



Press Release

51. International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia
THE EXPERIENCE OF ART; ALWAYS A LITTLE FURTHER



SINGAPORE

June 12 - November 6, 2005
Opening hours 10.00 am - 6.00 pm, closed on Tuesdays

Calle della Tana (Arsenale boat station, line n.1),
Castello 2126 - 30122 Venice

Commissioner: Kok Wah, Khor
Vice-Commissioner: Paolo De Grandis
Curator: Eugene Tan
Artist: Tzay Chuen, Lim
Organisers: National Arts Council (Singapore) & Singapore Art Museum
Co-Organiser: Arte Communications

The Singapore Pavilion at the 51st Venice Biennale will feature the work of LIM Tzay Chuen. Established in 1895, the Venice Biennale is the most established international contemporary art event and widely regarded as one of the most significant. This will be Singapore's third participation at this event.

Born in 1972, Lim lives and works in Singapore. He has participated in numerous exhibitions in Singapore and internationally. Amongst his more notable exhibitions and projects in Singapore include those realised at the Substation (2001) and TheatreWorks (2003), while, internationally, Lim's work has been exhibited at Polypolis at the Kunthaus Hamburg (2001), the Gwangju Biennale (2002) and the Sydney Biennale (2004).

The work of Lim Tzay Chuen questions and redefines aesthetic experience – by compelling viewers to reflect upon their experience of his work, viewers are led, to critically re-evaluate perceptions and assumptions as to what constitutes aesthetic experience. This is achieved through intricate and complex engagements with the social, economic, cultural and political processes that define the particular contexts around which his work is situated. Lim's interventions acknowledge the transitory and fragmented nature of space and memory, and it is their engagement with the volatility and uncertainty of situations that is significant. His work rejects the construction and definition of prescribed meanings as to what comprises a work of art. Instead, the recognition of an aesthetic event derives from moments of self-discovery, often involving reflexivity and intuition.

As Russell Storer, Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney has written: "Lim's work has, amongst other things, involved the altering of conditions within a gallery space, exhibition or catalogue so

Via P. Orseolo II, 16 - 30126 Venezia Lido - Italy

www.artecommunications.com



tel. +39.041.5264546 fax +39.041.2769056

e-mail: info@artecommunications.com

that those who encounter them are compelled to think, and rethink, this encounter. Something as simple and automatic as turning a page in a catalogue might be frustrated by an order from the artist to the printer to leave two pages uncut, so that the reader has to force them apart with their fingers; or to skip page numbers, which are then referred to in the bibliography or artist statement in the back. Are these errors, or deliberate? You are not entirely sure until you rip the pages apart to find an image of fingers performing this very action, or read the pages more closely to realise that the text flows on, despite the jump in the numbering sequence. These tiny alterations create an ambiguous space where initial confusion may lead to irritation, laughter, indifference or a spark of understanding that nothing, no matter how small, needs to be assumed or taken for granted. It also has the potential effect of slowing down the process of reception, calling for attention to be given, whether cognitively or not.”

Lim’s exhibition at the 51st Venice Biennale will be curated by Eugene TAN, Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore (ICA Singapore). Established by LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, the ICA Singapore is devoted to the exhibition and research of contemporary art in Asia. In late June, Singaporeans will have the opportunity to experience Lim’s work as the ICA Singapore will present a solo exhibition by Lim. This exhibition will not merely illustrate or document Lim’s exhibition at the Venice Biennale, but instead unveil a new work by Lim, which will give audiences in Singapore the opportunity to gain insight into Lim’s work and the processes which underpin his work.

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Ms May, Kim
Corporate Communications Manager
National Arts Council, Singapore
DID: +65 6837 9574 Mobile: +65 9680 5469
E-mail: kim_may@nac.gov.sg

Ms Lynn Tan
Marcom Executive
Singapore Art Museum
DID: +65 6332 3219 Mobile: +65 9382 3072
Email: lynn_tan@nhb.gov.sg

INFORMATION:

ARTE COMMUNICATIONS
Via P. Orseolo, 16 - 30126 Venice
Tel. +39 041 526.4546
Fax +39 041 276.9056
e-mail: biennale@artecomunications.com
<http://www.artecomunications.com/>