

Sung Tieu: *Clock Against Idealism* 22.12.2022 – 25.12.2023

Clock Against Idealism is a site-specific and time-based sculpture by Sung Tieu.

The central piece is a clock, made of the two hands of the Christian cross. Built with a motor normally used for clock towers on churches, the clock's custom-made stainless steel hour and minute hands are elongated and, rather than protruding in one direction from the clock's central point, they are equally spaced to either side. An optical illusion is created that skews the supposed center of the clock until the hands are directly perpendicular to one another, when they form a cross. As is the case in much of Tieu's work, the sculptural output is the product of an extensive period of research carried out beforehand, and in this case the artist's interest lies in the church as a tool for political and social control, specifically through colonial expansion.

The title of the project "*Clock Against Idealism*" is derived from Tieu's interest in the *Oath Against Modernism*, an oath instituted in 1910 by Pope Pius X. It was required of all pastors, preachers and religious superiors of the Catholic Church from 1910 until 1967. The oath marked the culmination of Pius X's campaign against the cultural movement of modernism. By referring to this title, the artist questions the historical conditions that were feared by the church and how religious beliefs continue to control and influence human behavior.

Tieu's piece is the first in a new series of long term installations throughout the building where Cordova is located that accompany the exhibition program in the main gallery. It will be on view for one full calendar year opening just a few days before Christmas on the 22 December 2022, until run through 25 December 2023.



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