

First edition: 31.10.-8.12.2024

Exhibition: In Situ by Li Weiyl 2-7.12.2024

Organiser and Curator: Szewan Leung

The Genesis of Herman Zhou Art Hub and the inaugural exhibition” In Situ”

The inception of the Herman Zhou Art Hub can be traced back to a lighthearted conversation after seeing an exhibition in Tai Kwun, Hong Kong when Herman shared his vision of establishing an artist-in-residency at his villa in Koh Samui about twelve months ago. We envision the hub to be a base where creative minds from different regions and origins come together to exchange ideas in a tranquil environment away from the hustle and bustle of the world. The programme is designed to provide artists with the space and resources to develop their practice, experiment freely, and engage directly with the local community.

To kick-start the first edition of this programme, we are thrilled to welcome the cross-disciplinary artist Li Weiyl from Changsha, China to spend five weeks in the residency.

Being for the first time in Thailand, she embraced this new environment with an open mind and enthusiasm. Over the action-packed five weeks, we collaborated with students from two local international schools, ISS and PBISS, to facilitate a series of workshops under our 'The Lab' initiative, an engaging programme that takes the artist's studio beyond the residency to be among the community where the artist and the participants collaborate and inspire each other.

Arriving on the island amidst the change in the seasons, we have encountered unpredictable weather patterns - days of rainstorms alternating with calmer periods. Much like the world outside during this time, we sense a palpable wind of change. The new global dynamics and intensified geopolitical conflicts have prompted us to contemplate how humanity might move forward. Perhaps we can learn from this small coconut island of Koh Samui. Only 227 square kilometres with a population of 70,000 consisting of diverse ethnicities and beliefs, predominantly Thai and Buddhist, they welcome 3,000 tourists on average daily. Their ability to coexist peacefully serves as an inspiring example as we navigate these turbulent times.

With this perspective the concept of the first edition of this project is built on our relationship with the island and our relationship with the universe and what we can leave behind for the land and people with whom we have connected. Li Weiyl responded to it with a meditative approach by looking at this new people and new land from a special angle, as a way to get to know a new friend.

"Ground View #1", "Ground View #2", and "Care" take the concept of the island's local animistic beliefs. The "Care" series takes us to the heart of the Spirit Houses found within the Art Hub's residency and neighbourhood, inviting us to see our world through their eyes. Li has placed a panoramic camera among the figurines in these sacred spaces, capturing 360-degree views that reveal the territories they are tasked with protecting. Rendered in a book sleeve format, each print offers a glimpse into the surroundings from the Spirit Houses' unique vantage point.

In Thai households, the Spirit House are elegantly ornate shrines placed in auspicious corners, where spirits from the land are invited to reside. These figurines, resembling respected elders, are believed to bring good fortune and protection to the inhabitants, who in turn maintain the shrines through continuous offerings and care. The care and efforts each party puts in are reciprocal.

"Ground View" series are the results of two very successful The Lab workshops. The school ISS has two rooms where big chunks of rock are exposed as the rooms are carved around a huge granite rock. The predicament attracted our attention immediately. Weiyl quickly decided to make an artwork based on it through collaboration with the students. In a workshop the students worked in pairs to 3D scan each other's palm placed on the rock. With 3D modeling, the scan images are collaged together to resemble the actual rock revealing a view from below the surface. An imagined space is opened up. For the first time, a real exchange between the rock and the students was made.

"Ground View #2", similar to "Ground View #1", is a collaboration with the school PBISS. A group of their primary, secondary school students, teaching staff and a parent met us at Samrong Beach. They helped each other to 3D scan their feet on the sand. Through similar processing as Ground View #1, the resulting artwork offers a unique perspective - a view from below the sand beach, observing quietly the stream of feet as they pass by.

Both works reference the Cueva de las Manos (Cave of Hands) in Argentina where outlines of stencilled human hands were found on the wall of the cave made over 10,000 years ago. Those handprints serve as a record of the tribe's connection and shared memory.

“Bead #1” and “Bead #2 “ were the first artworks produced upon our arrival. Li Weiyi presents a buddhist view on time and our place in the universe through the metaphor of a looping animation made up of a panoramic view of a reflective ball which represents our experience of life is made up of a chain of moments of our awareness.

The exhibition comprises a body of eight artworks created by digital tools in moving image and printed formats situated in the dinning room and the living room of the property. Some of the artworks like “Beads #1” and “Bead 2#” are from images taken within the residency. It's a tour that starts from the villa and moves on to unusual corners of the island to see the landscape imaginatively.

The first edition of this programme has been made possible with support from different parties. Special thanks to Mr. Herman Zhou for his faith and generous resources provided for the project, Li Weiyi for her trust and the enormous effort she put in and for her just being an inspiration and joy to be with, Mrs Desiree Lopez, Mr. Stephen Andrews and students of ISS and Ms. Caroline Flinders, Mrs. Leah Hall and students of PBISS for making The Lab workshop a success, the hospitality team including Xiaolong for showing us the magic of the island and for just being a solid person we can count on anytime, Ah Jie for making sure all our needs are covered, and last but not least Anna and her family for showing us authentic Thai hospitality and for their smiles making us feel at home.

第一届计划: **31.10.-8.12.2024**

展览:《在地》, 李维伊 **2-7.12.2024**

策划和策展人: 梁诗韵

周航艺术基地的起源暨首个画展《在地》

周航艺术基地的成立可以追溯到大约十二个月前, 周先生在香港大馆观看一场展览后的一次轻松谈话, 当时周先生分享了他在苏梅岛的别墅中建立一个艺术家驻留的想法。我们构思它成为一个基地, 让来自不同地区和背景的创意人士聚在一起, 远离世界的喧嚣, 在宁静环境中交流思想。该计划旨在为艺术家提供空间和资源来发展他们的实践、自由实验并直接与当地社区互动。

为了启动第一期计划, 我们很高兴欢迎来自中国长沙的跨界艺术家李维伊在驻留计划渡过五週。

第一次来到泰国, 她以开放的心态, 热情拥抱这个新环境。在紧凑的五週里, 我们与两所当地的国际学校 (ISS 和 PBISS) 的学生合作, 在我们的“The Lab”计划下举办了两个工作坊。这个参与性的计划, 把艺术家的工作室带到社区当中。

到达岛上时, 正值季节变换, 我们遇到了不可预测的天气——暴雨和晴朗的日子交替出现。同时间的外面世界一样, 也让我们感受到了明显的大气候变化之风吹起。新的全球关系状态和加剧的地缘政治冲突, 促使我们思考人类如何往前走。或许我们可以向苏梅岛这个小椰子岛学习。面积仅 227 平方公里, 人口 7 万, 由不同种族和信仰组成。本地人主要是泰国人和佛教徒, 平均每天接待 3,000 名游客。当我们在这个动荡的时代时, 他们和平共处的能力, 值得我们借镜。

从这个角度出发, 这个计划第一届的概念是建立在我们与岛屿的关系、我们与宇宙的关系以及我们能为与我们有联系的土地和人们留下什么的基础上的。李维伊以深邃的方式回应, 从一个特殊的角度来看待这群新的人文和新的土地, 作为认识这个新朋友的方式。

《Ground View #1》、《Gound View #2》和《照看》采用了岛上当地万物有灵信仰的概念。《照看》系列将我们从驻留地带到和社区内的神舍之中, 邀请我们透过他们的眼睛看到我们的世界。维伊在这些神圣空间的雕像之间放置了一台全景相机, 捕捉360度的视角, 展示它们负责保护的领土。每张印刷品均以册页形式呈现, 让您可以从这些独特的有利位置一睹周围的环境。

这两件作品都参考了阿根廷的 Cueva de las Manos(手洞)，在一万多年前的洞穴墙壁上发现了人类手的模板轮廓。这些手印记录了部落的连结和共享记忆。

《一颗珠子，一》和《一颗珠子，二》是我们抵达后制作的第一批艺术品。李维伊透过一个由反光球全景组成的循环动画的隐喻，展现了佛教对时间和我们在宇宙中的位置的看法，它代表了我们的生命体验是由我们意识的一连串时刻组成的。

这展览包括由数码工具以流动图像和印刷方式创作的八件艺术品，呈现于饭厅和客厅。一些艺术品，如《一颗珠子，一》和《一颗珠子，二》，是在驻留场地拍摄的图像。这是一次从别墅出发，然后前往岛上不寻常的角落，以富有想像的方式欣赏风景的旅行。

该计划的第一届是在各方的支持下实现的。特别感谢周先生的信念和为该计划提供的慷慨资源，感谢李维伊的信任和付出的巨大努力，感谢与她在一起的启发和快乐，ISS 的 Desiree Lopez 女士，Stephen Andrews 先生和他的学生以及 PBISS 的 Caroline Flinders 女士、Leah Hall 女士和学生让 The Lab 工作坊得以成功。接待团队，包括确保照顾我们无微不至的阿哲、小珑向我们展示了这座岛屿的魔力，并作为一个可靠的伙伴，最后，亦十分重要重要的是管家安娜和她的家人向我们展示了正宗的泰式热情好客之道，他们的微笑让我们宾至如归。