

Press Release

Title: Moon Rehearsals

Artist: VERTEX af (Ei Arakawa and Sarah Chow)

Duration: November 5, 2019 - February 2, 2020

Opening: November 5, 2019, 4 pm – 6 pm (Performance: 4 pm – 5 pm)

Location: Cc Foundation & Art Centre

Add: Room 101, Bldg 15, M50 Art Industrial Park, 50 Moganshan Road, Putuo District, Shanghai

Cc Foundation & Art Centre is pleased to present Moon Rehearsals, an exhibition by VERTEX af (Ei Arakawa and Sarah Chow) with a performance in collaboration with Forrest Nash. Moon Rehearsals is VERTEX af's first solo exhibition in China.

VERTEX af inquires how magic meets the conceptual in contemporary art production. Utilizing astrology and other magical practices, VERTEX af proposes alternative systems of knowledge that can be used to inform our actions and relationships. While mainstream concepts of astrology (like daily horoscopes and pop cultural sun-sign interpretations) can act as an almost oppressive force that dictate the events of our lives, the zodiac can also be employed as a tool for intuitive self-empowerment and the production of non-data—a blurry, lunar, and somewhat confused approach to technological thinking.

The exhibition centers around the Octagon Pavilion, an eight-sided semi-transparent structure, around which a group of temporal objects circulates: three LED Moons slowly phasing, an LED asteroid Ryugu, named for a mythical undersea dragon palace, fifteen essays of Performance People (personality profiles of performance art works derived through astrological analysis), a laser-etched drawing on ceramic, a new song, and a large outdoor poster. The sliding silk curtains of the Octagon Pavilion mirror the moon's orbital path around the earth, while a lunar composition plays in the background. During the performative concert at the opening, the audience engages with an improvisational dance to synergize with the phases of the moon. Stickers indicating the audience's sun and moon signs will be displayed in the exhibition afterword showcasing a temporary collectivity.

About the opening performance (approx. 40min)

Together with collaborator Forrest Nash, VERTEX af presents seven live songs from Arakawa's previous art installations and musicals. (Paris & Wizard, 2013; Jiro, Digital Paintings, 2015; How to DISappear in America, 2016; Sculpture Project Münster, 2017; and more) The songs, performed with a vocoder, are about temporality and the ephemerality of paintings, artists, art collectives, and the art world. One of the songs will be a new work-in-progress by VERTEX af and Nash. A planetary dance action by VERTEX af, Nash, and the audience, will accompany this song.

About the artists

VERTEX af (f. 2018) is a collective formed by Ei Arakawa and Sarah Chow that explores how magic meets the conceptual in contemporary art and esoteric practice. Previous exhibitions and projects include: Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany; Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, UK; Overduin & Co., Los Angeles, USA; Dunhuang Foundation, Dunhuang, China; Harvard University, Boston, USA; Starship Magazine, Berlin, Germany; Salzburg International Summer Academy of Fine Arts, Salzburg, Austria; Asia Art Archive in America, New York, USA.

Ei Arakawa (b. Fukushima, Japan 1977) is a performance artist based in Los Angeles and New York. His performances are created through diverse collaborations, with individuals physically participating as performers, and/or their works themselves functioning as performers. He has established the act of such collaborations as his very practice. Arakawa's selected exhibitions include; Honolulu Biennial, USA; Sculpture Project Münster, Germany; The 9th Berlin Biennale, Germany; The Gwangju Biennial, South Korea; the Whitney Biennial, New York; the Carnegie International in Pittsburgh; Tate Modern in London, and The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Sarah Chow (b. Los Angeles, CA 1988) is an artist based in New York. Her work focuses on sculpture and video derived from digital language structures and esoteric practices that explore alternative forms of knowledge production. She examines the relationship between technology and the cosmos. She has been included in exhibitions at Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany; The Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool; Overduin & Co, Los Angeles, USA; Rupert, Vilnius, Lithuania; Mountains, Berlin, Germany; Longtang, Zurich, Switzerland. Chow studied at New York University and received her graduate degree from Bard College in New York.

Forrest Nash (b. Richmond, VA 1987) previously composed songs for Ei Arakawa's art installations at the High Line, NY, and Musée Fabre, Montpellier, France. He runs the website Contemporary Art Daily since 2008.

About Cc Foundation

Cc Foundation, founded and supported by collector and entrepreneur David Chau, is committed to supporting and sponsoring young and emerging practitioners, encouraging innovative ideas, and promoting the development of contemporary arts and culture in China and beyond. With offices in both Hong Kong and Shanghai, the foundation launched its non-profit space in Shanghai in 2015.