

Artist from  
**HONG KONG**

製造(完美的)世界  
**MAKING  
(PERFECT)  
WORLD**

Artist | **PAK Sheung Chuen 白雙全**  
Curated by Tobias Berger in association with Para/Site Art Space

# ARTWORK LIST



## COURTYARD

- 1 A Lake is a Huge Floating Cloud**  
11/05/2007
- 2 The Horizon Placed at Home (N22°17'400" Version)**  
Hong Kong, 05/04/2009  
45 plastic bottles filled with seawater collected from Victoria Harbour, Hong Kong.

I drew a horizontal line (coordinates N22°17'400") on a map of Victoria Harbour, from the east coast all the way to the west. This line is possibly the longest horizontal route any ship can sail in the Harbour. I proceeded to collect 1,200 ml worth of seawater at various locations on this route with a 100-meter interval between each point. Each location fell on the drawn crossing-point of the latitude and longitude on the maps. These Victoria Harbour maps, eight in total, were 1:1,000 in scale, and were published by the Hong Kong Survey and Mapping Office. There were forty-five crossing points on these maps; whereby I collected forty-five bottles of seawater from. I placed these bottles at home for my own appreciation of Victoria Harbour's sea level. The sea level was then transported from Hong Kong to Venice to be presented to the viewers.

- 3 Half Soul, Half Body**  
Venice, 06-21/05/2009  
63.4 kilos worth of stones

I collected numerous stones in Venice, from the streets, houses, churches, parks and grass fields... I divided the stones into two halves, one half is suspended using the weight of the other half. The stones on the ground are slightly heavier than the mass of stones suspended in air. The combined weight of these two groups equals my body weight, which is 63.4 kilos.

- 4 Together We Rise and Fall**  
Venice, 04/06/2009  
Two balloons tied together

An idea conceived by my wife Kam Lai Wan and executed by me.

- 5 From the Queen to a Flower: 1**  
Hong Kong, 06/2009  
Hong Kong ten-cent coins (1982-1998) scattered around various corners.

- 6 A Circle that is the Sun as well as the Full Moon, Hung on the Same Spot**  
Venice, 09/05/2009

## ROOM 1

- 7 One Eye, Half of the Moon**  
Hong Kong, 19/02/2009

**Viewing Instruction:** Please use only one eye to look at the wall painting of a half moon.

- 8 We Are Looking at the Other Side of the Sun**  
Hong Kong, 01/02/2009

- 9 Travelling Venice in the Dark**  
16-18/05/2009 (21:30-5:30) (3Days)

I photocopied a map of Venice --- the buildings are shown as black, the sea as grey and the streets as neon white. I walked along the white parts (streets) on the photocopied map for three nights, and crossed out the ones I've traveled with a black marker until the whole Venice disappears into the dark. Calmness exists within darkness, only Venice and myself remain.

- 10 From the Queen to a Flower: 2**  
04/2009

Re-arranging Hong Kong ten-cent coins (1982-1998) into a metal column chronologically.

As a former British colony, Hong Kong became Hong Kong S.A.R. and part of China on July 1st, 1997. From national identity, government policies to everyday lives, Hong Kong as a whole has been changing slowly. The statue on the ten-cent coin is a fine example; it has become a flower instead of the Queen's portrait. The image of the Queen is in fact slowly fading away in our lives and memories.

## ROOM 2

- 11 Waiting for Everyone to Fall Asleep**

Sham Shui Po (Tonning Mansion, Tonkin Street), 27/12/2006 (22:30) > 28/12/2006 (06:00)

I stood in front of a 13-storey building in Sham Shui Po and waited for all the residents to fall asleep. The 5 images were taken at 22:38 / 01:40 / 02:36 / 04:09 / 05:04. A person in the building remained awake throughout the night, we ended up wasting a night together while being on opposite sides of the street.

- 12 From the Queen to a Flower: 3**

Hong Kong, 04/2009  
Hong Kong ten-cent coins (1982-1998)

- 13**



- a A Love Letter to LC**

Hong Kong (Commercial Press Book Store), 03/11/2003 - 19:53

I bought 4 books from the bookstore. If you read the first word of the title from each book, the message (in Chinese) reads: I / Am / Thinking of / You.

**b The Miracle of \$132.30**

Hong Kong (CRC Supermarket), 13/11/2003 - 12:46

I bought eight items from the supermarket and was given a receipt. If you read the second word from each item's name, from top to bottom, the sentence (in Chinese) reads: Whoever believes in him should... have eternal life. (John 3:16).

**c Sharing a Watermelon with an Unknown Person (2009 Venice Version)**

**d A Catty of Peanut (2009 Venice Version)**

05/2005

I divided a catty of peanuts into left and right.

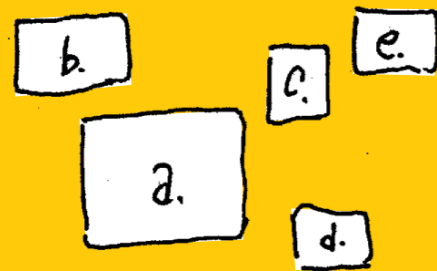
**14 Waiting for a Friend (Without Appointment)**

Hong Kong (Kowloon Tong MTR Station), 29/12/2006 (12:47-16:38)

Without an appointment, I randomly selected a place and waited there for a friend to come. This time Jacky, a university classmate whom I had not seen for two years, appeared at the chosen location at 16:38. He asked me, "How did you know I'd be here?" I told him, "I really didn't know... but I've been waiting for you here for a long time!"

## ROOM 3

15



**a The Shape of History**

Italy (Turin, Fiume Po), 27/10/2008

Performance with Video Documentation: 15:00

One third of a stone column exposes constantly above the surface of river 'Fiume Po'. I went into the river, wetted my fingers and started drawing on the stone column in the clock-wise direction to minimise its exposed area, until the shape of the exposed area was covered by water and disappeared completely.

**b Draw Two Identical Circles - One for the Left Eye, One for the Right Eye**

New York, 14/08/2007, Charcoal Drawing

This is reminiscent of a poem by the Chinese poet Gu Cheng: Darkness of the night gave me black eyes / I used it to search for light

**c 5 Lines Parallel to the Sea**

16/05/2005, Staff

**d We Are Looking at the Other Side of the Sun**

Italy (Turin), 23/10/2008

**e About 172cm**

Hong Kong, 05/01/2006

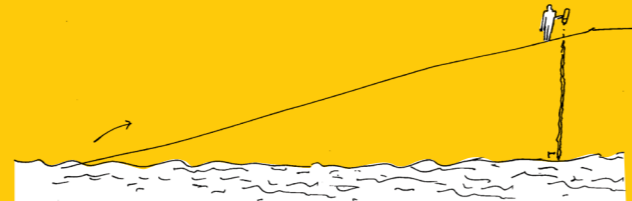
Performance, photograph and triangle installation: Height 172 cm, base angle 30°

**16 Using the Light of the Waning Moon to Draw a Full Moon**

Norway, 05/09/2007, Photography

I took this photograph with long exposure: I aimed the camera at the new moon, and then rotated the camera in a full circle within 1.3 seconds. The light from the new moon was traced as an orbit in the film. After hundreds of attempts, the new moon finally became a full moon.

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**The Eternal Triangle**

Italy (Turin, Fiume Po), 25/10/2008

Performance with Video Documentation: 8:00

Coincidentally, the gradient of the road and the river together form a perfect right triangle. I draw a bucket of water from the bottom corner of the triangle and carry it to the vertex of the triangle. At this point, I pour the water into the river. During the act of pouring all the water into the river, the water forms a line that is perpendicular to the river and its length is equal to the side of the triangle. I am merely a small pixel in the film (with a red arrow that indicates my position from time to time). One must concentrate in order to perceive me walking in the film.

**18 Vaporising in Circles**

Venice, 04/06/2009

I carried water from the river 'Fiume Po' in Torino back to Venice, and stored it in a bucket to create rounded water vapors in the air.

**19 You Never See a Square!**

Italy, 23/10/2008, Concept

A square is defined as having all sides equal in length, and its interior angles are all at 90 degrees. Their shape though does in fact change according to one's vantage point of the angles. So, in reality, our eyes have never actually "seen" a real square, as it can only appear in our imagination.

**20 Square Light**

Guangzhou, 08/01/2009

Installation (The rear of a television set that is connected to a DVD player that plays a pirated DVD of Japanese pornography on loop)

## ROOM 4

**21 NYPLP5: Measuring the Size of the Sea Storing in a Library**

Position of the Collection: Ottendorfer Branch Public Library, East Village, 135 Second Avenue, New York

Close on Sunday

I spent a few days in a library and read all of its volumes in order to measure the size of the sea stored in the library: When I came upon a book with a full page image of the sea on the cover or inner page, I would borrow that book. I then linked up every sea level of the books until they formed the shape of a sea. The concept of this artwork came from my imagination on the notion of "one" sea. When we look at the sea, we can never see the end. No matter the locale, they generally all look the same. This artwork was executed at the Ottendorfer Branch Public Library, New York, which has approximately 6,000 books in its collection, 68 of them have a full page image of a sea, 56 of which are on the cover. The artwork was produced between May 1st and 11th, 2008.

**22 NYPLP1: page 22 / Half Folded Library**

Location of the Collection: 58th Street Branch Public Library, 127 East 58th Street, New York.

Close on Sunday

This is a site-specific installation in a public library. I folded the corner of every page 22 of half of the collection in a library. I pretended to read the books whilst folding the upper corner of every other page 22 discreetly. I folded one book, skipped one book, and then folded another book until half of the entire collection in that library was completed. There were 188 bookshelves and almost 31,000 books in the collection. Subsequently, the corners of 15,500 books were folded. The whole process took almost a month as I worked intermittently in the library from June 6th - 24th, 2008. The media of this artwork is the library. For viewing, please go to the library and/or borrow the books out. It is a permanent collection of 58th Street Branch Public Library.

**23 White Library / A Mind Reaching for Emptiness**

Hong Kong (Asia Art Archive), 2009

A blank page is a pause of time in reading. It could also be readable, offering infinite imagination. A blank page creates a common link in different books, giving us a vision of the whole. During my residency in Asia Art Archive, I photocopied all the blank pages from its collection, attempting to create an alternative to the archive's collection.

**24 ATJP 2: Valleys Trip**

Japan (Tokyo), 27-28/02, 01-02/03, 05/03/2007 (5 Days)

When I open a map book, I have always found it very difficult to comprehend the space at the middle fold. It inspired me to plan a walk within those spaces. I walked vertically from p.1 to p.296 on the Tokyo map book, 24 pages in total, from the southern part to the northern part of the city. I called it "Valleys' Trip" because the pages are arched in the shape of two mountains and the gap itself is caved like a valley. I stood and took photos at every point while crossing through the valleys. Map: Tokyo 23 Districts (1:10000 / 2006-1 Edition).

## ROOM 5

**25 Our Breath Lying on the Floor like a Cloud**

Venice, 31-27/05/2009

Installation (3 x 4 x 2 meters), plastic bags and our breath.

**26 Breathing in a House**

Korea (Busan), 01-10/09/2006 (10 Days)

I rented an apartment in Busan (measuring 6.7M x 2.7M x 2.2M). Although I lived my daily life as usual there, I collected all my breath in transparent plastic bags until they filled up the entire apartment. The process took ten days to complete and I felt as if part of my life was absorbed by this apartment.

**27 Two People Blowing into One Balloon**

Hong Kong, 05/02/2004

Kam Lai Wan and myself blew into one balloon, which has been kept until today.

**28 Collecting Air**

Hong Kong, 04/11/2003

I collected air from different countries around the globe from supermarkets in Hong Kong.

## ROOM 6

**29 A Travel Without Visual Experience**

Malaysia, 07-11/10/2008 (5-days/4-nights tour group)

I joined a 5-day/4-nights tour group to Malaysia, a country that I had never been before. From Hong Kong to Malaysia then back to Hong Kong, I either closed or covered up my eyes (in order to pretend that I was blind) for the entire journey. During the trip, I was still doing all the sightseeing and took many photos, but instead of seeing, I only used my body to sense and experience my surroundings. These photographs enabled my "future" eyes to view the documented foreign landscapes at a later stage. My images, along with photography and videos from other members of the tour group, became the sole reference of my indirect memories and visual experience for Malaysia. I will possibly never step foot into Malaysia again.

Before entering, please have your camera ready and refer to the board located outside the entrance for further instructions.

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