

27 March 2018

Frieze

"Critic's Guide: Hong Kong."

Link: <https://frieze.com/article/critics-guide-hong-kong-1>

FRIEZE.COM

EDITORIAL ON VIEW FAIRS VIDEO ACADEMY

LOG IN FOLLOW  



CRITIC'S GUIDE - 27 MAR 2018

Critic's Guide: Hong Kong

With Art Basel Hong Kong taking place this week, a guide to the best shows to see across the city

BY CHRISTIE LEE



Phillip Lai 'In the Half Life', 2018, installation view, Edouard Malingue Gallery, Hong Kong. Courtesy: Edouard Malingue Gallery, Hong Kong, and the artist

Phillip Lai, 'In The Half Life'

Edouard Malingue Gallery

27 March – 5 May

No definite positions are taken at Phillip Lai's 'In The Half Life'. While the objects on display seem familiar – a stack of dirt-smeared wash basins, hollowed-out cylinders, light bulbs fastened to the bottom of a shelf – all of them appear stuck between functions, as if on the cusp of transfiguration, but not quite. A poetic touch is juxtaposed with a sense of the absurd; viewers straining for meaning will find themselves at a dead end. Rather than force the works to give themselves up to be read, Lai creates room for a heightened sense of awareness of the way we define ourselves in relation to our surroundings. Ironically, this state of unease and inbetweenness strikes a chord in our anxious times.