-theme, or ongoing question in their work is: What is the interplay between the body and its physical environment? Rooted in socially engaged art practice, they are a performance/installation/movement artist, activist, facilitator, curator and architectural designer. They have a strong improvisational practice spanning 20 years. When they choose to teach, they actively try to uphold inclusive spaces. Consent and agency are an integral part of their ongoing praxis.

They studied at the Dutch Art Institute in Arnhem; the NewSchool of Architecture & Design in San Diego; L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris; and Oberlin College in Ohio. Their work has been performed internationally, including at If I Can't Dance Edition VI – Event and Duration, Amsterdam; SoLow Festival, Philadelphia; Freedom of Movement, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and Ponderosa Movement & Discovery in Stolzenhagen, Germany. Currently, they teach at the School for New Dance Development (SNDO) in Amsterdam and was a BAK fellow 2019-2020.

Maria Pask

Maria Pask is an Amsterdam-based artist whose performance and installation works interpret the nature of collective creativity, empowerment, and the live moment. Working with open formats and social structures, her works were described by Michael Stanley as a 'cocktail of social commentary, political doctrine, ecological soundings, philosophy, feminism, body politics, and religion.'

Maria has performed and exhibited internationally at, a.o. Museum of Modern Art, Oxford; Athens Biennial; White Columns, New York; W139, Amsterdam; Münster Skulpture Project; If I Can't Dance I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution, Amsterdam; Frankfurter Kunstverein; BAK, Utrecht; De Appel, Amsterdam, and Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana.

CURATORS

Rosa de Graaf

Rosa de Graaf (UK/NL) is an art curator and occasional writer based in The Netherlands' port city of Rotterdam. Born and raised in London, she moved to The Netherlands in 2015, where she works as Curator of Exhibitions & Art Commissions at Kunstinstituut Melly (formerly known as Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art). With a background in art making as well as social and critical histories of art, both tactile and theoretical perspectives inform her curatorial sensibility.

Rosa is also an advisor at the multiform institute for fine art, design, and reflection, the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht, the Netherlands (2019-). Previously, she worked at the Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam (SMBA), Tate Modern, and the Henry Moore Institute, as well as for large-scale cultural campaigns such as 'Art Everywhere UK'.

Jo-Lene Ong

Jo-Lene Ong currently works as co-curator at the Hartwig Art Production | Collection Fund special project 2020-21, co-curator of visual arts and theory at Other Futures festival, and teacher at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam. She got her start in the field at the intersection of arts and social activism in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Her interests are in deploying non-western epistemic paradigms and more embodied ways of knowing as modes of extending boundaries. Recently she co-edited *Practice Space*, a volume around locally embedded art initiatives.

Jo-Lene was awarded De Appel Curatorial Research Fellowship 2018-19 after completing De Appel Curatorial Program 2017-18. Recent exhibitions include *Unpacking the 3Package Deal* (2020, 2019) for Amsterdam Fonds voor de Kunst; *Elsewheres Within Here* (2019) at Framer Framed, Amsterdam; *Brace for Impact* (2018) at De Appel, Amsterdam; and *SUNSHOWER: Contemporary Art from*

Southeast Asia from 1980s – Now (2017) at the National Art Centre, Tokyo and Mori Art Museum, Tokyo.