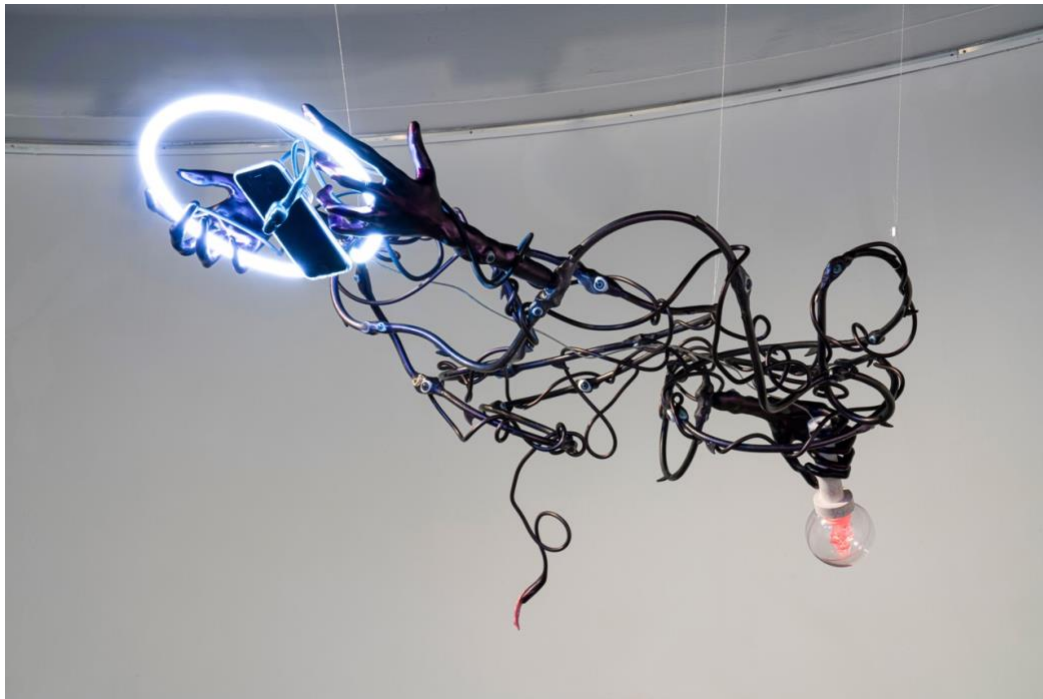


**Para Site presents group exhibition of fifteen Asian artists interrogating the phenomenon of celebrity fandom**



Dew Kim, *LOOK*, 2022, Iron, aluminium, clay, neon light, light stick, 3D printed resin, iPhone, mixed media. Courtesy of the artist. Commissioned by Para Site for 'Fanatic Heart'.

HONG KONG, 14 NOV 2022— Para Site is delighted to present the group exhibition '**Fanatic Heart**' from **10 December 2022 to 26 February 2023**, opening reception **9 December 2022, 6–8pm**. The exhibition is curated by **Cusson Cheng**, featuring works by fifteen Asian artists, including **Haneyl Choi, BuBu de la Madeleine, Guhit Kulay (Maria Christina Castillo Anire, Cristina Balao-as Cayat, Jonalyn Macalalad Molina, and Marilyn Santiago Lopez), Ho Tzu Nyen, Yuree Kensaku, Dew Kim, Lu Yang, Green Mok, Yasumasa Morimura, Diane Severin Nguyen, Yoshiko Shimada, and Sin Wai Kin**, seven of whom are presenting all-new commissions.

'Fanatic Heart' seemingly is an elixir of pop cultural offerings that alleviates us from the hardships of daily life. Nevertheless, it prompts the audience to realise the potent political power behind obsessive, fanatical desires and employ them to make sense of the radical world we live in.

Organised to embrace and expand the definition of fandom culture, the exhibition invites fifteen artists from Hong Kong, Japan, mainland China, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam to materialise the relationship between fandom and socio-political happenings that have taken place in Southeast and East Asia. Making eclectic references to celebrity worship, drag, postcolonial and post-socialist identities, social movements, religion, and

technological advances, the artists investigate desire and affect to decipher the cultural unconscious of contemporary social landscapes.

Concerning commissioning new works for the exhibition, curator of 'Fanatic Heart' Cusson Cheng said: 'I have invited seven of the fifteen participating artists to become fans who passionately engage with their subject matter, yet at the same time reflect on the significance of fandom and idolisation in their personal histories. Their works shed light on recent developments of the K-pop industry, lesser-known Filipino history and identity struggles, and contemporary Thai socio-politics. Together with existing works, "Fanatic Heart" enriches our framework to reimagine the ideas and social relations associated with fandom, enabling us to become aware of and deconstruct the complex relationship among media, technology, and geopolitical shifts.'

Likewise, visitors are encouraged to engage with an exercise in 'fandom'. The Chinese exhibition title, which literally means 'a fanatic's diary', references *Diary of a Madman* written by the leading figure of modern Chinese literature Lu Xun. The exhibition catalogue is designed as an interactive and customisable fan diary, opening up the potential for fan practice to become a form of social agency, a theme that also finds expression in the works on view in the exhibition.

For press images, please click [here](#).



Green Mok, *Queens (Director's Cut)*, 2022, video, colour. Courtesy of the artist and Hong Kong Association of Interactive Marketing.



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Wed–Sun 12–7pm  
Closed Mon, Tue, and public holidays

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星期三至日，中午12時至晚上7時  
星期一、二及公眾假期休息

#### Editor's note:

- The exhibition is curated with a theoretical premise that argues fandom as methodology, which is particularly relevant to Hong Kong's current times and the international cultural climate;
- The exhibition marks the first time Haneyl Choi, BuBu de la Madeleine, Guhit Kulay, Yuree Kensaku, Dew Kim, Green Mok, Yasumasa Morimura, Diane Severin Nguyen, Yoshiko Shimada, and Sin Wai Kin are being exhibited in a Hong Kong institutional setting;
- Korean artists Haneyl Choi and Dew Kim, both showing commissioned works that address K-pop and the entertainment industry, will be present in Hong Kong for the exhibition opening;
- The exhibition features commissioned works exploring colonial histories of The Philippines by Guhit Kulay, an arts collective made up of Filipino migrant helpers in Hong Kong.

#### About the curator:

**Cusson Cheng** is a curator and art critic from Hong Kong. He has been Assistant Curator at Para Site since January 2021, and has curated 'Fanatic Heart' (2022) and worked on exhibitions including 'Minding the G(r)a(s)p' (2022), 'Noble Rot' (2021–2022), 'Liquid Ground' (2021), and 'Curtain' (2021). He was also one of the candidates for the 2019 Para Site International Conference & Workshops for Emerging Professionals. Besides institutional programs, he was also the guest curator of 'Retrograde' (2022) at Galerie du Monde, Hong Kong. In addition to his curatorial work, Cheng serves as Art Editor at the Hong Kong-based leading Chinese-language art periodical Art and Piece (美紙). He has interviewed internationally renowned artists, including Marina Abramović, Rebecca Ackroyd, Oliver Beer, Genieve Figgis, Nicolas Party, and Pipilotti Rist. He is frequently invited by galleries and organisations to lead curator tours and write exhibition reviews, including 'Whirlwind: Informel to Gutai' at Whitestone Gallery, Hong Kong (2022), and Korean artist Lee Bae's solo presentation at Perrotin, Hong Kong (2021). Cheng received his BA with Honours in comparative literature, sociology, and Buddhist studies from the University of Hong Kong.

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### **About Para Site**

Para Site is Hong Kong's leading contemporary art centre and one of the oldest and most active independent art institutions in Asia. It produces exhibitions, publications, discursive, and educational projects aimed at forging a critical understanding of local and international phenomena in art and society. Founded in early 1996 as an artist run space, Para Site was Hong Kong's first exhibition-making institution of contemporary art and a crucial self-organised structure within the city's civil society, during the uncertain period preceding the handover. Throughout the years, Para Site has grown into a contemporary art centre, engaged in a wide array of activities and collaborations with other art institutions, museums, and academic structures in Hong Kong and the international landscape.

[www.para-site.art](http://www.para-site.art)