

FRINGE GALLERY

UNSEEN

Alecia Neo (Singapore)
8 – 19 January 2014, 10am – 10pm
ION Art, Level 4, ION Orchard

Admission is free

*(Fringe Commission • World
Premiere)*



www.alecianeoc.com
unseenjourneys.wordpress.com

Unseen is a large-scale multimedia art installation that is an expression of a dialogue between sighted people and people with blindness or visual impairment; a merging of both worlds. The installation will comprise of photographic sculptures in the form of tents, video projections and sound experiences.

The artist, Alecia Neo, presents intimate stories of extraordinary individuals from Taipei and Singapore who live with visual impairment or blindness. Employing various visual aid methods such as Braille and audio description, the artwork is developed in collaboration with these individuals through a series of creative workshops where they embark of a reflective journey of self-discovery.

Central to the artwork is the idea that *people are more alike than we believe to be true*. *Unseen* seeks to reveal existing misperceptions in society through reinterpreting and representing these real stories on blindness from a myriad of individuals.

Singaporean artist Alecia Neo often explores ideas of transformation and perception through relationships between people, their contexts and their living spaces; reflecting on how our identity is embedded in our possessions and homes. Working primarily with photography, video and installation, she produces bodies of portraits involving a variety of individuals, overlooked communities and their spaces. Alecia was previously commissioned by the Fringe in 2012 to create an installation entitled Goddess of Mercy.

Relationship to Art & the People

“Art can function as a powerful means towards reconciliation. In most of my work, I have always been motivated to uplift the image of the underdog, for I see that individuals often possess much more potential and possibilities than they are perceived to. This work wants to challenge and disrupt established perceptions about life, providing opportunity to critique what has been normalised.

“I would like to develop fresh aesthetic methods that provoke the audience into re-visioning a future from dreams. In this sense, I believe that the project has a voice that is not only important to the community living with visual impairment, it is also critical for society to be aware of its impact upon all of those who exist within it. This is not just a project about blindness; it is a project about rejuvenation and learning to see from a completely different perspective. Today, more than ever, we find societies divided in such complicated ways. These conditions create lacunas that art finds its purpose within.”

- Alecia Neo

Biography of Alecia Neo

Singaporean artist Alecia Neo often explores ideas of transformation and perception through relationships between people, their contexts and their living spaces; reflecting on how our identity is embedded in our possessions and homes. Working primarily with photography, video and installation, she produces bodies of portraits involving a variety of individuals, overlooked communities and their spaces.

Her series of portraits, *Home Visits* received an Honorable Mention in the 2009 Berenice Abbott Prize by juror Tim B. Wride, Curator of the Department of Photography at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. *Home Visits* has also been exhibited at Valentine Willie Fine Art (Singapore), the 2nd Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF), the International Orange Festival (China) and University of Bangkok (Thailand). She has received the Gold Award for Narrative Photography from Crowbar Awards (Singapore) and has been invited to contribute artwork to established publications such as *WERK* Magazine (COMME des GARÇONS), *NUYOU* (Singapore) and *Female* Magazine (Singapore). Her debut site-specific project *Villa Alicia* (2011) investigated the fragility of memory, through the transformation of the 4000ft² private home of the late Singaporean feminist Dr Nalla Tan, into a public gallery, which was demolished shortly after the six day exhibition. In 2012, she was commissioned to create an installation *Goddess of Mercy* for the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2012: Art and Faith. She has undertaken an art residency at Cittadellarte’s Università delle Idee, Italy, which operates with the agenda of art for social transformation.

FRINGE GALLERY

THE FACE DAILY

Ong Kian Peng (Singapore)
 8 – 19 January 2014, 12pm – 8pm
 The Substation Gallery

Admission is free

*(Fringe Commission • World
 Premiere)*

ctrlsave.com



The Face Daily is a fictional daily newspaper specially created for the Fringe with an emphasis on crowd-driven news. The contents are extracted from Facebook and may cover anything under the sun, with topics of the day ranging from politics to cats, depending on what contributors post. The paper's editorial selection and design layout will be determined and generated by a custom software.

The work consists of two parts: the publishing office and the publicly distributed newspaper. Visitors can visit the publishing office to understand more about the editorial process behind *The Face Daily* as well as to grab the latest edition of the papers on site.

The Face Daily will be distributed across multiple Fringe venues. Newspaper boys and girls will also be enlisted to distribute the papers in public spaces.

Born and based in Singapore, Ong Kian Peng is a new media artist whose works range from sound and media installations to design projects. His works have been shown in various group and solo exhibitions and festivals in the Brazil, Japan, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea and the United States. Recent exhibitions includes SIGGRAPH 2012 in Los Angeles, File Festival in Sao Paolo (2012), and Asian Students and Young Artists Festival in South Korea (2012).

Relationship to Art & the People

The Face Daily is a social commentary about our rapidly changing way of news consumption and a reflection of a mass culture that is fast becoming the norm. *The Face Daily* deals with the inconsistent nature of everyday “news” feed where everyone participates both as a contributor and a reader/consumer. While such a model allows for rapid and extensive spreading of news on key events, this same news can also be distorted through the chain of sharing.

According to a study by The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, the age group between 16-24 uses social media as their main source for news, and amongst social media platforms, Facebook is the most popular avenue of sharing news. This however becomes



problematic when the sharer does not take the responsibility of verifying facts before proliferating potentially dubious news.

The Face Daily takes the artist's daily stream of news and contributions of the audiences on its Facebook page. By juxtaposing the content and its printed format as a real newspaper, the work hopes to question the underlying problems of this rising trend of *misinformation* and *disinformation*.

Biography of Ong Kian Peng

Born and based in Singapore, Ong Kian Peng is a new media artist whose works range from sound and media installations to design projects. His works have been shown in various group and solo exhibitions and festivals in the Brazil, Japan, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea and the United States. Recent exhibitions includes SIGGRAPH 2012 in Los Angeles, File Festival in Sao Paolo (2012), and Asian Students and Young Artists Festival in South Korea (2012).

Kian Peng recently completed his MFA in Design | Media Arts, UCLA and is currently looking forward to his artist residency in Tokyo Wondersite, before returning to Singapore as a permanent base. Prior to his stint in UCLA, he obtained his BA(Hons) from Interactive Arts at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore.

FRINGE GALLERY

FOUNDIN

Tan Wei Keong (Singapore)

8 – 19 January 2014

Various venues including Esplanade, ION Orchard, The Substation, selected National Libraries and F&B outlets islandwide

Admission is free

(Fringe Commission • World Premiere)

www.foundin.org

Foundin is a city installation of miniature plastic figurines left in public places to be found by passersby.



The figurines outwardly appear to be male and female, young and old, and take on various forms from businessmen to housewives. When a figurine is found, the finder is invited to keep the figurine and to log the find on *Foundin* website by accessing a web link and QR code printed on the small card on which the figurine stands. Summarised on the project website, all figurines are updated 'live' on their statuses, namely "Found", "Lost" and "Waiting". The heart of *Foundin* is the online count of "Found" figurines on the website, which hopefully inspires a growing audience, as the project progresses, to head out and actively explore the city in detail; to notice art in a different scale and perspective.

Foundin removes the many pre-conceived biases based on physicality and social difference, and challenges to simplify our human connection.

Wei Keong's animated short films White and Hush Baby received the Special Achievement and Special Mention awards respectively at the Singapore International Film Festival in 2007 and 2009. Granted a Media Education Scholarship by the Media Development Authority of Singapore in 2007, Wei Keong holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Animation from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He was the Chair of the Student Volunteer Program for SIGGRAPH Asia 2010 in Seoul and was a committee member for the SIGGRAPH Asia conferences in Yokohama (2009) and Singapore (2008).

Relationship to Art & the People

Foundin seeks to close the gap between Art and the People by challenging the pre-conceived notion of art and the space that art occupies. Bringing art from exhibition spaces to urban streets, the figurines disrupt one's preoccupation in the metropolis and ask city dwellers to be more aware of their surroundings and notice the small details.

All figurines in *Foundin* are individuals seeking to be found in one way or another, just like every one of us. By shrinking human figures to miniature plastic models, the project places a miniature city within a city and explores how we, the higher and larger beings, interact with much smaller counterparts. Even if none of the figurines are found, it still speaks volumes of the city. *Foundin* is a city installation showcasing each of us and all of us: as we find each other and as we are found in our society.

We hope our project will get people to notice the little people among us who are often forgotten, which will in turn have a little ripple effect on their outlook in life.

Biographies of Artists

Tan Wei Keong

Artist

Wei Keong's animated short films *White* and *Hush Baby* received the Special Achievement and Special Mention awards respectively at the Singapore International Film Festival in 2007 and 2009. Granted a Media Education Scholarship by the Media Development Authority of Singapore in 2007, Wei Keong holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Animation from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He was the Chair of the Student Volunteer Program for SIGGRAPH Asia 2010 in Seoul and was a committee member for the SIGGRAPH Asia conferences in Yokohama (2009) and Singapore (2008).

Samuel Woo

Producer / Designer

Samuel is a photographer, a designer and an info-junkie at his best. Armed with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from Nanyang Technological University and two other certificates in both Product and Graphic Design, he has an addiction to making things pretty (sometimes in strange ways). He has exhibited in various underground shows including *Indignation* 2006-2007.

Ryan Tan

Technical Director

Ryan is an autodidact who has been developing applications for the last two decades. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Animation to feed his obsession of creating stuff and gets the greatest satisfaction in making technology play well with art & design. He headed



the games and television production departments at Interactive Digital Reality while in university and created the Angel's Gate television series - the first Singapore-made television format to be brought overseas. He now runs his own digital consultancy, Red Airship, specializing in mobile and web product development.

In his free time Ryan balances between managing the Animators in Singapore group, consulting for the SEA+ organization and building his various pet projects. He is also an avid photographer and coffee addict.