

Edouard Malingue Gallery
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S.E.A. Focus

Phillip Lai
Tromarama

Date
Vernissage
13 January 2022

VIP Preview
14 January 2022

Public days
15 – 23 January, 2022

Venue
Tanjong Pagar Distripark
01-05, 39 Keppel Road, Singapore
089065

Screening Programme | Projector X
Tromarama
19 – 21 January, 2022
04-13 Riverside Point

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Edouard Malingue Gallery is delighted to present for this edition of S.E.A Focus, works by Phillip Lai (b. 1969, Malaysia) and collective, Tromarama (founded in 2006, Indonesia). Featured in the curated section are two sculptural works by Phillip Lai and new lenticular prints by Tromarama. Furthermore, three video works by Tromarama will be presented in S.E.A. Focus's screening programme, Projector X.

Intrinsic to Phillip Lai's practice is the interest in the uncertainty embedded in space, and the observation of our relationship with objects, images and space. *Untitled* (2019) is a sculptural installation composed of a bowl, that is perfectly wedged into an undulating structure resembling black foam. The seemingly random materials are cast by the artist. Lai plays with utility, balance and architecture through placement and arrangement. He often puts our habitual thinking of such relationships in daily life in contrast to his ideas, and explores the simple, material properties, which is how the objects are formed and perceived by humans. Born in Kuala Lumpur and currently based in London, Phillip Lai has exhibited internationally at Modern Art, London (2021), The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield (2018), Camden Arts Centre, London (2014); Tate Modern, London (2010) amongst others. His work is held in the permanent collection of the Tate (UK), Arts Council (UK), Camden Arts Centre (UK), Goss-Michael Foundation (USA), Nomas Foundation (Italy), La Colección Jumex (Mexico). Lai was shortlisted for the Hepworth Prize for Sculpture in 2018.

Initiating as a collective in 2006 in Bandung, Febie Babyrose, Herbert Hans and Ruddy Hatumena create works that combine video, installation, computer programming and public participation depicting the influence of digital media on society's perception of its surroundings. Showcased in the curated section is the lenticular-printed series "Consonant". All the distorted images that appear in this series come from the artists' elementary to junior high school archives and documents. These materials are an instrument to measure and cast a person in every level of education. "Consonant" series is an attempt to question all the values and thoughts that are brought up by these official materials which is a state vision on what an individual should behave like and think in order to live in society. Presented in S.E.A. Focus's screening section, Projector X are Tromarama's single channel video works *Mirage* (2016) and *On Progress* (2013), and the stop-motion animation *Pilgrimage* (2011). Channeling language, text, wit, sequence as well as interaction through their varied practice, Tromarama reflect on the cornerstones of Indonesia's political and cultural environment, a form of perceptive engagement that applies globally. Their works were recently exhibited at DOCUMENT, Chicago (2021), National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2020), National Gallery of Australia, Canberra (2019), Centre A, Vancouver (2017), Liverpool Biennial Fringe, Liverpool (2016), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2015) amongst others.

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Edouard Malingue Gallery was founded in Hong Kong in 2010 to build a critical dialogue between Asian and international contemporary artists, both emerging and established, who combine aesthetic concern with conceptual enquiry, and work across different disciplines from video and installation to painting and sound. In addition to presenting dynamic solo exhibitions, the gallery pushes the boundaries of art in public spaces and stimulates artistic discourse through collaborations with curators worldwide.