

Press Release

Phillip Lai

13 January – 11 February, 2012

Stuart Shave/Modern Art is proud to present an exhibition of new work by Phillip Lai. This is the British artist's fourth solo show with Modern Art.

Phillip Lai's work offers a family of sculptural approaches composed of analogies and associations. It offers itself up in various guises that are always essentially sculptural, and are always asserted in the context of central questions to do with the conception of a set of ideas, and the capacity in which these ideas can be imagined and actualised. His work is resolutely and rigorously situated in material objects: notionally represented forms and subtly manipulated spaces that might stand-in for an idea of something known, and that in turn might suggest an abstracted narrative of urban experience, transience, vacation, exchange and utility.

For this exhibition at Modern Art, Lai has affected an upending of the gallery architecture, quietly but assertively reorienting the approach to and encounter with his exhibition of new sculptures and 16mm film.

Phillip Lai was born in Kuala Lumpur in 1969, moving to London as a child. He lives and works in London. Lai undertook both BA and MA Fine Art degrees at Chelsea School of Art & Design, completing his studies in 1994. In 1997, he presented his first solo exhibition at The Showroom, one of London's most vital contemporary art institutions. Lai previously made solo exhibitions with Modern Art in 2000, 2007, and 2009. Other solo exhibitions include Galleria Franco Noero, Turin (2007 & forthcoming later this year), and Galerie Giti Nourbakhsh, Berlin (2009).

For further information, please contact Ryan Moore at Modern Art: [ryan@modernart.net](mailto:ryan@modernart.net)

*"The great thing about dub is that it's the engineers' art... it's what the sound engineer does. The de-construction of a piece of music, and its re-construction... as an act of illusion. By an act of illusion I mean you have a spatial dimension which is created with echoes and reverbs"* - Linton Kwesi Johnson

# Phillip Lai

## Bio

Born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1969  
Lives and works in London

## Education

1993-94 MA Fine Art, Chelsea College of Art & Design, London  
1990-93 BA Fine Art, sculpture, Chelsea College of Art & Design, London  
1988-89 Foundation Course, Middlesex Polytechnic, London

## Solo Exhibitions

2009

Stuart Shave/Modern Art, London  
Transmission Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland

2008

Galerie Giti Nourbakhsch, Berlin, Germany

2007

Galerie Franco Noero, Turin, Italy  
*Free to Meet For Coffee Sometime Soon*, Stuart Shave/Modern Art, London

2000

*His Divine Grace*, Stuart Shave/Modern Art, London

1997

*Phillip Lai*, The Showroom, London (commissioned by The Showroom in collaboration with inIVA)

## Group Exhibitions

2010

*No Soul For Sale: A Festival of Independents* (Mousse contribution, curated by Jonathan Griffin), Tate Modern, Turbine Hall, London

2008

*Seven Times Two or Three*, Cubitt, London

2007

*Republic*, L'est, London  
*In the Poem about Love you don't write the word Love*, Overgaden, Institute for Samtidskunst, Copenhagen, Denmark; and Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis, MN, USA

2006

*In The Poem About Love You Don't Write The Word Love*, Artists Space, New York, NY, USA  
*John Frumism*, Phillip Lai, Paul Thek, Mike Nelson, Hotel, London  
*The Triumph of Painting, Part 6*, The Saatchi Gallery, London  
*If It Didn't Exist You'd Have To Invent It: a partial Showroom history*, The Showroom, London

2005

*In The Poem About Love You Don't Write The Word Love*, CCA, Glasgow, Scotland  
*Drawing Two Hundred*, The Drawing Room, London Tannery Arts Exhibition, part of Artists Studios  
Open Weekend, Tannery Arts, London

2004

*Uscita Pistoia*, SpazioA, Pistoia, Italy  
*Strange Weather*, Stuart Shave/Modern Art, London  
*Tag Team Experiment*, two-person relay exhibition, alternative project space, Edinburgh, Scotland

2003

*Drawing One Hundred*, The Drawing Room, London

2002

*We Want Out*, CityLights Project, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

2000

*Senselessness-lessness*, Tramway, Glasgow, Scotland  
*Death Race 2000*, Threadwaxing Space, New York, NY, USA (exhb. cat.)  
*Drawing Exhibition*, Herefordshire College of Art & Design, Hereford

1999

*Cities on the Move*, Hayward Gallery, London (included as part of Nasubi Gallery project) (exhb. cat.)  
*Black Box*, (continued screenings) venues inc: Angel Row, Nottingham; Artezium, Luton  
*New Video from Great Britain*, (British Council tour to South America) venues inc: Sala Mendoza, Caracas, Venezuela; Museo Carillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico

1998

*Black Box*, (commissioned by Film & Video Umbrella) venues: Open Eye, Liverpool (ISEA); Lift (Pandæmonium festival), London; Aspex, Portsmouth; ARC, Stockton-on-Tees (exhb. cat.)  
*New Video from Great Britain*, MOMA, New York, NY, USA  
*Bed and Workshop*, alternative space, Rennes, France  
*Grey Area*, Bonnington Gallery, Nottingham

1996

*Deep Signal*, Gasworks, London  
*Deep Signal*, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland  
*Off Camp/On Base (Pimple Life)*, Tokyo Big Sight Exhibition Centre, Japan, Tokyo  
*I beg to differ*, Milch, London  
*Update 96*, The Old Turbine Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark

1995

*Institute of Cultural Anxiety*, ICA, London (exhb. cat.)  
*Fresh*, continued screenings venues inc.: Video Positive 95, Liverpool; Tate, London

1994

*Weirdos*, SAGA Basement, Copenhagen, Denmark

*Fresh*, Film & Video Umbrella touring programme, venues inc.: ICA, London; CCA, Glasgow; Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (exhb. cat.)

*Miniatures*, The Agency, London

*No Vacancies*, alternative venue, Frankfurt, Germany