

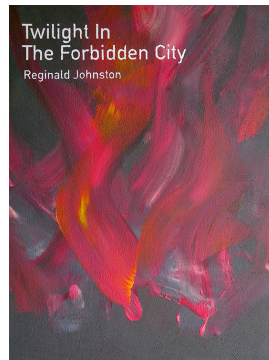
Press Release (for immediate release)

Of Indeterminate Time or Occurrence

Heman Chong

Exhibition Period: 08 March – 04 May 2014

FOST Gallery



About the Exhibition

FOST Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Heman Chong, *Of Indeterminate Time Or Occurrence* (7 March – 04 May 2014).

The exhibition will contain 4 different works highlighting Chong's practice, which provides a way of understanding relationships between image and text, examining how one is intrinsically linked to the other in his idiosyncratic manner of generating fictional narratives.

Never (Again) (2013) is a new work which is a neon sign literally stating NEVER / AGAIN, flickering between red and yellow in an endless loop. The work uses two diagrammatically opposing terms to feed off each other to suggest the ambivalence of the state of artistic production where everything attempts to be new, but the fact remains that nothing can come from nothing.

This idea of repetition is explored in another new work *After Bolaño (After Duchamp)* (2013), which tells the story of how Chong encountered *Unhappy Readymade* (1919), a piece from Marcel Duchamp through the novel 2666 from novelist Roberto Bolaño. In his novel, 2666, Bolaño wrote of a character, Professor Amalfitano, who is slowly going mad and accidentally recreates *Unhappy Readymade* in his backyard with a geometry book (written by a poet). Prior to reading this passage in 2666, Chong has absolutely no knowledge of the piece by Duchamp. With this work, he spotlights his interest in how literature can produce a form of art history that cannot be written by art historians. He will reproduce this readymade from Duchamp/Bolaño in the gallery.

Since 2009, Chong's signature work has revolved around an ongoing series of paintings of imaginary book covers. To date, the artist has obsessively produced 335 paintings within the series, *Cover (Versions)* (2009-ongoing). Each painting is of the same size (46 x 61 x 3.5 cm), and appropriates multiple genres and styles from both the history of painting without hesitation or restraint. Each painting is conceived at the moment of painting; there has never been a sketch, or a pre-assumption of what the painting will be. This exhibition will feature 66 new paintings from *Cover (Versions)*. The book titles are taken from a long bibliography (of about 400 books, more or less) that he uses as points of reference when he is working on his upcoming novel, *Prospectus*. He has been working on the novel since 2007 and hopes to complete this in 2015.

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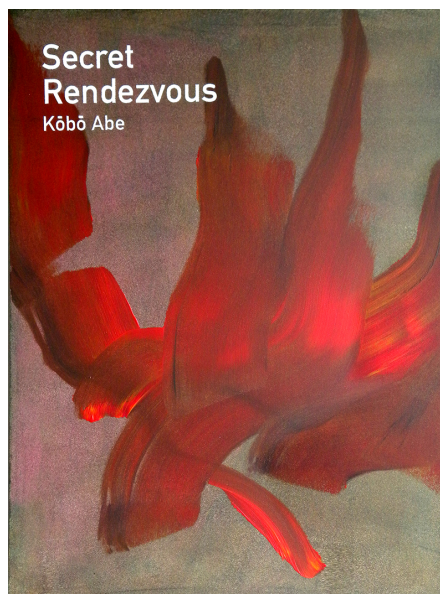
/Gallery
/Education
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As an epilogue, Chong revisits a work he made in 2008. *The Forer Effect* (2008), proposes a text so generic that it would relate to every single visitor to the exhibition. The text is appropriated from an experiment involving a personality test by psychologist Bertram Forer in 1948.

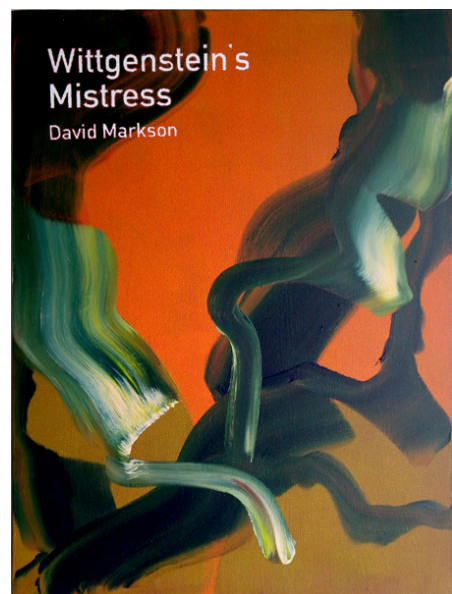
Trained as a graphic designer at Temasek Polytechnic in Singapore and the Royal College of Art in London, neither art nor writing fiction has been a part of Chong's education but yet, both practices has found central roles in his life.

A publication will accompany the exhibition and will include an essay by Kenneth Tay (Assistant Curator, NUS Museum), a short story by Amanda Lee-Koe (Writer and editor of Postkod.sg) and a new text from Heman Chong.

Press Images



Secret Rendezvous/ Kōbō Abe
2013
Acrylic on canvas
61 x 46 cm



Wittgenstein's Mistress/ David Markson
2013
Acrylic on canvas
61 x 46 cm

Note: Images are not to scale. High-resolution images are available upon request.

About the Artist

Heman Chong (b. 1977, Singapore) is an artist, curator, and writer. He received his M.A in Communication Art & Design from The Royal College of Art, London in 2002.

The artist has developed solo exhibitions at FOST Gallery (Singapore), The Reading Room (Bangkok), Future Perfect (Singapore), Wilkinson (London), Rossi & Rossi (London / Hong Kong), SOTA Gallery (Singapore), NUS Museum (Singapore), Kunstverein Milano (Milan), Motive Gallery (Amsterdam), Hermes Third Floor (Singapore), Vitamin Creative Space (Guangzhou), Art In General (New York), Project Arts Centre (Dublin), Ellen de Bruijne Projects (Amsterdam), The Substation (Singapore), Kuenstlerhaus Bethanien (Berlin), Sparwasser HQ (Berlin).

His work has also been shown extensively in group exhibitions including De Appel Arts Centre, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Sharjah Art Foundation, Taipei Contemporary Art Center, San Francisco Asian Art Museum, Kumho Museum of Art, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Kroeller-Muller Museum, Stedelijk Museum Bureau, Nam June Paik Art Center, Gertrude Contemporary, Arnolfini, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Hamburger Bahnhof, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Kadist Art Foundation, Daejeon Museum of Art.

He has participated in numerous international biennales including 10th Gwangju Biennale (2014), Asia Pacific Triennale 7 (2012), Performa 11 (2011), Momentum 6 (2011), Manifesta 8 (2010), 2nd Singapore Biennale (2008), SCAPE Christchurch Biennale (2006), Busan Biennale (2004), 10th India Triennale (2000) and represented Singapore in the 50th Venice Biennale (2003).

In 2006, he produced a writing workshop with Leif Magne Tangen at Project Arts Center in Dublin where they co-authored "PHILIP", a science fiction novel, with Mark Aerial Waller, Cosmin Costinas, Rosemary Heather, Francis McKee, David Reinfurt and Steve Rushton.

His work has been featured prominently in *A Prior*, *ArtAsiaPacific*, *Artforum International*, *ArtInfo*, *ArtiT*, *Art Lies*, *Frieze*, *LEAP*, *SITE*, and *Visionaire*.

About Gillman Barracks

Gillman Barracks is a new contemporary art destination in Singapore. Nestled amid lush greenery, this former colonial barracks is now home to local and international art galleries, dining, and creative businesses, as well as the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) that opened in late 2013. The CCA will enhance the region's contemporary art landscape through its international artist residency, research and exhibition programmes.

For more information, visit please www.gillmanbarracks.com

GILLMAN BARRACKS

Location	FOST Gallery 1 Lock Road #01-02, Gillman Barracks Singapore 108932
MRT	Labrador Park
Bus	Opposite Alexandra Point: 51, 57, 61, 93, 97, 97e, 100, 166, 175, 963 or 963e
Gallery Hours	Tue–Sat: 11am–7pm Sun: 11am–6pm Mon/Pub Hol: Open by appointment
Admission	Free
Enquiries	Call 6694 3080 or e-mail info@fostgallery.com