

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Ian Cheng

Thousand Lives

February 23 – April 13, 2024

Opening Reception: February 23, 4pm - 6pm

760, Samseong-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul

Gladstone Seoul

What if an artwork could integrate you into its dream?
What if the endgame of art is art that adapts to you?

Life After BOB: The Chalice Study Experience (LABX), 2021-2022, is a 50-minute anime built in the Unity video game engine and presented in real-time. It centers on the life of Chalice, the first child to grow up with an AI symbiote called BOB. Unlike typical cinematic productions, *LABX* was conceived and built as a simulated world, populated by characters and artifacts with rich lore beyond the story. *LABX* features "worldwatching" mode, an intuitive way for you to pause the cinematic story and freely explore every detail of the LAB world and its many secrets.

Thousand Lives, 2023-2024, is a simulation that dramatizes the daily life of Chalice's pet turtle, Thousand. Thousand is driven by a neuro-symbolic AI model that attempts to learn the relevance of everything it encounters to its own internal reptilian urges. Over the course of many days, Thousand develops a recognition of the affordances and threats in Chalice's messy apartment environment, minimizes upsets to its expectations, and constructs new motives to better satisfy its competing urges. This slow but steady developmental process forms the ongoing drama of Thousand's lifetime in a new kind of "slow story" achieved only via simulation. When viewed one-on-one, *Thousand Lives* may recognize your presence and adapt to your precise viewing perspective, giving you a hyper-personalized portal into Thousand's worldview.

Learn more about *Life After BOB* at <https://lifeafterbob.io/>

Ian Cheng (born 1984, Los Angeles) lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea (2022); LUMA Foundation, Arles, France (2021); Luma Westbau, Zurich, Switzerland (2021); The Shed, New York (2021); Light Art Space, Berlin (2021); Fundacion Fernando de Castro, Madrid (2020); Serpentine Galleries, London (2018); Julia Stoschek Collection, Berlin (2018); MoMA PS1, New York (2017); Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2017); Espace Louis Vuitton, Munich (2017); Migros Museum, Zurich (2016); Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2015).

For further information, please contact press@gladstonegallery.com
New York gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm
Brussels gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm and Saturday, 12pm-8pm
Seoul gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm