

Linda LAI's photography

LINDA LAI

PRACTICE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

I've been drawn enormously to the uncanny. In ordinary things there is another life, other dimensions, hidden sounds, or a concealed spirit... This is the kind of picture-maker I am.

I am also particularly drawn to light and shadows. In Chinese, "photography" [摄影 'she ying'] literally means "catching the shadows"

My photography is not about composing, orchestrating. I mean, my composition is spontaneous and accidental, depending on individual moments of encounter.

My photography is about my presence in the urban space, marks and traces of my drifting mind and city-walking.

Photography is momentary, the articulation of my here-and-now, being there doing. Every photograph, therefore, is a projectile, a forward motion, or else, snatches from the boundless ocean of chaos.

(2011)

LINDA LAI

BIOGRAPHY

Linda (Chiu-han) Lai is a Ph.D. in Cinema Studies (NYU), currently Associate Professor at the City University of Hong Kong's School of Creative Media, and Leader of Critical Intermedia Arts. She has been a writer and independent curator for contemporary media art, and an active symposium speaker.

As an artist, Lai is trans-disciplinary. Her works have a strong concern for language and micro/meta-narrativity, grounded in a feminist sensibility that integrates critical theory, cultural studies, and history-writing. Her works are also largely auto-ethnographic and engage in found footage and compilation.

Her video art, installation and digital works have been shown in funded exhibitions in Hong Kong and in art and film/video festivals in Paris, Berlin, Oberhausen, Hamburg, Birmingham, Barcelona, Jihlava (the Czech Republic), Seoul, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Kaohsiung, Montreal, and numerous experimental film/video festivals in the United States. [go to -> [video works and other art works](#)]

Her photographic works have been strongly influenced by her practice and knowledge in cinema and seek inventive synthesis between still images and digital video. Her photograph works are also closely tied to her practice as a city-ethnographer.

Lai is the founder and currently Artistic Director of the Writing Machine Collective (WMC) (2004 to present). [go to -> [WMC](#)] After co-founding Experimenta and creating the space's first-year art portfolio, she quit and founded a new group, the Floating Projects Collective (FPC), an art incubator for emerging artists as well as artistic/curatorial experiments for experienced artists and theorists. [go to -> [FPC](#)] She was also member of the Board of Directors for the Para/site Art Space (2003-2009).

Among various academic and art writings, she has published a +280-page photo-text dialogue with Theresa Junko Mikuriya, partially supported by the Philippe Charriol Foundation, titled *Cryptoglyph: Dialogues in Many Tongues in the Hidden Crevices of an Open City* (2004). The book documented their 8-round photo-text games, exploring the artistic inscription of two women's subjectivities in the city space of the contemporary world. She also researched and edited the 334-page *[Re]-fabrication: Choi Yan-chi's 30 Years, the paths for interdisciplinary in art (1975-2005)* (2007), for Para/Site Art Space's "Hongkong Artists in the 1980s" series. More recent important essays include "Attempting a history of (new) media arts for Hong Kong: archaeology, literacy and education for artists" for the *Hong Kong Visual Arts Yearbook 2007* (2008), a first essay of its nature to trace the fragments of events that would culminate in a history of Hong Kong's media art activities.

Lai had been a juror for various editions of IFVA (Independent Film & Video Awards, Hong Kong) and the Bloomberg Emerging Artists Program, and adviser to the Museum of Art and Hong Kong Arts Development Council's Media Art sector. In her capacity as an educator and artists, Linda has worked with many young and aspiring art practitioners in Hong Kong.



Come Stroke the Perfect Surface (2003)

26.67" x 40"; C-print, Lambda printing on metallic paper, mounted on Dibond aluminum compound panel / 3 editions

From the "Trespassing World Cities" series / Tokyo – Ginza

HK\$38,000



Carnival (2007)

9" x 12"

Light Box (5cm thickness)

Edition of 5

HK\$10,000



***While you were looking away* (2011)**

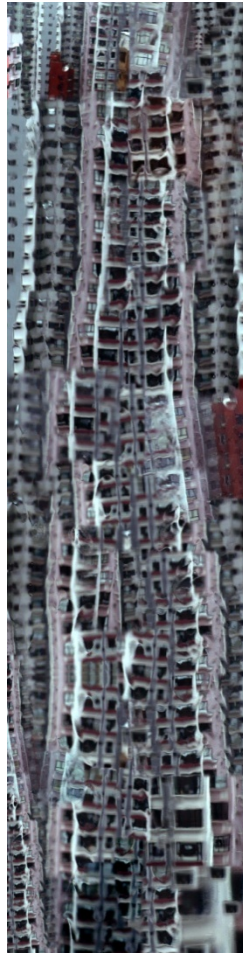
Collage; Holga E to C; 6.8" x 16"

Light Box (5cm thickness)

From the "Hongkong City Space" series

Edition of 5

HK\$15,000



Melting Squares no. 1 (2005)

A digital collage based on 20 video stills

1470mm x 370mm

Lambda print framed in wooden case (2" thick) with glass front

4 editions

HK\$20,000



***Melting Squares no. 3* (2005)**

A digital collage based on 20 video stills

1470mm x 370mm

Lambda print framed in wooden case (2" thick) with glass front

4 editions

HK\$20,000

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