

***The Lost Time Travel Machine*, a solo exhibition of Hong Kong artist Angela Yuen celebrates Hong Kong history at Contemporary by Angela Li**

Angela Yuen creates vibrant sculptures with plastic toys, stationeries and objects, capturing lively scenes of old Hong Kong and its modern skyline



Parallel Universe - Rickshaw on Tram Tracks (details), Plastic Toys, Perspex, Resin, LED lights, 65 x 65 x 20 cm, 2020

[Hong Kong, January 2, 2020] Contemporary by Angela Li is pleased to present ***The Lost Time Travel Machine***, a solo exhibition of Hong Kong artist **Angela Yuen**. With a long fascination of all things local and nostalgic, Yuen uses manufactured plastic toys, old-fashioned stationeries and Hong Kong's iconic objects to create playful three-dimensional sculptures and installations, casting colourful shadows which resemble Hong Kong's magnificent skylines and street scenes. In her latest works, Yuen continues to explore elements that represents Hong Kong's history and culture, such as ice-cream motorcycle, street vendors, trams, rickshaws, sampan boats and the demolished Queen's Pier. Like still frames from old Hong Kong movies, her works bring audiences to a parallel dimension, where some of the faded local cultural elements and currently significant urban characters of today coexist. *The Lost Time Travel Machine* opens on **13 February 2020** from **5pm to 8pm**. Artist will be in attendance and attendees are advised to follow the special dress code of the opening reception. This exhibition is on view until 31 March.

This first major solo exhibition of Yuen showcases her signature three-dimensional sculptures, both kinetic and static, with their shadows projecting beautiful silhouettes of Hong Kong's skyline, as well as her newly developed wall hanging installations that capture lively local street scenes. Her works are nostalgic and cheerful with a sense of playfulness, incorporating old-fashioned plastic objects including plastic rulers, stencils, hair curlers, toy soldiers, rubber ducks, capsule toys, tea party sets and floral beads

that occupy the surfaces. Strategically placed lights in the sculptures transform objects into imaginative silhouettes and stories; every object is carefully choreographed, combining cast coloured shadows to produce unexpected, stunning visual results.

Yuen's sculptures are full of symbolic meanings, from their visual representation to her choices of material. For instance, she chooses ready-made plastic toys and objects as her form of language due to her interest in the city's history. Growing up watching classic Hong Kong movies from the 70s and 80s with her father, Yuen gradually developed a strong interest in the city's golden years. Hong Kong's golden era of growth was the fruit of industrialization in the post-war period, and the local plastic and toy manufacturing industry played an important role in the growth of Hong Kong. Yuen's works are conceived as a study of the city's history, "I choose plastic toys and manufactured objects as my medium because the material is imbued with symbolic meaning associated with the spirit, sweat and hardship of the local labour, and plastic manufactured objects serve as an iconic representation of Hong Kong's manufacturing boom that shapes the early stages of the city's modernization." Yuen continues, "Hong Kong is ever-changing and progressing, and the rotating element in my kinetic works signifies Hong Kong as a city in constant evolution, from manufacturing hub to international financial and service centre." Yuen's sculptures are storytelling time travel machines, like portals that travel between the cultural significances that are lost in time and the artist's imaginary Hong Kong.

Angela Yuen was born in Hong Kong in 1991 and graduated from the Academy of Visual Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University in 2014. She had participated in a Beijing artist residency program in 2016 and the Hart Haus residency in Hong Kong in 2019, and is a finalist of the 2019 Sovereign Asian Art Prize. *The Lost Time Travel Machine* is Yuen's first major solo exhibition, and her works have been included in many joint exhibitions, public and private collections in Hong Kong, China and Australia since 2013.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Exhibition: The Lost Time Travel Machine

Opening Reception: 13 February 2020, 5pm – 8pm

Cocktail Attire: 50's Down to Earth Vintage Wear / 60's Fashion A-Go-Go / 70's Hippie Look / 80's Disco Glam

Duration: 13 February – 31 March, 2020

Contemporary by Angela Li

Contemporary by Angela Li is dedicated to the promotion of contemporary and avant-garde artists from China, Hong Kong and worldwide. Since its establishment in 2008, the gallery has gained considerable attention and has become one of Hong Kong's top galleries for contemporary art.

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Opening Hours : Mon – Sat 10.00 am – 6.30 pm
Sun & Public Holidays Closed

