

Joyce Ho

Before It Happens_Snow

11 Jan - 16 Feb 2025

Opening Reception 19 Jan 2025, 8pm

Press Release

Queensway Television is pleased to present *Before It Happens_Snow* by Joyce Ho. Adept at translating keen observations of ordinary gestures and routines into poetic meditations of our reality, Ho opts to fixate on the action of glass wiping for the video work created for this exhibition.

Patches of foam filled the glass, as her longtime collaborator “Vera” enters the scene with one job - to clean the surface. Her seemingly robotic movements engage in repetitive actions throughout the video, dominating our sense together with sounds of the cloth moving across the surface of the glass. This is amplified by her clever setup to construct an infinity mirror effect, endlessly multiplying “Vera” to further invoke a sense of mechanisation.

Without showing what comes before or after, while only focusing on the process of wiping the glass, Ho skillfully captures a state of uncertainty. Through the deliberation on our understanding and expectations of normalcy, this simple act is carefully staged with every detail crafted to examine the gaps in our everyday reality. The contrast induces an invisible and inexplicable tension experience by the audience, while leaving room for possibilities and interpretations.

Exaggerating these mundane phenomena before our eyes, Ho compels us to engage in a level of perception that we are not used to, inviting us to recognise new ways of seeing. This is even more evident by the presentation of the work at Queensway Television, where the viewing of the work through the window creates another layer of experience.

At the end, “Vera” exits the scene after fully wiping the glass back and forth; yet the surface is less clear than before, leaving with the audience traces of her actions and questions of what it really does.

Artist Biography

Joyce Ho received her M.A. in studio arts from the University of Iowa. In Ho's artwork, she fluidly shifts between painting, sculpture, installation, and performance as she explores daily rituals and basic human interactions. Joyce Ho's work examines the relationship between social behaviors (consumption, service, __, etc.) and the physical materiality of everyday objects. Through this deconstruction and repetition of fragmented slices of daily routines, she conveys the intimacy of our lives while also highlighting the sense of alienation we feel between ourselves and reality. Her works simultaneously envelop the audience, while also confronting them, as she strategically destabilizes the viewer's perspective and modes of perception.

Ho has exhibited internationally, including Phantasmapolis: NGV Triennial 2023, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (2023), HYPER DIGITAL FORCES, Borusan Contemporary, İstanbul, Turkey (2023), SIFA 2023: The anatomy of performance - some people, The Arts House, Civic District, Singapore (2023), Asian Art Biennial, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan (2021); Why Art Matters: Gallery Children's Biennale 2021, National Gallery Singapore, Singapore (2021); We Do Not Dream Alone: Asia Society Triennial, Asia Society Museum, New York, NY, U.S. (2021); Noire Lumière, How Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2020); Yokohama Triennale: Afterglow, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan (2020); Meditations in an Emergency, UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2020); OzAsia Festival, Artspace Gallery, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, Australia (2019); NO ON: Joyce Ho Solo Exhibition, TKG+, Taipei, Taiwan (2019); 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia (2018); Inhabiting the World, Busan Biennale, Busan Museum of Art, Korea (2014); and Everyday Life: Asian Art Biennale, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan (2013).

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