



Cooked Two Ways:
Ying Liu / C. Spencer Yeh
July 28 - September 2

Chen's is pleased to present *Cooked Two Ways*, a two-person exhibition featuring Ying Liu and C. Spencer Yeh.

The self is nothing without the Other—the one who looks at me. My permanent possibility of being seen. It exists beyond the eyes looking at me now. The gaze is always out of sight. The eye is blind to it. The feel alone makes me conscious: I am a picture looking back. A desire to escape. This exhibition presents the gaze cooked two ways.

Ying Liu's hybrid performance and theater work *HANG OUT* (2017) is a three-act play situated in New York Chinatown's bustling Sara D. Roosevelt Park. The exhibition features a video edit of the "semi-inconspicuous" play that highlights the project's use of different visual technologies to capture micro-events and relationalities amongst performers and parkgoers in the same space. Using accumulated footage culled from multiple body cameras, smart phones, and live streaming VR equipment, *HANG OUT Episode 3* encapsulates the convergence of performance, choreography, and lived experience. An ensemble of performers with cameras spectate ongoing park activities, assemble props ("follies"), and engage in scripted movement and dialogue—while actively sharing the scene with passerby and regulars at the track field. The emphasis is on radically shifting perspectives rendered across bodies, recording devices, IRL/screen spaces, and social dimensions. In the crossfire of POV's in the video, an actor playing a wrestler with VR goggles strapped to his chest grapples a participant and repeatedly asks, "What do you see now?"

As an edited selection of travel footage captured in Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore, and Malaysia, Spencer Yeh's *Shocking Asia* (2017) draws on the scopic structure of "mondo" exploitation films popularized by German director Rolf Olsen in the 1970s in which European crews go to Asia on pseudo-ethnographic quests to sensationalize cultural practices, social lives, and living conditions of the "Far East" as alien spectacle. Yeh substitutes the Eurocentric eye for his own complexity — a diasporic asian — this time visiting Buddhist temples, tourist attractions, museums, resorts in South Asia. In sharp contrast to the field of scopic indeterminacy and possibility, *Shocking Asia* underlines the inescapable reifying force of the eye through its long form duration and brutal rearticulation of the exploitation genre.

Ying Liu is a multimedia artist based in Brooklyn who fuses mediums theater, dance, video, and performance art, utilizing consumer technology such as VR, GoPro and GPS to create hybridized works. Since 2014, Liu has presented frequently at the Emily Harvey Foundation, as well as venues such as Artists Space, Experimental Intermedia, and the Jump Into the Light VR Festival. In summer 2017, she staged *HANG OUT*, a site-specific guerrilla play in Manhattan Chinatown's Sara D. Roosevelt Park. *MAKE A FOUNTAIN*, an extensive, 302-page catalog accompanying and documenting these performances, was released in April 2018.

C. Spencer Yeh is recognized for his interdisciplinary activities and collaborations as an artist, improviser, and composer, as well his music project Burning Star Core. Recent exhibitions and presentations of work include "Shocking Asia" at Empty Gallery Hong Kong, "Two Workaround Works Around Calder" at the Whitney Museum NYC, "Modern Mondays" at MoMA NYC, "Sound Horizon" at the Walker Art Center Minneapolis MN, "The World Is Sound" at the Rubin Museum NYC, "Mei-Jia & Ting-Ting & Chih-fu & Sin-Ji" at MOCA Cleveland Ohio and Centre A Vancouver BC, "Closer to the Edge" in Singapore and "Crossing Over" in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, the Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival, "Tony Conrad Tribute" at Atelier Nord/Ultima Festival in Oslo Norway, and LAMPO at the Renaissance Society in Chicago IL. His video works are distributed by Electronic Arts Intermix and he is a senior editor and media producer with Triple Canopy and a contributing editor for BOMB magazine. Yeh also volunteers as a programmer and trailer editor for Spectacle Theater, a microcinema in Brooklyn NY.

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