



K11 ART FOUNDATION PROUDLY LAUNCHES NEW SOLO EXHIBITION OF CELEBRATED HONG KONG ARTIST ADRIAN WONG

*The Tiger Returns to the Mountain*  
An immersive, site-specific installation at chi art space Central



Hong Kong – 7 Feb 2017 - **The K11 Art Foundation (KAF)** proudly presents a major new exhibition of Hong Kong-based artist Adrian Wong. The exhibition, titled *The Tiger Returns to the Mountain*, is a large-scale, multi-sensory site-specific installation that references the cultural history of Hong Kong, offering a critical deconstruction of the city as a former colony and its self-anointed position as a global cultural capital. Timed to coincide with Art Basel in Hong Kong, the show is curated by David Chan Ho Yeung and will run from 20 March – 29 April 2017 at chi art space Central.

The encompassing installation takes as its starting point, a ferocious cement tiger, once situated at the centre of Tiger Balm Garden – a historic complex built by the inventor of the famous Tiger Balm ointment. Perched high on a rock above its ever-changing surroundings, the tiger was one of the few constants in the garden’s history as it evolved from private residence, to Hong Kong’s first amusement park, to psychedelic statuary, to what remains today: little more than a sprinkling of brightly colored fragments stubbornly clinging to the cliffside.

Inspired by the history of the tiger, the compositional elements in the exhibition are displayed in an arrangement reminiscent of a traditional Chinese garden, designed to be viewed from a set vantage point. Viewers are, however, invited to explore the installation on their own terms, journeying through time and space in an immersive experience. The result is a multi-layered work that encourages a diversity of readings. From one vantage, it presents itself as a study of Chinese landscape and ink painting; from another, artificial rock formations and arrangements of bamboo give way to a barrage of light and sound.

The tiger is at once a nostalgic memento of days gone by, a Taoist signifier of spiritual power, an immanent threat, and a somber reminder of failed cultural preservation efforts in a metropolis that thrives on the exchange of fortune and power. A Chinese proverb warns that “a tiger released to the wild guarantees future calamity”. Through this exhibition, the once fearsome beast is given voice, and its ghost given new life. The multi-sensory juxtaposition of animation, sound and flashing light, contextualised within an artificial Chinese garden, functions as a critique of Hong Kong’s search for a post-colonial identity. Investigating the city’s psychological ambivalence towards heritage preservation as derived from Western conceptions of ‘the Orient’, this relational dynamic encourages the audience to contemplate the past when imagining a shared future.

Adrian Cheng, Founder and Honorary Chairman of the K11 Art Foundation says, “We are thrilled to present such an inspired exhibition of celebrated artist Adrian Wong at KAF, especially pertinent within such a critical juncture in Hong Kong’s history. The site-specific commission sees Wong pushing boundaries in creative experimentation, presenting new medium, new discourse and new subject matter. We are equally proud to invite curator David Chan Ho Yeung to collaborate with Wong, stimulating cross-cultural dialogue and engagement, fundamental to KAF’s vision. The project is testament to KAF’s mission of incubating emerging artists and curators across Greater China, facilitating the production of creative works and fostering meaningful knowledge that enrich the contemporary art landscape.”

## Ends

### ***The Tiger Returns to the Mountain***

20 March – 29 April, 2017

Opening hours: 10am-7pm Monday to Sunday; Open on public holidays

chi art space, 8/F, New World Tower 2, 18 Queen’s Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

*\*Adrian Wong and David Chan Ho Yeung are available for interviews by request.*

For high-resolution images and more information please contact: **CdD**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **About Adrian Wong**

Adrian Wong was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois in 1980. Originally trained in research psychology (receiving a Master’s degree from Stanford University in 2003), he began making and exhibiting work in San Francisco while concurrently conducting experiments on young children. He continued his post-graduate studies at Yale University, where he received an MFA in 2005. Relying heavily on a research based method, his installations, videos, and sculptures draw from varied subjects and explore the intricacies of his relationship to his environment

(experientially, historically, culturally, and through the filter of fantastical or fictionalized narratives). These organic and opened artifacts of his process often involve a collaborative engagement with subjects.

Wong has been based in Hong Kong since 2005, where he is the co-founder and director of Embassy Projects, an arts consultancy and independent production studio. His recent exhibitions include the traveling exhibition *Troglodyte See the Light, A Passion for Creation* for the Louis Vuitton Fondation pour la Création, and *Hong Kong Eye* at the Saatchi Gallery. His videos have been screened at the Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, Bangkok Experimental Film Festival, and Kunsthalle Wien. He is the winner of the 2013-2014 Sovereign Asian Art Prize. And his work is included in the Uli Sigg Collection (Lucerne), the Dominique and Sylvain Levy Collection (Paris), the Kadist Foundation Collection (San Francisco), Hong Kong Museum of Art (Hong Kong), M+ Museum Collection (Hong Kong), and the private collections of William Lim (Hong Kong), and Hallam Chow (Hong Kong) among others.

#### **About David Chan Ho Yeung**

David Chan is a curator based in Hong Kong. He was the director of the Shanghai Gallery of Art at Three on the Bund from 2007 to 2009 and subsequently the director of Osage Gallery until 2011. He holds a master degree from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College, New York, USA. Past exhibition projects presented at Pearl Lam Galleries include: *Foot and Moon*- Suki Seokyeong Kang (2016), *The Third Script*- Boo Junfeng, Linda C.H.Lai. (2016), *Asynchronous, Parallel, Tautological, etc...*- Ni Haifeng (2015), *After Time*- Chung Seoyoung, Erica Lai, Morgan Wong (2014), *Deja Disparu*- Ho Siu-Kee, Ellen Pau, Sara Wong, Vincent Yu (2013), *Ecce Homo Trilogy I*- Tsang Kin-wah (2012).

#### **About the K11 Art Foundation**

Founded by Adrian Cheng in 2010, the K11 Art Foundation (KAF) is a registered not-for-profit organisation that promotes the development of the contemporary art scene of Greater China by nurturing artistic talents and taking them to the international stage. Not only does KAF support Chinese contemporary artists with its projects, but it also serves as an incubator for professional practices of young promising curators.

KAF has embarked on international collaborations with Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí in Spain; Serpentine Galleries and Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in London; Centre Pompidou, Palais de Tokyo, and Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Armory Show, New Museum, and The Museum of Modern Art in New York; and many other prestigious institutions. Works of Chinese talents are showcased at exhibitions in Asia and in other parts of the world.

The artist-in-residence programme held at the K11 art village in Wuhan, China – which has proven itself a dedicated platform for studio practices, exchanges, and connections since its establishment in 2011 – is another important undertaking of the Foundation that fulfils its mission. In order to provide guest artists from Greater China and around the globe with more resources and facilities, the village will be relocated to the first K11 Art Mall in the city in May 2017. Equipped with eight studios, exhibition spaces, and multifunction rooms for activities, it promises to, as always, spare no effort to encourage creative practices and popularise contemporary art.

Through researches, initiatives, and partnerships, KAF offers the Chinese public a diverse range of programmes, fostering the appreciation of art and culture.

<http://www.k11artfoundation.org/>