

Wei Leng Tay

How did we get here





(L) Taken Over, 2008
(R) Cathleen and Raphael, 2013



Lee Family, 2013





(L) Alison I, 2015
(R) Alison II, 2015

(L) Zach's Collection, 2008
(R) Kitty, 2015









Detritus, 2007



Lisa Botos

Out of Place

Wei Leng Tay's compositions, too, accentuate the physical, social and psychological textures associated with a range of conceptual interpretations of "place". In *Fion and Hei Hei*, the vertical and horizontal lines in the image hold the two figures tightly in the space, creating tension in what is a quotidian activity for a mother, but speaks of weightier issues of power relationships in the home, prescribed roles of women in society and what women want out of their own lives—all consequential questions Wei Leng Tay has of her own life. Although we know Fion is in the act of feeding her child, we can't actually see that physical connection. But that connection, our brain tells us, is there, expressed formally, and playfully, through the repetition of polka dots in Fion's blouse, the child's chair, and even in the tray of food. However, the visual obstruction of the physical connection between the two figures from the viewer's perspective amplifies a tension present in the work. A physical disconnection and, perhaps, a psychological isolation felt by both the mother and the artist. Tay's emotional ambivalence here is palpable. The composition is further accentuated by the complexity of the lighting. The foreground and middle ground light outline and define the edges of the figures, reducing them to pleasing, sculptural shapes— albeit separate and distinct— triggering a subtle perception of emotional displacement within.

The idea of place, in its full spectrum of possibilities, opens up fresh lines of thinking on Wei Leng Tay's work. Place as a physical location, place as a conceptual framework for orientating and observing oneself and place as a formalistic tool, invite concomitant avenues of engagement. The idea of place is just but one way in. Once inside, the works do not disappoint, beckoning us to circulate through, traversing divergent levels, always open.

Lisa Botos is a Singapore-based curator and founder of Botos., an arts-related, project-orientated initiative.

Wei Leng Tay

Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 Australian National University Centre On China in the World (CIW) Art Gallery, Canberra, AUSTRALIA
- 2015 *How did we get here*, Chan Hampe Galleries, SINGAPORE
- 2014 *Out of Place*, Lumennisum, HONG KONG
- 2012 *Convergence*, Chulalongkorn University Art Center, Bangkok, THAILAND
- 10/11 *Discordant Symmetries*, NUS Museum, Baba House, SINGAPORE
- 2010 *Slow Cool Breezes*, Month of Photography Asia, Alliance Francaise Gallery, SINGAPORE
- 2009 *Where do we go from here?*, Winds of the Artist-in-Residence, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, JAPAN (2 person)
- 2008 *Desultory Landscapes*, Ooi Botos Gallery, HONG KONG

Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *300 Families*, Palace 66, Shenyang, CHINA
What we are left with, FORMAT Festival, Derby, U.K.
- 2014 *The Roving Eye: Contemporary Art From Southeast Asia*, ARTER Space for Art, Istanbul, TURKEY
Hong Kong and Macao Visual Arts Biennial, Beijing World Art Museum, CHINA
Basically.Forever – KMOFA, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, JAPAN
Yuejin Lantern Festival, Yanshuei, TAIWAN
- 13/14 *Concept, Context, Contestation: Art and the Collective in Southeast Asia*, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok, THAILAND
- 2013 *Everyday Life*, Asian Art Biennial, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, TAIWAN
Bright Lights, Galerie Steph+Botos., Scotts Square, SINGAPORE
300 Families, Hong Kong International Photo Festival Flare, Hong Kong Design Institute, HONG KONG
Samsung Masterpieces, National Museum of Singapore, SINGAPORE
YP13, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Seoul Photo 2013, SOUTH KOREA
WYNG Masters Award Exhibition, ArtisTree, HONG KONG
P.O.V.: Alternate Perspectives In Asian Contemporary Photography, Galerie Steph, SINGAPORE
- 2012 *DiverseCity*, 8Q, Singapore Art Museum, SINGAPORE
Moving Up, Para/Site Art Space, HONG KONG
Singapore Survey 2012: New Strange Faces, Valentine Willie Fine Art, SINGAPORE
STILL BUILDING, Valentine Willie Fine Art, SINGAPORE
STILL BUILDING, Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, INDONESIA
12 Oil Street Project, Arts Promotion Office, ART HK, HONG KONG
Portraiture Now, Objectifs Centre for Photography and Filmmaking, SINGAPORE
- 11/12 *I have also other favorites*, Stacion – Center for Contemporary Art Prishtina, KOSOVO
- 2011 *Convergence*, Delhi Photo Festival 2011, INDIA
ICON de Martell Cordon Bleu Profile Exhibition, Millenium Walk, SINGAPORE
Clean Air Auction, Sotheby's Hong Kong Spring Auction 2011, Kee Club and HKCEC Sotheby's Hall, HONG KONG
- 2010 *ArtMART 2010*, Para/Site Art Space, HONG KONG

- Human Faces*, National Museum of Singapore, SINGAPORE
All About Fukuoka: The 10 Years of FAAM Artist-in-Residence Program, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, JAPAN
Singapore Survey 2010: Beyond LKY, Valentine Willie Fine Art, SINGAPORE
City Flaneur: Social Documentary Photography, Hong Kong Heritage Museum, HONG KONG
Young Portfolio Acquisitions 2009, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, JAPAN
Grid versus Chaos, Gallery VER (with Para/Site Art Space), Bangkok, THAILAND
- 2009 *Photo MIAMI 2009*, Charles Guice Contemporary, Miami, USA
ArtMART 2009, Para/Site Art Space, HONG KONG
The Pursuit of Happiness, Noorderlicht International Photofestival 2009, THE NETHERLANDS
Traces, Singapore Art Show, Earl Lu Gallery, Institute of Contemporary Art, SINGAPORE
Where do we go from here?, 3. Internationales Fotografiefestival F/Stop, Leipzig, GERMANY
Declinations of Joy, Fotografia International Festival of Rome, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome, ITALY
- 2008 *Document*, O'Born Contemporary, Toronto, CANADA
The Photo Review 2008, Gallery 1401, The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, USA
Volume XVII, New Works Gallery Online, Silver Eye Center for Photography, Pittsburgh, USA
Young Portfolio Acquisitions 2007, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Kiyosato, JAPAN
- 2007 *Singapore Art Exhibition 2007*, Singapore Art Show, Singapore Art Museum, SINGAPORE
Descubrimientos Phe07, PhotoEspaña 2007, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Madrid, SPAIN
Projections of the Night of Photography, PhotoEspaña 2007, Madrid, SPAIN
Group Exhibition, Grotto Fine Art, HONG KONG
Young Portfolio Acquisitions 2006, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Kiyosato, JAPAN

Public Collections

National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, TAIWAN
 Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, JAPAN
 Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts, Kiyosato, JAPAN
 Heritage Museum, HONG KONG

Residencies and Commissions

- 2015 *What we are left with*, Format Festival and WYNG Masters Award, Derby, U.K. and HONG KONG
 2011 12 Oil Street Project, Arts Promotion Office, HONG KONG
 2009 The Art Incubator Residency, SINGAPORE
 Artist-in-Residence Program 2009, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, JAPAN

Grants and Awards

- 2015 Presentation and Participation Grant, National Arts Council, SINGAPORE
 2014 Market and Audience Development Grant, National Arts Council, SINGAPORE

- 2012 Finalist, WYNG Masters Award, HONG KONG
 International Development Grant, National Arts Council, SINGAPORE
 Singapore Internationale Grant, SINGAPORE
- 2011 Nominee, ICON Martell de Cordon Bleu Photography Prize 2011, SINGAPORE
 Hi2P Grant, National Heritage Board, SINGAPORE
- 2009 Singapore Internationale Grant, SINGAPORE
 Arts Creation Fund, National Arts Council, SINGAPORE
 Singapore International Foundation Sponsorship, SINGAPORE
- 2008 Arts Professional Development Grant, National Arts Council, SINGAPORE
- 2007 Finalist, Descubrimientos Prize, PhotoEspaña 2007, Madrid, SPAIN

Selected Publications

- 2014 *Photography & Diaspora: A roundtable with Pok Chi Lau, Surendra Lawoti, and Wei Leng Tay*, moderated by Anthony W. Lee, Trans Asia Photography (TAP) Review
The Roving Eye: Contemporary Art From Southeast Asia, ARTER Space for Art
Photofile vol. 94, Australian Centre for Photography
Concept, Context, Contestation, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre
- 2013 *Everyday Life*, Asian Art Biennial, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts
300 Families, Hong Kong International Photography Festival Flare
Convergence (monograph)
- 2012 *STILL BUILDING*, Selasar Sunaryo Art Space
 Like Boys, *WERK No 19*
- 2011 *Affinity*, Delhi Photo Festival 2011, India Habitat Centre and Nazar Foundation
Punctum, Issue 1
- 2010 *Discordant Symmetries*, NUS Museum
 Interior Living, *Daylight Magazine*, May 2010
City Flaneur: Social Documentary Photography, Hong Kong Heritage Museum
 Outside, *Ojodepez*, #20
Photographs by the Next Generation: 2009, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts
- 2009 *The Pursuit of Happiness*, Noorderlicht 2009
Traces, The Art Incubator 2009
Where do we go from here?, F/Stop Katalog 2009
La Gioia - visioni e rappresentazioni, Fotografia - Festival Internazionale di Roma 2009
- 2008 *Desultory Landscapes*, Ooi Botos Gallery
 Un Día Cualquiera, *OjodePez*, #12
Photographs by the Next Generation: 2007, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts
- 2007 *Photographs by the Next Generation: 2006*, Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Arts

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