

## Hou Lam Tsui

### Artist Statement

The works presented in this exhibition crystallise Hou Lam Tsui's one-month observation and research in Koh Samui, Thailand. As a tourist, outsider, and flâneur wandering the island, Tsui continued her ongoing exploration of the body, gender, and femininity. She immersed herself in local Buddhist myths, examining the gender ambiguity of deities and the expressions of femininity and masculinity in sacred imagery. Beyond her research, she engaged with the island's vibrant culture—attending drag shows, meeting Thai divas, watching fire performances, strolling along the beach, and joining raves and parties, much like any other visitor to Samui.

Tsui is particularly drawn to the notion of “bodies of difference”: the living bodies of locals, diasporic Chinese, tourists, and queer performers (such as ladyboys), as well as the static bodies of statues and divine figurines. In her work, she juxtaposes these contrasting forms—drag performers, who are paid for entertainment, and temple deities, who receive worship through offerings—blurring the boundaries between living queer divas and sacred divinity.

The central moving-image piece, *crushed coconut*, functions as a visual diary of fragmented "postcards," weaving together memories and impressions from her residency. Combining 35mm film photography with field recordings, it traces the artist's wanderings, observations, and reflections during her time on the island. The voice-over, performed by Thai artist Puvamin Indee, features a text originally written by Tsui in Chinese and translated into Thai.

## The Lab Community Collaborative Project

### MOVING IMAGE PIECE (*Khūn Khārāxokea* คณิตาราโอะเกะ)

The artist experienced her first potluck and outdoor karaoke party in Na Thon, Koh Samui. The locals' energy, liveliness, and friendliness overwhelmed and surprised her. While karaoke in Hong Kong and other East Asian contexts typically occurs indoors, this open-air celebration offered something raw, unexpected, and beautiful—people singing, dancing, and sharing food together.

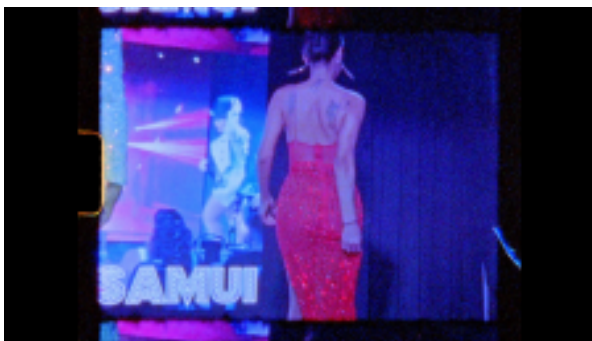
As she observed the song selections, she realised music became a medium for storytelling and shared memories: a Chinese-Thai uncle performed Teresa Teng's “The Moon Represents My Heart”, northern Thai locals sang folk songs and danced, while the artist and curator from Hong Kong chose Leslie Cheung's “Monica”. Despite their differences, karaoke brought everyone together, with songs revealing cultural roots, personal histories, and cross-cultural influences.

For this workshop-gathering at Herman Zhou Art Hub, the artist invited locals to share food and karaoke, encouraging them to select meaningful songs and explain their significance. The process was documented and transformed into a collaborative music video (MV).

## List of Display



**6. *Khūn Khārāxokea* คณิต คาราโงะ**  
Single-channel video with sound, UHD 2025

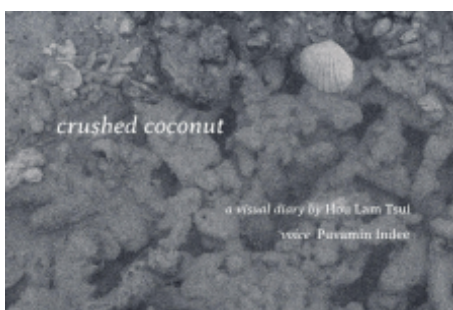


**7. *Sunburn***  
Super 8 transferred to digital, with sound, UHD 2025

Alongside film photography, Tsui has also experimented with Super 8 during her residency. *sunburn* documents her touristic encounters, capturing scenes from drag shows, fire performances, and a gig at a night market.



**9. *Summer Body***  
Corals, shells, soap, plastic swizzle sticks Size variable  
2025



**10. *Crushed Coconut***  
Single-channel video with sound, UHD 2025

