

Chen Chieh-jen

Realm of Reverberations

July 1 – August 27, 2016

As part of Singular Pluralities $\propto$ Plural Singularities
Three solo shows in parallel

Public programme

Saturday July 2

12pm: SO WHERE DOES PIP CULBERT FIT?

Christina Barton and Peter Robinson discuss the practice of Pip Culbert, moderated by Danae Mossman

2pm: POLITICS OF REPRESENTATION /
POLITICS OF IMAGE

John Mutambu and Misal Adnan Yıldız in conversation
with Sabelo Mlangeni

Wednesday August 3

A critical voice from Taipei: CURATORIAL RESEARCH & INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMMING

Esther Lu, Director of Taipei Contemporary Art Center in conversation with Misal Adnan Yıldız

August 4–5

THE STORY OF LOSHENG SANATORIUM AND MAKING OF REALM OF REVERBERATIONS

August 4, 6–8pm
Workshop with registered participants.

August 5, 6pm
Public Lecture By Chen Chieh-jen

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A yellow circle with the text "Singular Pluralities ∞ Plural Singularities" repeated twice around its circumference. The text is written in a black, sans-serif font and follows the curve of the circle. The first instance of the text starts at the top left and ends at the bottom right. The second instance starts at the bottom right and ends at the top left, completing the circle.

Chen Chieh-jen

For the solo presentation by Chen Chieh-jen, Artspace NZ will present his exceptional film "Realm of Reverberations" (2014) with- in a cinematic environment architecturally designed for this piece. Parallel to this installation there will be a closed workshop ses- sion with registered participants followed by a public lecture from Chen Chieh-jen intending to translate the cultural aspects of the context behind the story of the film as well as the social and political aspects of film making and working with(in) the specific history of a location. The content of the workshop and the lecture will bridge the discussions around urban transformation, gentrification and political activism between Taipei and Auckland. Taipei based curator Esther Lu Director, Taipei Contemporary Art Center (TCAC) will also contribute to this public programme with a public lecture respond- ing to the relationships between Auckland and Taiwan as well as Artspace NZ and TCAC.

Chen Chieh-jen's outstanding film-based project "Realm of Reverberations" departs from the history of the Losheng sanatorium in Taipei of Taiwan. The sanatorium was built by the Japanese colo- nial government to house people with leprosy from Taiwan in 1930, and survived many years with some changes in its management.

In the early 1990s, the Taiwanese government started to discuss a large scale renovation project in this area. Specifically, in 1994, the Taipei Department of Rapid Transit Systems decided to demolish the sanatorium and move their Metro facility to the site, triggering in- tense resistance among residents and various other groups lasting over a decade. The Losheng Preservation Movement, which started in response to these events, still continues today. But everyday life dulls and mutes any struggle, and the assimilation of any event into the central narrative of history is itself a kind of muting. Since then, the sanatorium has lain in ruins.

The plot of "Realm of Reverberations" is based on four pro- tagonists each presenting perspectives of individuals whose lives have been touched by the Losheng Sanatorium: old residents (Tree Planters), a young woman who accompanies sanatorium resi- dents (Keeping Company), a hospice nurse who lived in Mainland China during the Cultural Revolution (The Suspended Room), and a fictional political prisoner who travels through Taiwanese history from the Japanese colonial period to the present (Tracing Forward). They discuss what many believe to be the inevitable outcome for the Losheng Sanatorium. Through bringing these four neglected perspectives together, Chen re-narrates the history of the Losheng Sanatorium, imagining new forms through which a 'people's history' of the building might be told. With its subtle, strong filmic language, Chen archives an epic moment of our contemporaneity - dedicated to the things we lose, the people we forget and the places that disappear...

Realm of Reverberations (2014) 104 Mins Taiwanese, Chinese with English subtitles Single channel video with sound

Supported by Auckland Council and
Creative New Zealand.

Special thanks to AsiaNZ Foundation



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