

CHRISTINE PARK GALLERY

Ting Tong Chang: *North Indies - Pilot*

6 October – 5 November 2016

Private View & Reception

Wednesday 5 October 2016, 6-8pm

Apiary Studios, 458 Hackney Road, London, E2 9EG

For immediate release

Christine Park Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Taiwanese artist Ting-Tong Chang. *North Indies - Pilot* is the first iteration in Chang's long-term project to adapt the format of the soap opera into art making. This exhibition will be followed by several future exhibitions, each of which stands as an episode in a series with a continuous open-ended narrative. Every exhibition ends with a promise that the storyline will be continued in the following episode.

The series title draws reference from English writer Joseph Hall's satirical novel, *The Discovery of a New World or A Description of the South Indies by an English Mercury* (1605). In the first 'imaginary voyage' written in English, Hall constructed a fictional 'South Indies,' as a mockery of London in the 17th century, which he saw as a degenerate society with up-side down morals. From Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* to Thomas Moore's *Utopia* to Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, imaginary voyages create a satirical narrative by describing a journey to an ideal commonwealth or utopia. Therefore, they provide an appropriate setting in which to air ideas without fear of retribution.

The exhibition series is set in the imaginary landscape of the 'North Indies'. Toying with the modern cliché of the global village, this fictional setting incorporates elements from both London and Machu Picchu, to create a world where modern Western civilization and ancient Mesoamerican and Incan culture collide. This fictional setting is full of diverse aboriginal cultures, nomads, isolated villages and lost civilizations. There is human sacrifice, the mythology of creation, spiritual celebrities, and the myth of 'brown gods' arriving on refugee boats. However, there are also modern elements such as hooligan jaguar warriors, chav tribal wars, council huts, the Western Union and NHS shaman.

It is a story with various characters and personalities disclosing their private fates and universal fears. The themes include authority, loneliness, conflict, angst, insecurity, humiliation, and sexuality. The timeframe starts from the end of the profane and ends with the triumph of the sacred.

North Indies—Pilot follows the characters, 'Peopeo' and 'Pachu' as they travel through the 'North Indies'. The journey starts with a strenuous climb up the great Leviathan Mountain, which results in both men falling ill from a variety of arctic diseases. Beyond the mountain, the men enter a post-brexite forest inhabited by xenophobic indigenous people. Trapped in the heart of the forest, the explorers fight off attacks from hostile natives and radio-active council-estate giants. After enduring great hardship Peopeo and Pachu finally reach the Secret Shrine of Elephant and Castle. Here they learn about the natives peculiar belief systems and participate in the strange rituals of getting cash back and collecting loyalty points from supermarkets. The episode ends with their accidental encounter with 'Mr. Square', whose dramatic adventure will be continued in the next episode...

To coincide with the exhibition the artist's monograph (edited by Eiko Honda) will be launched at the Private View.

About the artist

Ting-Tong Chang (b.1982) was born in Taiwan and lives and works in London. He received his MFA from Goldsmiths, University of London, in 2011. Recent solo exhibitions include *P'eng's Journey to the Southern Darkness*, Asia House, London (2016), *Clockwork Dreams*, Manchester Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art (CFCCA) (2015), *Whence Do You Know the Happiness of Fish?*, Kunst Kraft Werk, Leipzig (2015), *Por Ahora*, Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop (2014), and *Until Now*, Matthew Gallery, Edinburgh (2014). Selected group exhibitions include *Make Sense*, Taipei Fine Arts Museums, Taiwan (2015), *Summer Exhibition*, The Florence Trust, London (2015), *Bristol Biennial*, UK (2014), *6th Taipei Biennial*, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan (2008). In 2015 he received the Royal British Society of Sculptors Bursary Award. In 2016 he received the 8th ARTAWARD of the Independent Contemporary Art Advisors ICCA, Munich.

About us

Christine Park Gallery is a young gallery dedicated to supporting both emerging and established UK and international artists. Located in the heart of Fitzrovia, London's burgeoning art hotspot, the gallery has an extensive programme of solo shows, conceptually curated group exhibitions, and special installations. With a constantly developing roster of innovative artists the gallery prides itself on exhibiting works in a range of media, seeking to provoke cross-disciplinary debate and extend the boundaries of the current contemporary art scene.

Our vision is to provide a platform to allow artists to develop and gain greater recognition. Therefore, as well as providing a commercial space that artists can use as a canvas to realize their projects and present their works to the public, we actively foster relations with art foundations, public museums and private clients.

For further information and press inquiries, please contact Christine Park at christine@christinepark.net.

This exhibition is sponsored by Taiwan Ministry of Culture and Taipei Department of Cultural Affairs.

