

Adrian Wong

Troglodyte See the Light

20 May – 25 June 2011

Artist's Reception:

Friday, 20 May, 7 – 9p



ltd los angeles is pleased to present Adrian Wong's debut solo exhibition in the United States, *Troglodyte See the Light*.

Having undergone several prolonged periods of premeditated and situational isolation (via meditation, extended stays in remote areas, and acute bouts of agoraphobia), Adrian Wong became acutely aware of the increasingly fragmented nature of his internal monologue. These breakages from conventional means of communication highlighted the rarely attended-to nature of pre-linguistic thought, the subject of the present investigation. Similar to the abject's mode of operation –described by Julia Kristeva as the violent reaction to a threat to the symbolic order— momentary lapses of linguistic processing provide a “peek behind the curtain” of human experience. “It lies outside, beyond the set, and does not seem to agree to the latter's rules of the game. And yet, from its place of banishment, the abject does not cease challenging its master. Without a sign (for him), it beseeches a discharge, a convulsion, a crying out” (Kristeva, *Powers of Horror*). However, when confronted by non-linguistic or extra-linguistic stimuli, our response is often the opposite in valence. As no threat to the super ego occurs, these situations are accompanied by feelings of rapture, ecstasy, and wonderment. They are commonly experienced (induced by hallucinogenic pharmaceuticals, strong emotional response, sensory deprivation, temporary psychosis, or religious ecstasy), but fleeting. Repackaged by memory's reliance on language, they too find themselves “outside, beyond the set,” incommensurate with the narrative structure of our experience.

The exhibition will include Adrian Wong's animatronics installation, *Kaspar Hauser, Ramachandra, & Natascha the Dog Girl of Chita*, and *Hypnagogia I*, a sculptural installation. ltd los angeles is pleased to present the premier screening of Adrian Wong and Ezra Emerson's *The Pelagic Floor*. Adrian Wong and David Boyce's new photographic series, *Affective Portraits*, will be on view. On the occasion of this exhibit, ltd los angeles has invited critic and writer Lee Weng Choy to collaborate with Wong on a text which may be found on ltdlosangeles.com.

Adrian Wong's recent exhibitions include *This is Hong Kong* at the Kuandu Museum of Art, *Dis Play* at Para/Site Art Space, the Hong Kong Sculpture Biennial, and the Louis Vuitton Foundation sponsored *A Passion for Creation*. His videos have been screened internationally at the International Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, Bangkok Experimental Film Festival, LOOP Media Center, and Kunststhal Wien. Wong, along with Patty Chang and Ho Tzu Nyen, will be featured in Osage Contemporary's *Staged Fictions* exhibition opening during Art HK in late May.

Adrian Wong (born Chicago, IL 1980) lives and works in Hong Kong and Los Angeles, CA.

We would thank the following for their generous support: Brian & Leslie Brille, William Lim, Jehan Chu, Ocean Park Hong Kong, Port Cities Ltd. and Front View Productions.

ltd los angeles is open Tuesday – Saturday from 10 am – 5 pm and by appointment.