

FRAGMENTS OF FUTURE HISTORIES

Cédric Maridet
5.3.2016 - 23.4.2016

About Cédric Maridet (b. 1973)

Cédric Maridet is an artist based in Hong Kong. He studied literature and sociolinguistics in Paris VII University, and holds a PhD in Media Arts (City University of Hong Kong). His practice includes intensive field works and research to create video, installation, photography, sound composition and work on paper that construct system of narratives based on history, fiction or science to question our modes of existence. Maridet has participated in residencies, solo and group exhibitions internationally including Tate Modern in UK, Para Site and Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong. In 2014, he was awarded the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards – Artist of the Year (Media Arts) and Gold Award in Interactive Media Category at the 19th ifva. In 2005, he was awarded Prize of Excellence in the Hong Kong Art Biennial. In 2013, he was commended by Secretary of Home Affairs for making outstanding contributions to the development of arts and culture. Maridet currently lives and works in Hong Kong.

About the exhibition "Fragments of Future Histories"

"Fragments of Future Histories" is a collection of videos, objects, installations, photographs and sculptures that embodies Cédric Maridet's practice that relies on intensive field works and research from literature, science or history. Inspired by fieldwork in the Arctic Circle and especially in the abandoned Russian mining town of Pyramida in the Archipelago of Svalbard, the works unfold a mesh of narratives based on the poles and Mars' explorations to form new fictional encounters where past, present and future coalesce.

The exhibition which takes its title from Gabriel Tarde's post-apocalyptic novella that develops the possibility to rethink the concept of need and production induces an investigation in the connections between man and the exploration of his environment, as well as questions our postures in the world. The system of works creates different possible narrative trajectories through reenactments, simulations, interventions, and documentation.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“FRAGMENTS OF FUTURE HISTORIES” by Cédric Maridet
5 March - 23 April 2016**

**Opening Reception: Saturday, 5 March 2016, 4 - 6:30pm
Artist will be present.**

Venue: Blindspot Gallery (15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong)

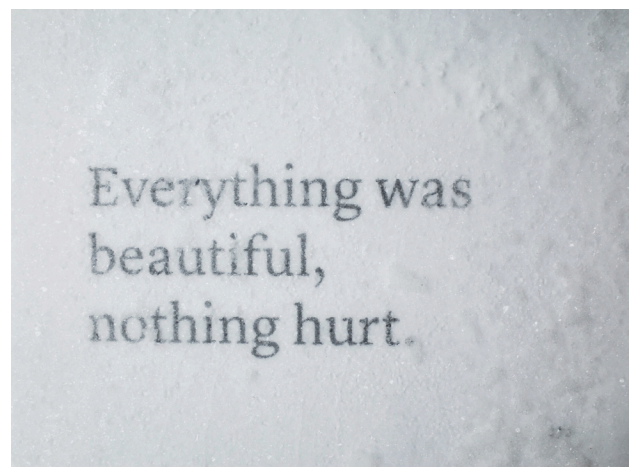
Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm (Sunday and Monday by appointment only); closed on public holidays

Blindspot Gallery is pleased to present “FRAGMENTS OF FUTURE HISTORIES”, a solo show featuring the works of Cédric Maridet. The collection of videos, objects, installations, photographs and sculptures on display embodies Maridet’s practice that relies on intensive fieldwork and research from literature, science or history.

The exhibition – which takes its title from Gabriel Tarde’s post-apocalyptic novella – induces an investigation in the connections between man and the exploration of his environment. Inspired by fieldwork in the Arctic Circle and especially in the abandoned Russian mining town of Pyramida in the Archipelago of Svalbard, the works unfold a mesh of narratives based on the poles and Mars’ explorations, creating different possible narrative trajectories through reenactments, simulations, interventions, and documentation.

The series of crystallised book pages entitled *Last Words* form an ice archived set of material that can be interpreted as fictitious found diaries. The quotes, taken from the last sentences or epitaphs from science fiction novels from the 19th and 20th centuries, frame the journey with particular psychological postures. A similar thread resonates in the installation *Rise, Fall*, a revisiting of Admiral Fitzroy’s weather forecast invention used on Darwin’s expeditions, where the crystals represent a three dimensional model of a possible fluctuating geologic terrain to be constantly scrutinised.

The two landscape reductions installed on equilateral triangular tables as parts of a larger Buckmeister Fuller’s map projection are attempts to conquer a territory. *Fast Kill* (consists of an insecticide can and metal scrap) deploys a strategy of technological control, while *Pyramida* (consists of coal, glacier water and air from the Arctic) shows a mere scientific approach. *The Last Image of Kosmos 1154* is a reenactment of the first close-up TV image of Mars as done by NASA scientists in 1964, who used a real-time data translator machine to convert a Mariner 4 digital image data into numbers printed on strips of paper. With the contemporary context of witnessing the re-entry into space of Russian



rocket Kosmos 1154 launched in January 1980, the work reenacts a similar making, yet reverses the process of revealing an image through the slow process of drawing according to the brightness values of the last image of the rocket bursting into flames on the evening of the 12 October 2014 in the sky of Svalbard.



The kinetic sculptures of *Parhelia* are machines that simulate sun halos created by spinning ice crystals in the atmosphere. These early cinema devices, whose shapes have been inspired by metallic poles or towers in Ny-Ålesund and Pyramida, create an undefined planetarium. *Interventions*, a series of photographic documentation of projection of texts, responds to the literary quotes from *Last Words*. Either invented or quoted from Tarde's novel and Tennyson's *Ulysses*, the texts projected in the Arctic landscape are interventions pointing at contemporary attitudes toward the anthropocene, and which also allude to larger contexts of different postures of being in the world.

The two videos that open and end the exhibition present two different takes on a more direct documentation. *Horizontal Drift* is a long derive into the slowly changing landscape that recalls the Soviet and Russian manned drifting ice stations that have contributed extensively to exploration of the Arctic since 1936. The three-channel video *Chrono-synclastic* takes a direct reference to Kurt Vonnegut's neologism, and explores the possibility of scrutinising past and present through microscopic images into floating ice, opening up a new spatio-temporal dimension for explorations.

Blindspot Gallery will also open a group exhibition "A Permanent Instant: instant photography from 1980s-2000s by Hong Kong artists" on the same day. Artist will be present at the opening reception. Interviews are welcome and can be arranged.

Blindspot Gallery will be participating in Art|Basel Hong Kong this year in the GALLERIES section (Booth 3C36) during 24-26 March featuring Leung Chi Wo, Trevor Yeung and Zhang Xiao.

About Cédric Maridet

Born in 1973, Cédric Maridet is an artist based in Hong Kong. He studied literature and sociolinguistics in Paris VII University, and holds a PhD in Media Arts (City University of Hong Kong). His practice includes intensive field works and research to create video, installations, photography, sound compositions and works on paper that construct narratives based on history, fiction or science. Maridet has participated in residencies, group and solo exhibitions internationally including Tate Modern in UK, Para Site and Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong. In 2014, he was awarded the Hong Kong Arts Development Awards – Artist of the Year (Media Arts) and Gold Award in Media Arts Category at the 19th ifva. In 2005, he was awarded Prize of Excellence in the Hong Kong Art Biennial. In 2013, he was commended by Secretary of Home Affairs for making outstanding contributions to the development of arts and culture. Maridet currently lives and works in Hong Kong.

About Blindspot Gallery

Blindspot Gallery was set up in 2010 to bring contemporary photography, an art form that was in the blind spot of the Hong Kong art scene, to a higher degree of visibility. We feature contemporary photography and image based works of established and emerging artists, mainly from the region but also beyond.

For enquiries and media interviews, please contact Ms. Lesley Kwok at 2517 6238 or by email info@blindspotgallery.com

Image captions:

Cédric Maridet, *Last Words: Everything was beautiful, nothing hurt*, 2016, Digital offset print, crystallised sodium tetraborate, resin, acrylic box, 32 x 45 cm

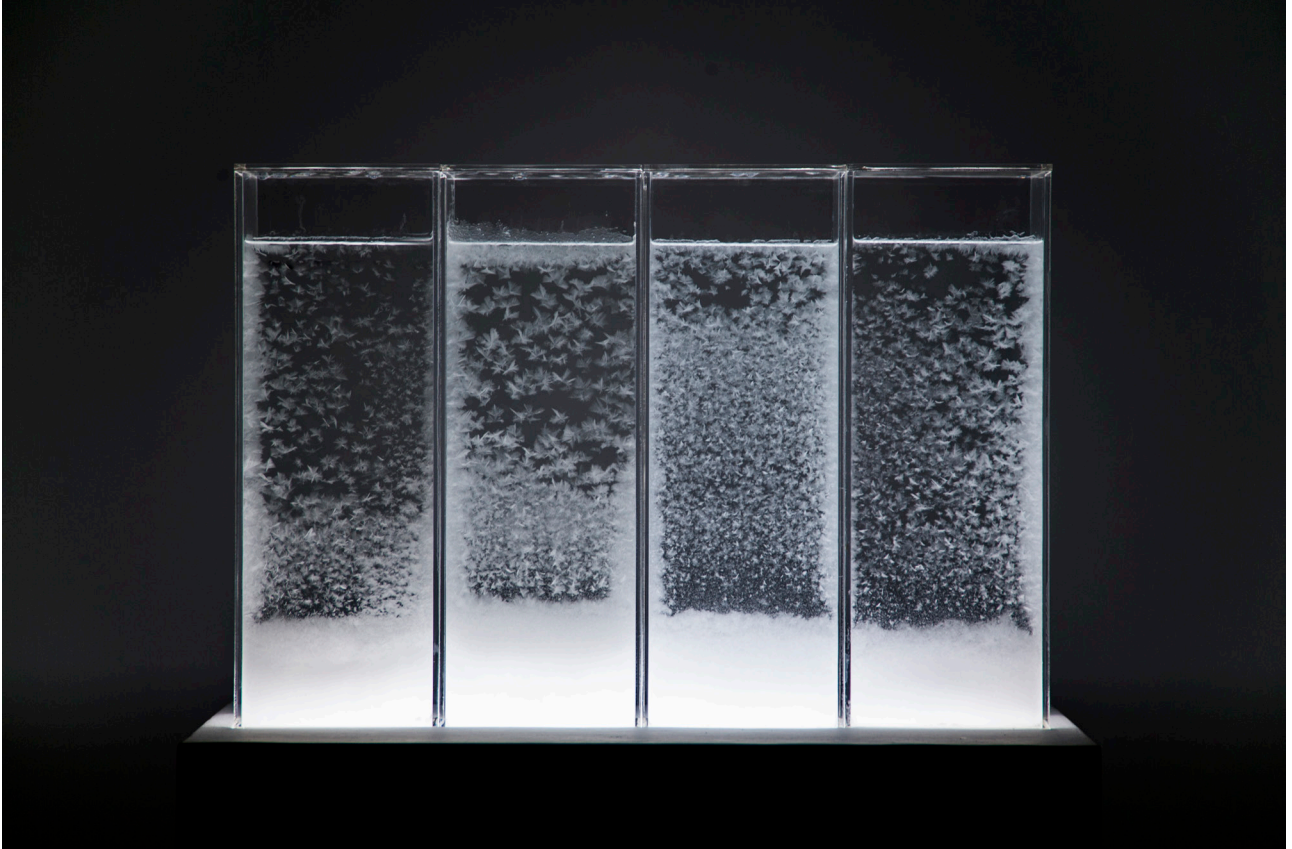
Cédric Maridet, *Interventions: We were drifting all along*, 2014, Lambda print, 40 x 60 cm, Edition of 3
(Image courtesy of artist and Blindspot Gallery)

Display views



Display views

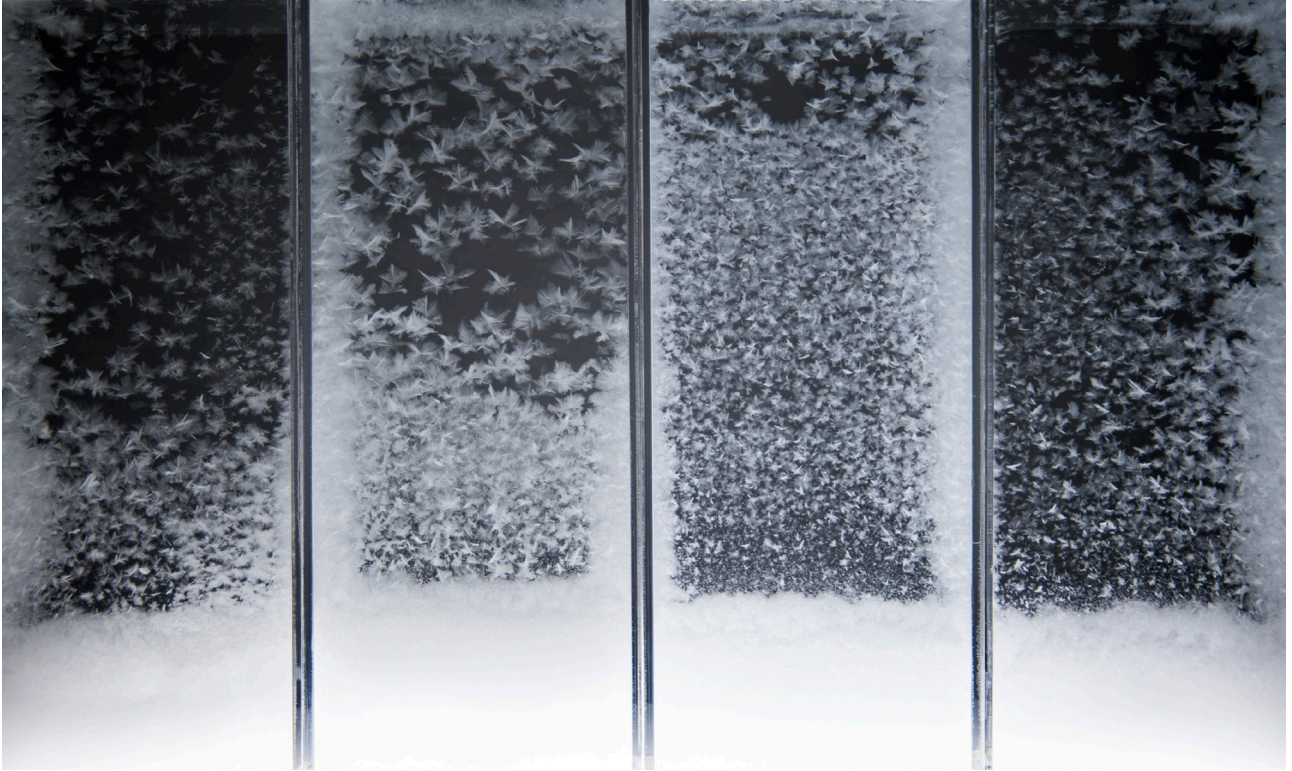




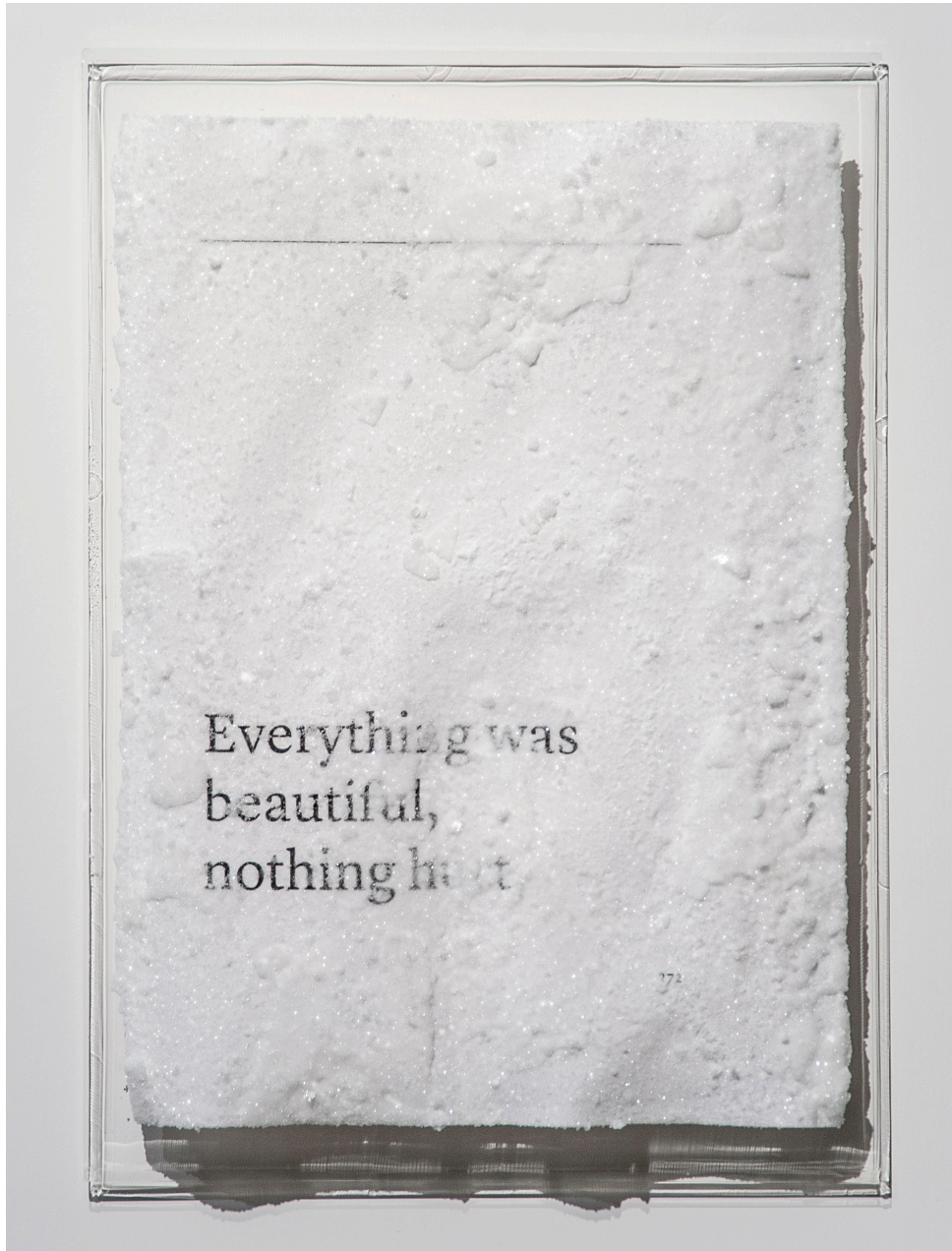
Rise, Fall
2016

Acrylic tank, distilled water, ethanol, potassium nitrate, ammonium chloride,
LED, wooden pedestal /
145 x 54 x 30 cm

HKD 70,000



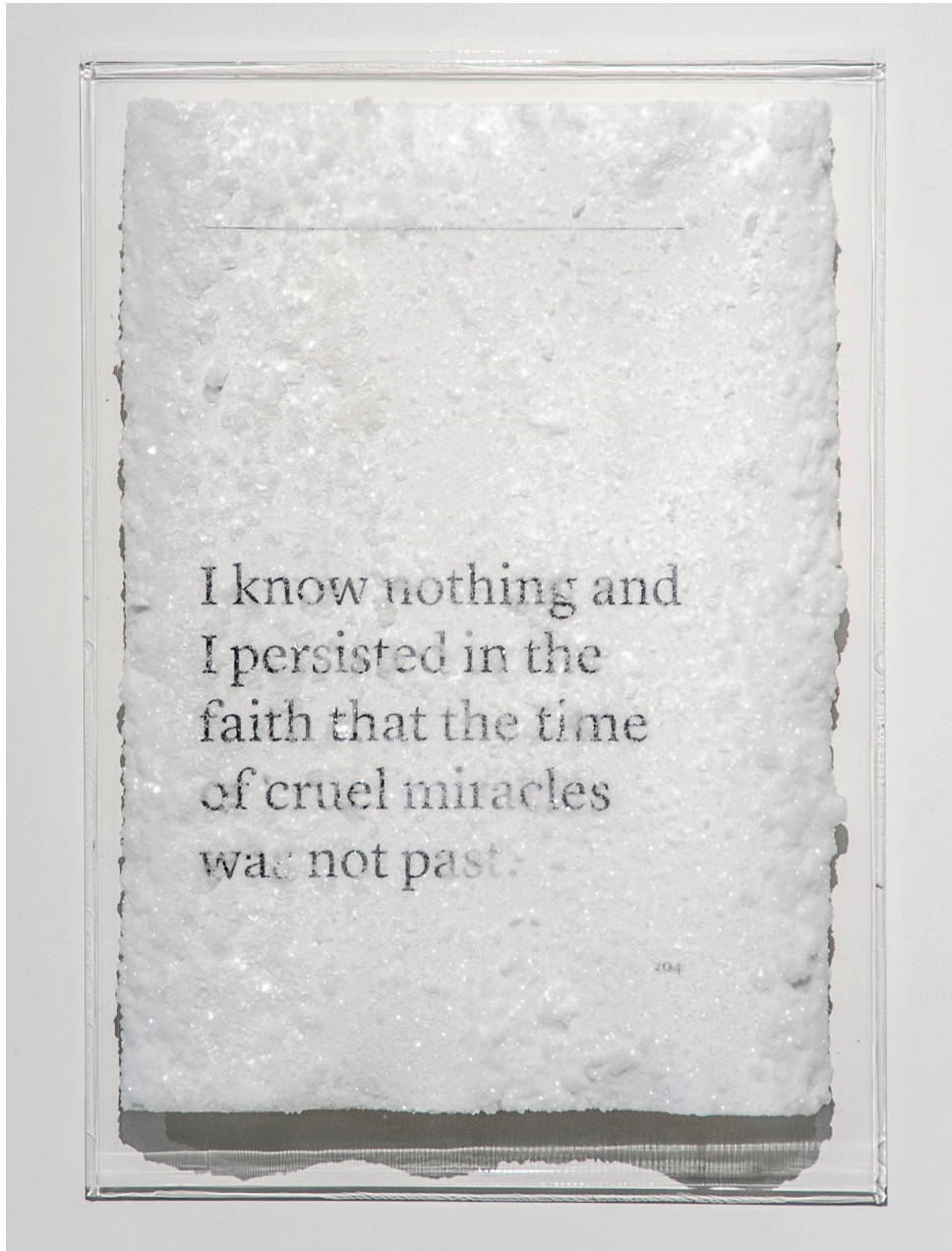
(Close up)



Last words
Everything was beautiful, nothing hurt.
2016

Print on paper, crystallised sodium tetraborate, resin, acrylic box /
51 x 36 x 5 cm

HKD 45,000



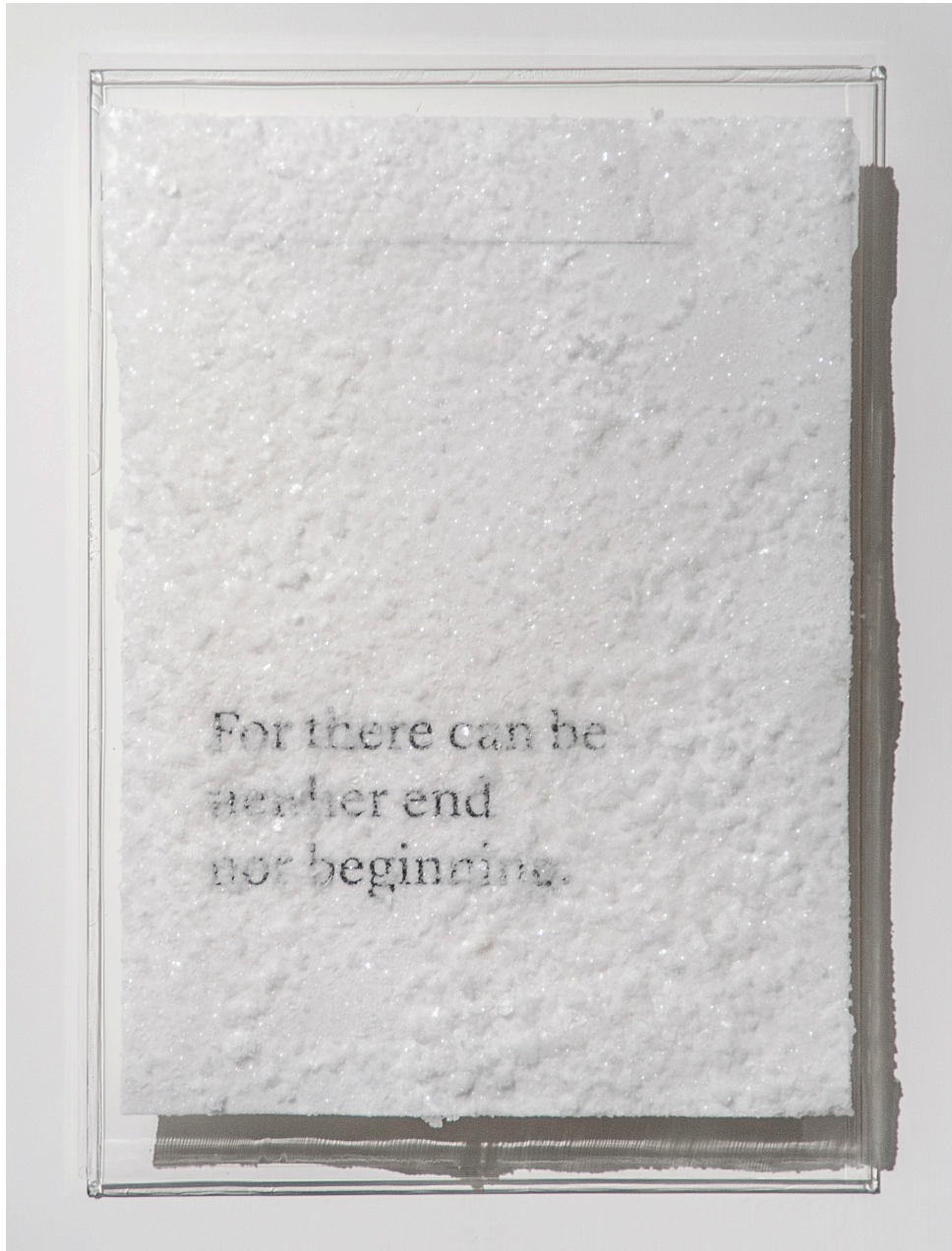
Last words

I know nothing and I persisted in the faith that the time of cruel miracles was not past.

2016

Print on paper, crystallised sodium tetraborate, resin, acrylic box /
51 x 36 x 5 cm

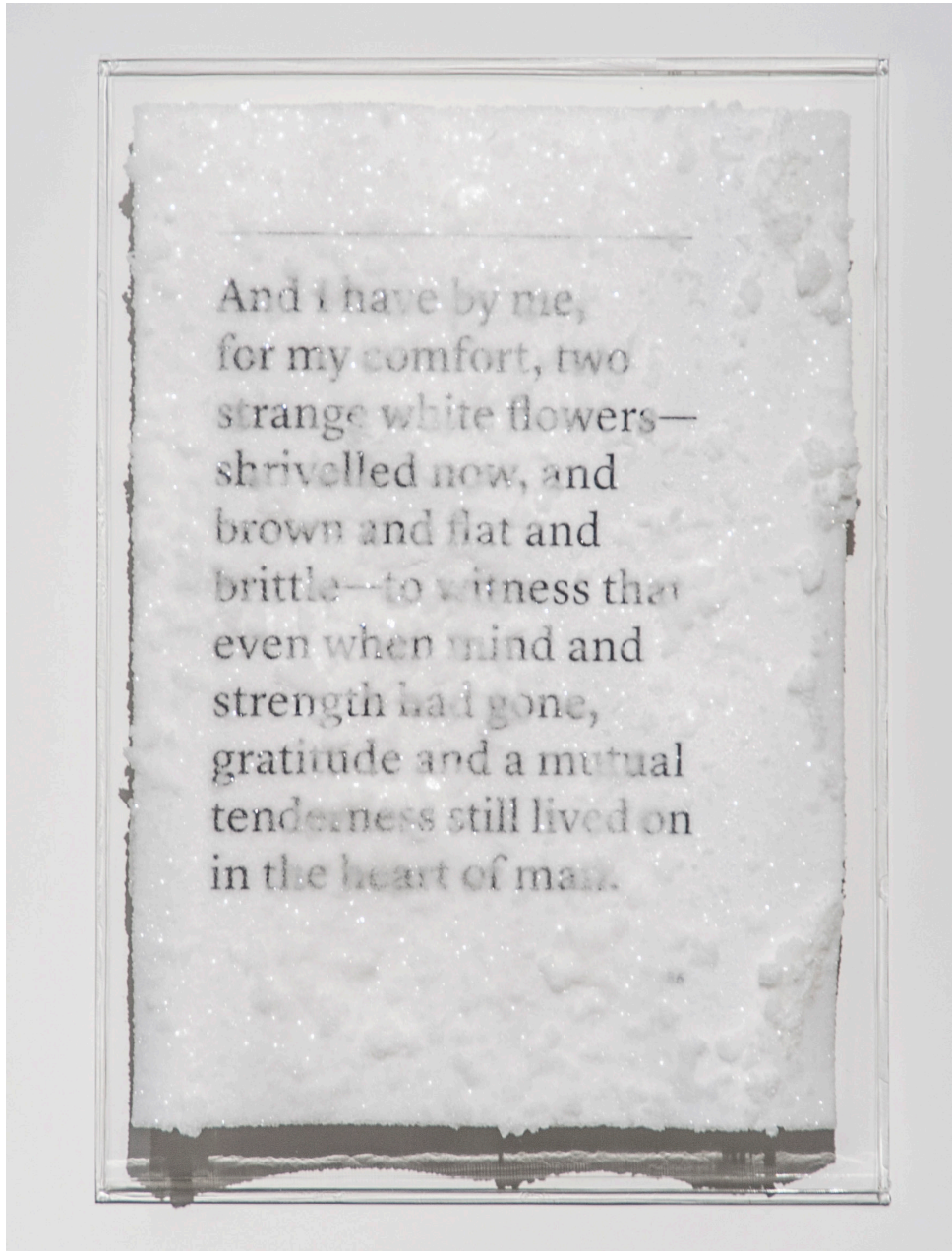
HKD 45,000



Last words
For there can be neither end nor beginning.
2016

Print on paper, crystallised sodium tetraborate, resin, acrylic box /
51 x 36 x 5 cm

HKD 45,000

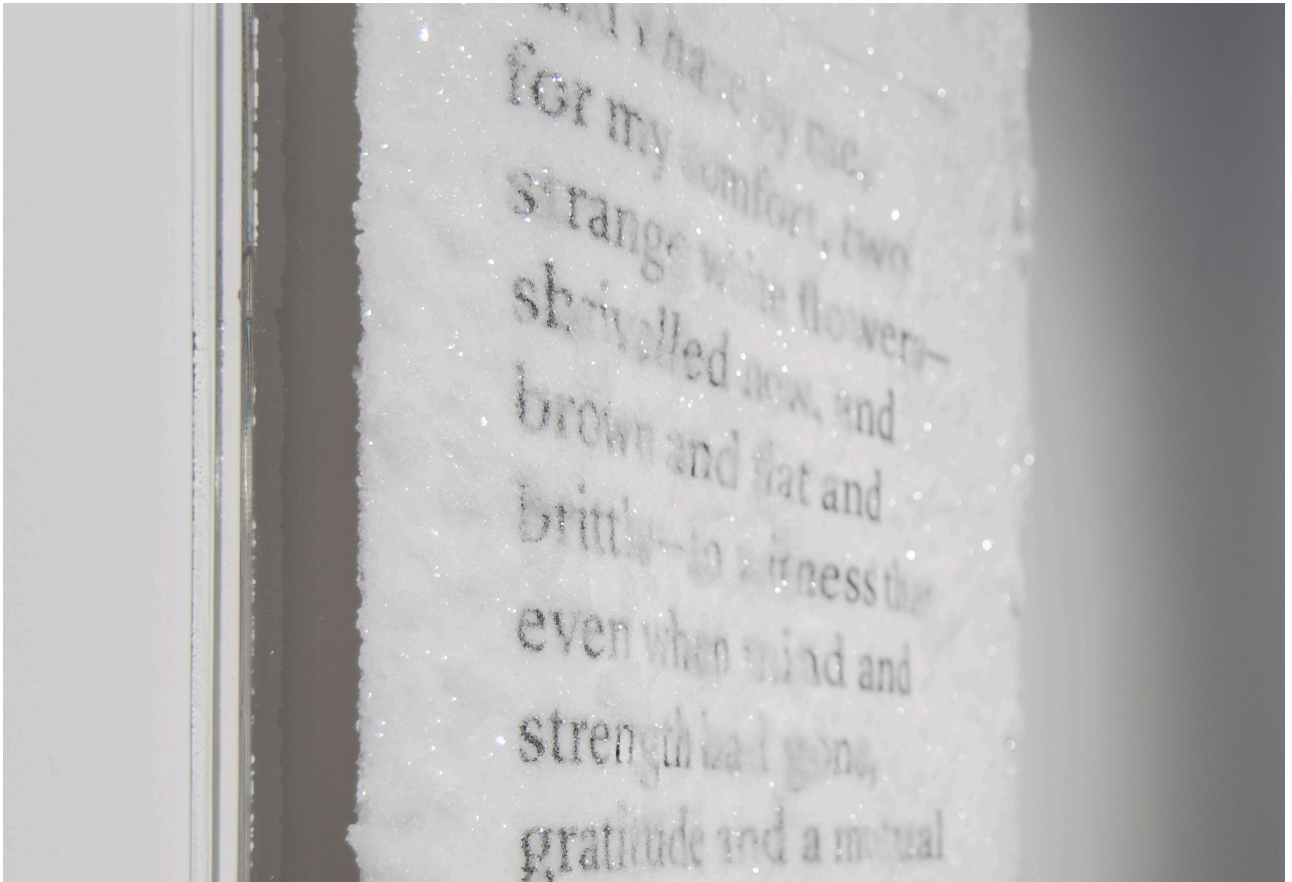


And I have by me, for my comfort, two strange white flowers— shrivelled now, and brown and flat and brittle—to witness that even when mind and strength had gone, gratitude and a mutual tenderness still lived on in the heart of man.

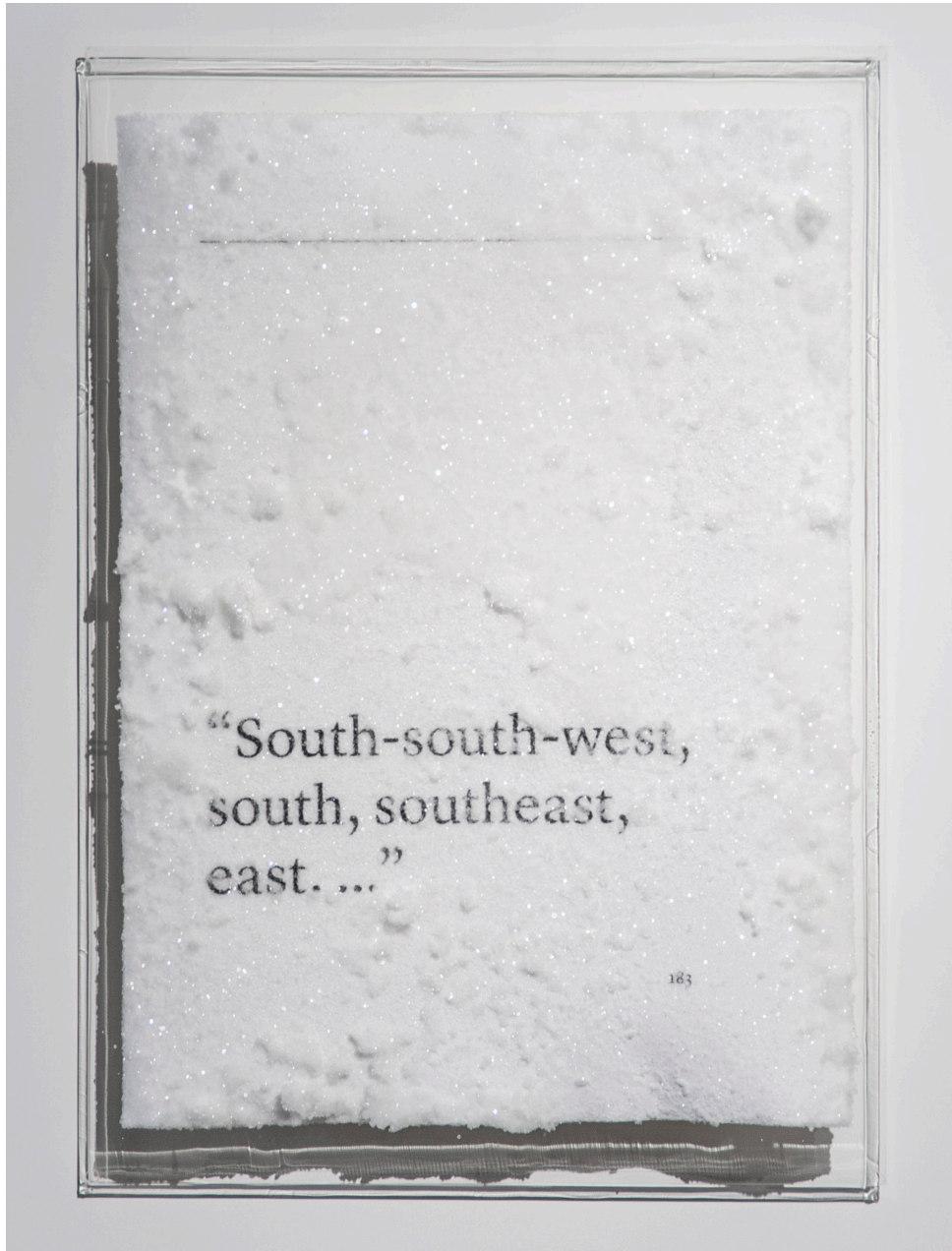
2016

Print on paper, crystallised sodium tetraborate, resin, acrylic box /
51 x 36 x 5 cm

HKD 45,000



(Close up)



Last words
"South-south-west, south, southeast, east. ..."
2016

Print on paper, crystallised sodium tetraborate, resin, acrylic box /
51 x 36 x 5 cm

HKD 45,000



Last words
Now everybody -
2016

Print on paper, crystallised sodium tetraborate, resin, acrylic box /
51 x 36 x 5 cm

HKD 45,000



Last words
When we reach the city.
2016

Print on paper, crystallised sodium tetraborate, resin, acrylic box /
51 x 36 x 5 cm

HKD 45,000



Fast Kill – Reduction I
2016

Installation with found objects (insecticide can, metal scrap, soil), equilateral triangle table /
60 x 60 x 60 x 137 cm

HKD 60,000



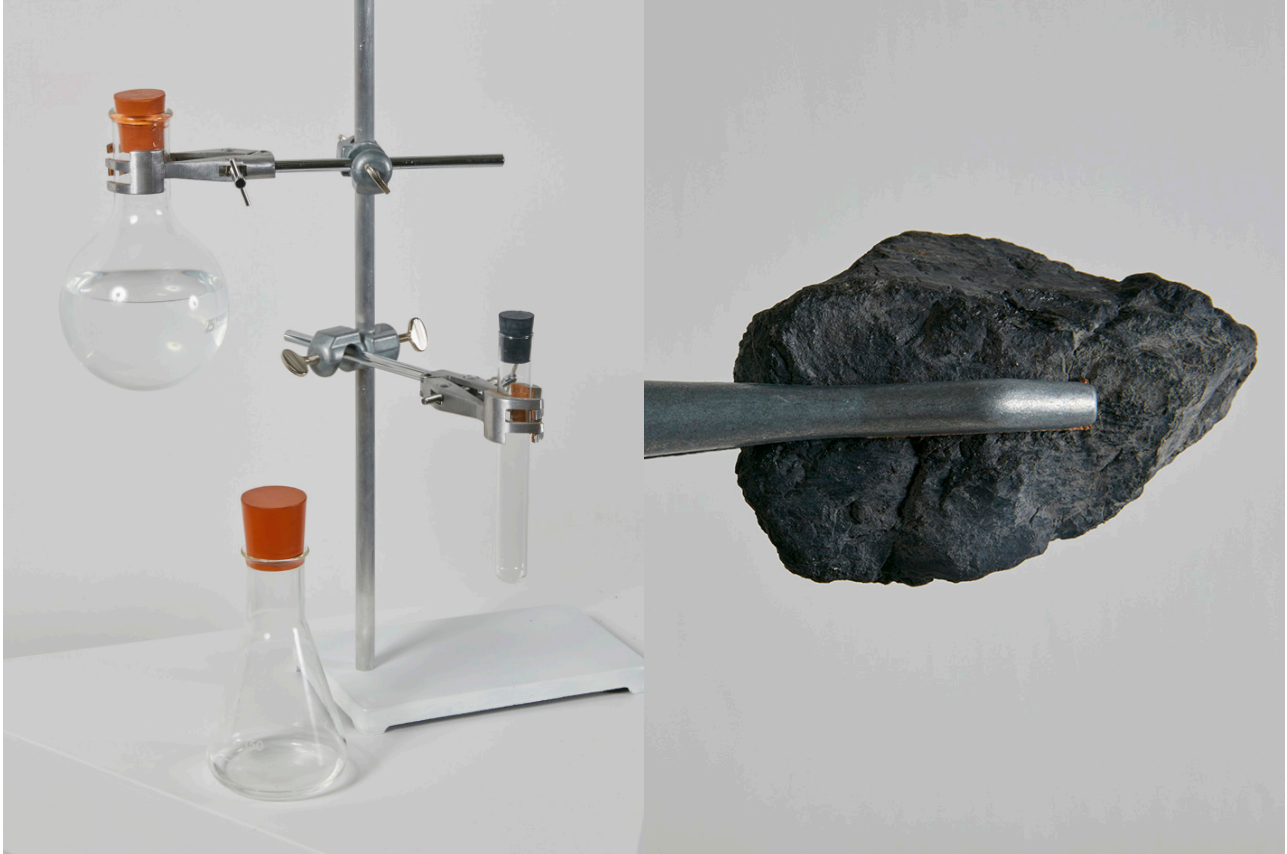
(close up)



Pyramida – Reduction II
2016

Installation with found objects (coal, glacier water, sea water, air from the Arctic),
stand, clamps, equilateral triangle table /
60 x 60 x 60 x 182 cm

HKD 60,000



(close up)



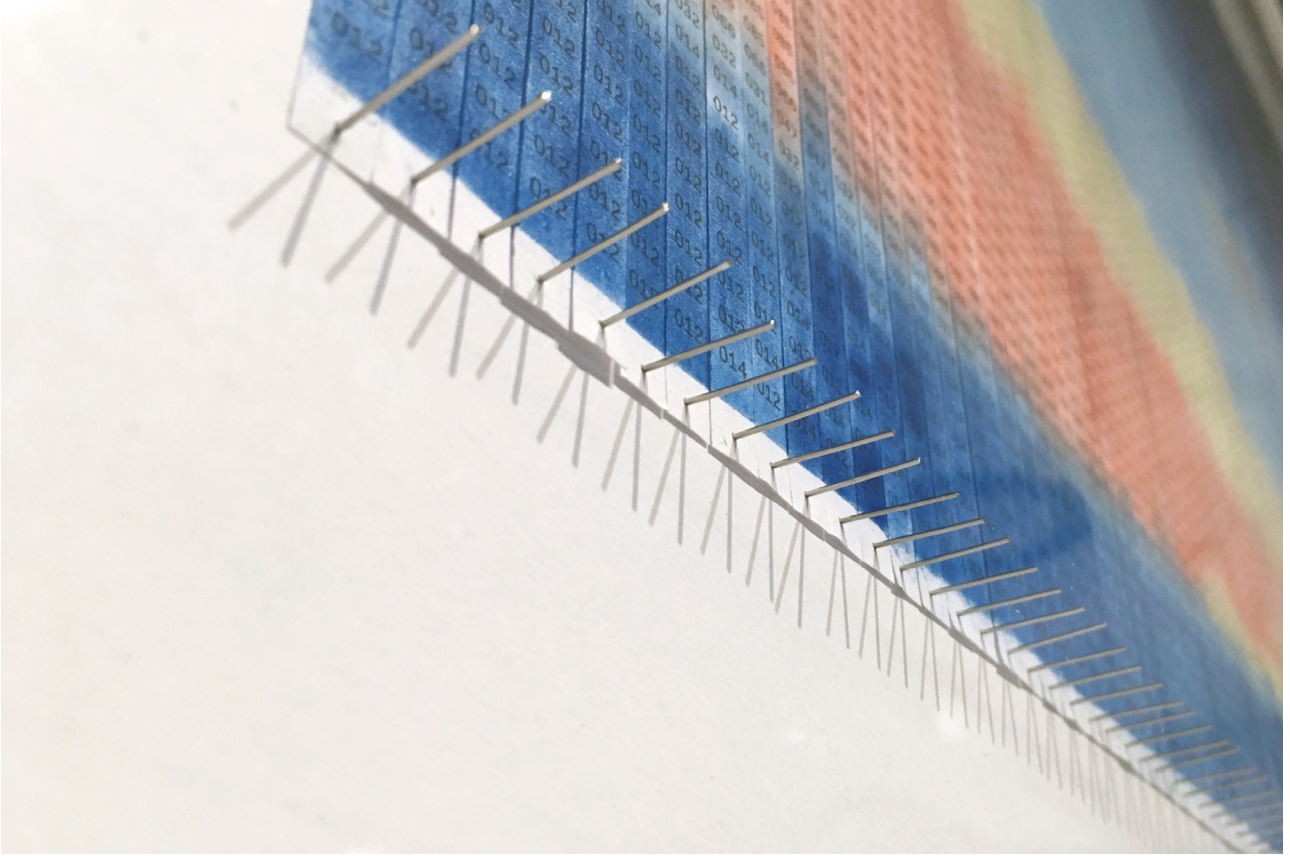
Last Image of Kosmos 1154
30th January 1980 – 12th October 2014
2016

Print on paper, mixed media
83.5 x 111 x 4.5 cm

HKD 85,000



(close up)



(close up)



Interventions
We were drifting all along
2014

Lambda print
40 x 60 cm
Edition of 3

HKD 36,500 (inclusive of framing)



Interventions
We thought it would not matter
2014

Lambda print
40 x 60 cm
Edition of 3

HKD 36,500 (inclusive of framing)



Interventions
To get closer to the light
2014

Lambda print
40 x 60 cm
Edition of 3

HKD 36,500 (inclusive of framing)



Interventions

To produce is a passion; to consume is only a taste

2014

Lambda print

40 x 60 cm

Edition of 3

HKD 36,500 (inclusive of framing)



Interventions

To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield

2014

Lambda print

40 x 60 cm

Edition of 3

HKD 36,500 (inclusive of framing)



Interventions
We thought we had time
2014

Lambda print
40 x 60 cm
Edition of 3

HKD 36,500 (inclusive of framing)

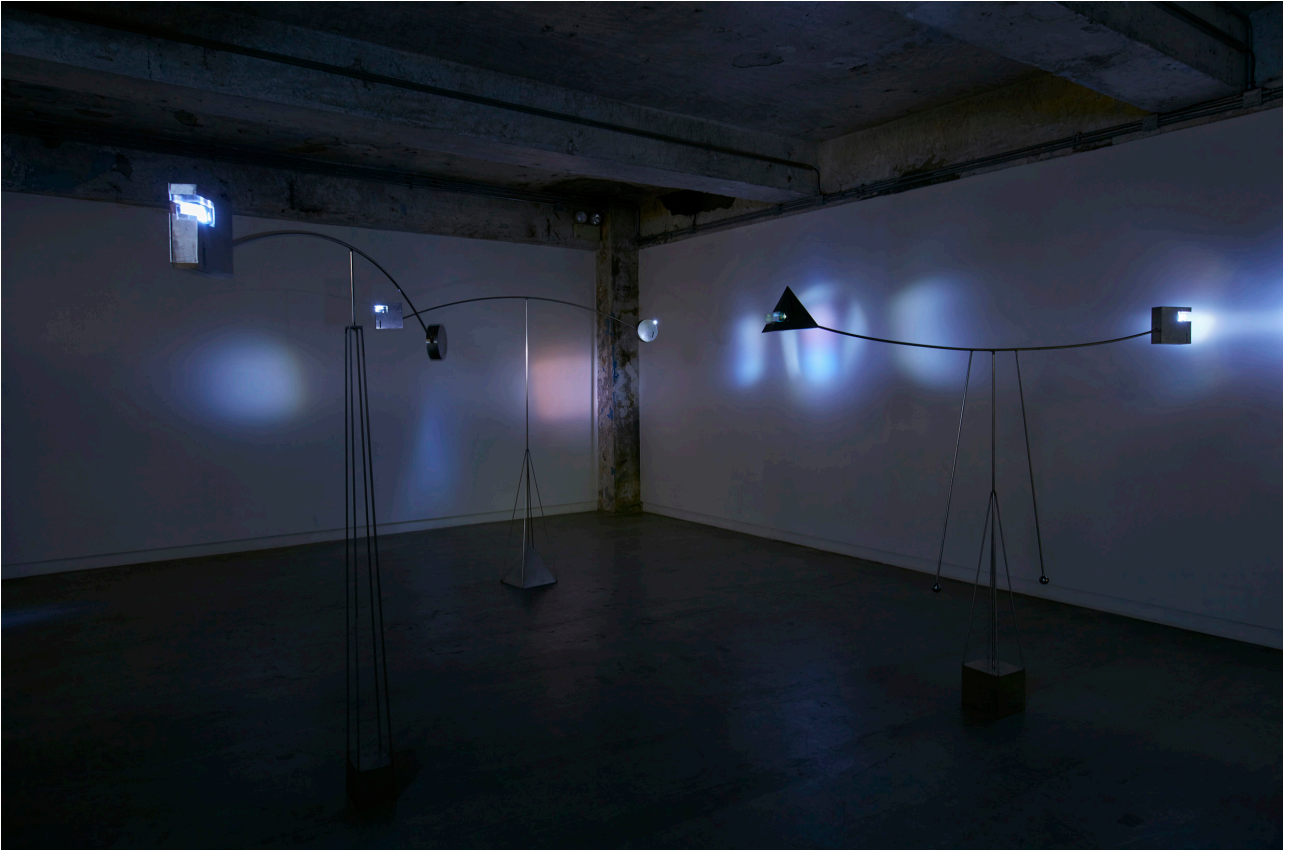


Interventions
We thought we would live forever
2014

Lambda print
40 x 60 cm
Edition of 3

HKD 36,500 (inclusive of framing)

Display view





Parhelia I
2015

Kinetic sculpture with light projection

175 x 207 x 207 cm

Edition of 2

HKD 100,000



Parhelia II

2015

Kinetic sculpture with light projection

187 x 189 x 189 cm

Edition of 2

HKD 100,000



Parhelia III

2015

Kinetic sculpture with light projection

145 x 192 x 192 cm

Edition of 2

HKD 100,000



Horizontal Drift

2016

HD video, TV, high-density polyethylene frame

3 h 20 mins

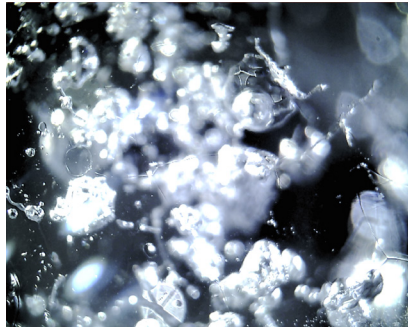
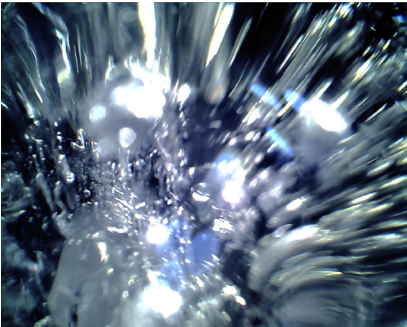
64 x 91 x 15.1 cm

Edition of 3

HKD 60,000

Display view





(Screen capture from video work)

Chrono-Synclastic
2016

Three channel HD video
Channel one: 28'33"
Channel two: 73'18"
Channel three: 38'42"
Edition of 3

HKD 40,000

Artist CV

Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 “FRAGMENTS OF FUTURE HISTORIES”, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2012 “Distinct Factures, A Return from Langsdorff”, 2P Contemporary Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2010 “Archival Records”, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong
- 2006 “I/O Flows”, Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre, Hong Kong

Group Exhibitions

- 2015 “Beyond the Sound”, Le French May, Comix Home Base, Hong Kong
“Roaming, Muttering, Stuttering...”, LOOP Barcelona, Cinemes Girona, Barcelona, Spain
- 2014 “Is It (Y)ours?”, Museum Bäregasse, Zürich, Switzerland
“HONG KONG BESTIARY”, Platform China, Hong Kong
“19th Incubator for Film and Visual media in Asia (ifva)”, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong
“Random Moments”, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
- 2013 “Embark! Beyond the Horizon”, Oi! Art Space, Hong Kong
“Hong Kong Contemporary Art Awards 2012”, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
- 2012 “ART HK12 Projects: Le son de L’art (the sound of art)”, ART HK12, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
- 2010 “((audience))”, Ramiken Crucible, New York, USA
“No Soul For Sale, Silent Impact”, Tate Modern, London, UK
- 2009 “Britto New Media Festival 2009”, National Gallery, Dhaka, Bangladesh
“((audience))”, Red House Arts Center, New York, USA
“HK Sound Station”, Para Site, Hong Kong
“A-usual Objects”, Experimenta, Hong Kong
“Cities of Desire: Vienna - Hong Kong”, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong
- 2008 “Cities of Desire: Vienna - Hong Kong”, IG Bildende Kunst, Vienna, Austria
- 2007 “Myth of place”, Ox Warehouse, Macau
“Les Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid”, Concorde, Paris, France

- 2006 “Impromptu pour un voyage”, Videotage, Hong Kong
“Myth of Place”, Nolias Gallery, London, UK
“Video Marathon”, Art in General, New York, USA
“Cities of Desire: Alternative Strategies of Place-Making”, Hong Kong Arts Centre,
Hong Kong
- 2005 “Hong Kong Art Biennial Exhibition”, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong

Awards

- 2014 Hong Kong Arts Development Council - Artist of the Year (Media Arts)
19th ifva Awards - Gold Award in Interactive Media Category
- 2013 Secretary for Home Affairs’ Commendation Scheme - Certificate of Commendation
- 2005 Hong Kong Art Biennial - Prize of Excellence

Collection

Hong Kong Museum of Art



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