

PRESS RELEASE
PILAR CORRIAS PRESENTS
IAN CHENG
EMISSARY FORKS AT PERFECTION
13 OCTOBER – 14 NOVEMBER 2015
PV: MONDAY 12 OCTOBER, 6-8PM



Ian Cheng, *Emissary Forks at Perfection*, 2015. Live simulation and story, sound, infinite duration

Pilar Corrias Gallery is proud to present the first solo exhibition in the UK by American artist Ian Cheng. The exhibition premieres the new live simulation *Emissary Forks At Perfection*, the second episode in a series of works dedicated to the history of cognitive evolution, past and future.

Volcano to crater lake: what was once a geological disaster zone has grown into a fertile darwinian playground. 3,000 years following *Emissary in the Squat of Gods* (2015), an artificial intelligence called Talus Twenty Nine manages the landscape, compulsively gambling on the creation and survival of new forks in the evolutionary tree. After whimsically excavating and resurrecting the body of an ancient 21st century celebrity, Talus sends Shiba Emissary, its prized canine super-pet, to greet the undead human and introduce him to their hell.

Emissary Forks At Perfection is composed of two contradictory forms: a simulation of a darwinian playground disturbed by an atavistic human; and a deterministic story of an emissary's emerging consciousness. Pushed together to occupy the same landscape, each form threatens to destabilize and mutate the other. Here, a story may escape its classical fixity and indefinitely procrastinate its conclusion. A simulation may find itself sculpted by narrative needs into sequences of controlled chaos. A sudden pattern of feelings may grow inside you, with or without you.

Ian Cheng (b. 1984, Los Angeles) lives and works in New York. Previous solo exhibitions include: *Something Thinking of You: Live Stream 1 – 31 August*, vdrome.org (2015); *Emissary in the Squat of Gods*, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2015); *Emissary in the Squat of Gods*, Frieze NY, Standard (Oslo), New York (2015); *Real Humans*, with Wu Tsang, Jordan Wolfson, Kunsthalle Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf (2015); Ian Cheng, *La Triennale di Milano*, Milan (2014); *Baby Ft. Bali*, Standard (Oslo), Oslo (2013); *Entropy Wrangler*, Off Vendome, Dusseldorf (2013); *Too Humans All Too Humans, The Vanity*, Los Angeles (2013); *This Papaya Tastes Perfect, Formalist Sidewalk Poetry Club*, Miami Beach (2011). Recent group exhibitions include: *Co-Workers*, Musee d'Moderne Paris, Paris (2015); *Co-Workers: Beyond Disaster*, Bétonsalon, Paris (2015); *Screen Play*, Albright-Knox, Buffalo (2015); *Open Source*, Hetzler, Berlin (2015); *Taipei Biennial – The Great Acceleration*, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei (2014); *Phantom Limbs*, Pilar Corrias Gallery, London (2014); *chatbots, tongues, denial, and various other abstractions*, Bortolami, New York (2014); *12th Lyon Biennial: Meanwhile...Suddenly and Then*, Le Sucriere, Lyon (2013); *Love of Technology*, Museum of Contemporary Art Miami, Miami (2013); *Freak Out*, Greene Naftali Gallery, New York (2013); *ProBio*, EXPO 1, MoMA PS1, New York (2013); *A Disagreeable Object*, Sculpture Center, New York (2012).

Pilar Corrias Gallery is open Monday-Friday, 10 am-6pm & Saturday 11am-6pm. For further information, please contact Jessica on: +44 (0)20 7323 7000 or jessica@pilarcorrias.com