

# Soft Opening

Sin Wai Kin,

*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*

5 March – 16 April, 2022

6 Minerva Street

# *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*

Sin Wai Kin brings fantasy to life through storytelling via moving image, performance, writing, sound and print. Their work draws on the experience of existing between fixed categories, realising fictional narratives to describe real experiences of desire and identification.

The exhibition traces the imprints made into facial wipes after Sin removed each character, each day of the film production for *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts* (2021). A single sculpture, *The Universe's Ornaments* (2022), accompanies these works, displaying the wig and butterfly-embellished diamanté necklace worn by the artist as one character in the film. In this context and on view alongside the film, these works expand Sin's interest in transformation through embodied speculative fictions through the continuous and purposeful performance of multiple selves.

*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts* takes Chuang Tzu's allegory Dream of the Butterfly (c. 300 BC) as its starting point, in which the ancient Taoist imagines the experience of the senses as a dream. The philosopher dreams so vividly that he is a butterfly that he wakes uncertain which state of consciousness is reality. Sin's film follows three characters played by the artist: The Universe and both sides of The Construct's internalised false dichotomy, each grappling with their surroundings and each other in dreamscapes they journey through and continually wake from.

In the film, Sin weaves traditional Chinese dramaturgy with references to contemporary drag, music and poetry, in order to queer genres and categories while cultivating a space for imagining different worlds and new ways of being. Cantonese and Peking Opera are notable for their fixed character roles, wherein performers wear standardised "masks" in painted make-up, rendering them instantaneously identifiable as archetypal characters in the plot. The rigidity of these roles enables the artist to illuminate societal scripts surrounding binaries of not only masculinity and femininity, but also self and other, thinking and feeling, life and death, dreaming and waking. These binaries are represented and undone in the relationships that the characters have to each other, their contexts, their language and themselves.

# Sin Wai Kin

Sin Wai Kin (b. 1991 Toronto) lives and works in London. This spring, the artist will have a solo performance at the Guggenheim, New York. Sin's most recent film, *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts* (2021) was recently screened at The British Film Institute's 65th London Film Festival. Their work is currently included in the touring exhibition the British Art Show 9 as well as *Protozone* at Shedhalle, Zürich and *HYPHER-POSSIBLE: Coventry Biennial 2021*, Coventry. Recent solo exhibitions include *It's Always You* at Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong (2021); *She's Hopeful* (2018) at Soft Opening, London (2020); *Narrative Reflections on Looking* at Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb (2020); *Narrative Reflections on Looking* at Sotheby's S2, London (2018) and *Indifferent Idols* at Taipei Contemporary Art Centre, Taipei (2018). Recent group exhibitions include *Carnival* at The Polygon Gallery, Vancouver (2021); *Other World* at Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, Grand Rapids, Michigan (2021); *B3 Biennial of Moving Image*, Frankfurt (2021); *Polymorphous Sex* at Display Association for Research and Collective Practice, Prague (2021); *Love in the times of...* curated by Gianni Jetzer at Hotel Europe, Zürich (2021); *Born in Flames: Feminist Futures* at Bronx Museum, New York (2021); *The many faced god.dess*, curated by Thomas Conchou at La Maison populaire de Montreuil, Montreuil (2021); *Age of You*, curated by Shumon Basar, Douglas Copeland & Hans Ulrich Obrist at Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai & MOCA Toronto (2020 & 2019); *Together* at M HKA, Antwerp (2020); *MORE, MORE, MORE* at Tank, Shanghai (2020); *Masks* at Galeria Municipal do Porto, Porto (2020); *Transformer: A Rebirth of Wonder*, curated by Jefferson Hack at 180 The Strand, London (2019); *Rewriting the Future* at Site Gallery, Sheffield (2019); *La vie des choses* at MOMENTA Biennale de l'Image, Montreal (2019); *Kiss My Genders* at Hayward Gallery, London (2019); *Display* at Dortmunder Kunstverein, Dortmund (2019); *A Doll's House* at Goethe Centre, Baku (2019); *BCE* at Whitechapel Gallery, London (2019) and *DRAG* at Hayward Gallery, London (2018). Their work is in the public collections of British Museum Prints & Drawings; The Ingram Collection of Modern British Art and Sunpride Foundation, Hong Kong.

# Sin Wai Kin



*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts, 2021*

Single-channel video, 4K, colour, sound, 23 minutes 3 seconds

Produced by Chi-Wen Productions, Taipei

Supported by Hayward Gallery touring for British Art Show 9

Link to excerpt of video:

<https://vimeo.com/683739234>

# Sin Wai Kin



*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*  
(still)

# Sin Wai Kin



*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*  
(still)

# Sin Wai Kin



*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*  
(still)

# Sin Wai Kin



*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*  
(still)



# Sin Wai Kin



*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*  
(still)

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*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*  
(still)

# Sin Wai Kin



*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*  
(still)

# Sin Wai Kin



*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*  
(still)

# Sin Wai Kin



*A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*  
(still)

# Sin Wai Kin



*The Universe's Ornaments, 2021*

Wig, necklace, Jesmonite

49 × 26 × 23 cm

19 1/4 × 10 1/4 × 9 1/4 in

# Sin Wai Kin



*The Universe's Ornaments*  
(alternative view)

# Sin Wai Kin



*The Universe's Ornaments*  
(alternative view)



# Sin Wai Kin



*Taking off the construct day 1 (2), 2021*

Makeup on facial wipe

34.5 × 31.5 × 7 cm

13 1/2 × 12 1/2 × 2 3/4 in

Made after filming *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*, 2021

# Sin Wai Kin



*Taking off the construct day 1, 2021*

Makeup on facial wipe

34.5 × 31.5 × 7 cm

13 1/2 × 12 1/2 × 2 3/4 in

Made after filming *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*, 2021

# Sin Wai Kin



*Taking off the universe day 1, 2021*

Makeup on facial wipe

34.5 × 31.5 × 7 cm

13 1/2 × 12 1/2 × 2 3/4 in

Made after filming *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*, 2021

# Sin Wai Kin



*Taking off the construct day 2, 2021*

Makeup on facial wipe

34.5 × 31.5 × 7 cm

13 1/2 × 12 1/2 × 2 3/4 in

Made after filming *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*, 2021

# Sin Wai Kin



*Taking off the universe day 2, 2021*

Makeup on facial wipe

34.5 × 31.5 × 7 cm

13 1/2 × 12 1/2 × 2 3/4 in

Made after filming *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*, 2021

# Sin Wai Kin



*Taking off the construct day 3, 2021*

Makeup on facial wipe

34.5 × 31.5 × 7 cm

13 1/2 × 12 1/2 × 2 3/4 in

Made after filming *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*, 2021

# Sin Wai Kin



*Taking off the universe day 3, 2021*

Makeup on facial wipe

34.5 × 31.5 × 7 cm

13 1/2 × 12 1/2 × 2 3/4 in

Made after filming *A Dream of Wholeness in Parts*, 2021

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