

SU HUI-YU

The Cinema of Séance

I646 is delighted to present *The Cinema of Séance* by [Su Hui-Yu](#).

Su Hui-Yu presents new work in *The Cinema of Séance*, his first solo-exhibition in The Netherlands. The work of Su walks a line between history and memory, on a collective, universal level and on a personal, individual level — how does a national past relate to the collective memories of the people in it? Recalling a cult-genre of 1980s Taiwanese cinema, the works place the socio-political strife of that era in Taiwan squarely in the present, addressing not only memory, but also a re-imagination of taboos and cultural values from the past and the present.

On view are four of Su's works. *Super Taboo* (2015), a two-channel film adaptation of a pornographic publication of the same title and explores fantasy and the erotic from an angle of illegality and constraint. In *The Glamorous Boys of Tang* (2018) Su presents a re-creation of a 1985 film written by renowned poet and screenwriter Chui Kang-Chien - a homoerotic fantasy moving across gender and subculture in Taiwan's diverse society. The newest work, coproduced by I646, is *Women's Revenge*, a five-channel video installation, along with a print inspired by 80s cult-film cinema posters from Su's visceral childhood memories.

Su's works center around Taiwanese history, memory, re-imagination and transgression. *The Cinema of Séance* engages taboos of the past and the present while exploring the mechanism of oppression and liberation tied to the island country's cultural values.

A few years before martial law, imposed by Kuomintang (known as the Chinese Nationalist Party), was lifted in Taiwan in the 1980s, a cult-genre of women's revenge films emerged — strong vengeful female protagonists inspiring *The Women's Revenge*. The films provided an outlet to the era's desire and the sexual repression under government rule. These productions also signaled the beginning of an immensely transformative period in the country.

Su Hui-Yu examines the borders of bodies, sexuality, along with the entanglement of socio-political conduct and prohibition. The artist paves the way for the possibility of reviewing and supplementing history with his reflective practice, "re-shooting" early Taiwanese experimental films. *The Cinema of Séance*, as a title is inspired by Julian Ross' essay on Su's work, *Midnight Séance*, and shows that to pay homage to the forgotten ghosts of film history means bringing summoning them back to life. Using cinematic effects and extreme violence, Su's works are brought back to the world of the living.

Su's film *The Women's Revenge* was part of the "[IFFR Ammodo Tiger Short Competition 2021](#)" and at a later stage on a date to be determined he will present a performance during the [Art Directions program](#) of the IFFR. (These plans are subject to potential alterations depending on developments regarding national COVID-19 measures)

About the artist:

Su Hui-Yu was born in Taipei in 1976. He obtained an MFA from Taipei National University of the Arts in 2003, and has remained active in the contemporary art scene ever since.

Su has been featured in renowned international film festivals, exhibitions and art institutes, including the IFFR (the Netherlands), OzAsia festival (Adelaide, Australia), the Videonale (Bonn, Germany), PERFORMA (New York, USA), Wuzhen Contemporary Art Exhibition (China), MOCA Taipei (Taiwan), Taipei Fine Arts Museum (Taiwan), Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts (Taiwan), San Jose Museum of Art (California, USA), Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University, Casino Luxembourg- forum d'art contemporain, Bangkok Arts and Culture Center (Thailand) and Power Station of Art (Shanghai, China). In 2017, International Film Festival Rotterdam dedicated a retrospective to Su's video works, while his video piece *Super Taboo* had its world premiere in the Tiger Awards Competition for Short Films. Su returned to the Tiger Short Competition in 2019 with *The Glamorous Boys of Tang*.

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Address

Boekhorststraat 125,
2512CN The Hague, NL

Opening times

9/6 -27/6

Thu: 13.00 - 20.00

Fri.-Sun.: 13.00 - 18.00

Note: Due to COVID-19 measures, the opening date of this exhibition may still be subject to changes.

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