

'Practise Till We Meet'

18 February - 28 May 2023 at esea contemporary

Open 10am - 5pm, Tuesday - Saturday, and 12 - 5pm on Sunday

Free Entry

esea contemporary is pleased to announce its inaugural exhibition 'Practise Till We Meet'. Showcasing five artists and two collectives, the exhibition is guest curated by Hanlu Zhang, an independent curator, writer, and editor interested in art as social practice.

'Practise Till We Meet' explores diasporic experiences, the condition of migration, and the challenges and actions taken to create a just life in a new place. Personal and political, traumatic and humorous, it looks across geography and through generations to consider how individual and community perspectives become intertwined with global upheavals. The participating artists incorporate approaches such as community engagement, performance, interactivity and social experiment in their works as exercises of connecting and reconnecting.

Works include moving image, installations, wall works, videos, paintings and a newly commissioned sculpture. The artists and collectives will hold events at esea contemporary's new *Communal Project Space*, creating displays which grow and change throughout the exhibition.

Hanlu Zhang said: "For migrants, understanding how to act in unfamiliar experiences requires *practice*. By witnessing or even participating in these necessary and emotionally motivated exercises presented in this exhibition, new perspectives and knowledge of this world open up to all of us. The works show personal desires and family histories becoming intertwined with political upheavals. Some self-educate on topsy-turvy journeys searching for memory and belonging; others practise care, tenderness, and affection, collaboratively forging solid paths in a world in crisis."

Asia-Art-Activism (AAA) is dedicated to continuously re-examining the discursive paradigm of 'Asia' and 'British Asian' art and history through organising exhibitions, events and everyday practice. They achieve so by building a transnational and intergenerational community around topics such as migration, care and activism.

Founded in 2020, Asian Feminist Studio for Art and Research (AFSAR) is a decentralised network of artists, curators and scholars. They offer an open platform for people from diverse backgrounds to share lived narratives and expressions about the Asian diaspora with feminist vision.

Manchester-based Audrey Albert will present her photo series 'Matter Out of Place' and participatory workshop 'Chagossians of Manchester'. Albert, a native of the island of Mauritius, with Chagossian origins, rebuilds a collective sense of belonging through food, objects, oral history and community art.

Isaac Chong Wai looks at the history of protests and invites performers to reenact some moments in it with slowness and stillness in 'Rehearsal of the Futures: Is the world your friend?'. Chong's new installation adopts the imagery of two and three-legged chairs, tracing the political turmoil and conflicts of the past decades in the UK-Hong Kong-China relationship.

Koki Tanaka's work asks the question of 'how to live together with difference'. 'Vulnerable Histories (A Road Movie)' invites two young people of culturally hybrid backgrounds to embark on a study trip together to learn about the discrimination and systematic violence towards the Korean diaspora in Japan.

Liu Weiwei's practice combines social investigation, social engagement and experimental documentary. His ongoing project 'Australia' takes the artist's brother's impulse to leave China to live in Australia and turns this personal dilemma into a series of collaborative or public events.

Mimian Hsu's practice explores Asian diasporic expressions and how they are defined by the mutually-shaping processes between familial and national histories. Her work responds to living in Central America with a Taiwanese cultural background.

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For more information or images please contact press@eseacontemporary.org