

**THE DOMINO**

ROOM  
3.25

**pili pala**

**PROJECT ACTION**

**EDINBURGH**

**1**

## FOREWORD

*“Is there a brand new curatorial approach that makes full use of both social and physical space to showcase a facet of contemporary art, while transcending conventional methods and itself by presenting the processes, questions, and indications?”*

— Boyi Feng, 2009



Pili Pala is an emerging collective of contemporary art professionals, initiated by eight passionate and determined young female curators.

Derived from the Welsh word for butterfly, Pili Pala is a symbol of freedom and imagination, implying a profound appreciation for

beauty, nature and life. Coincidentally, the pronunciation of Pili Pala is commonly used in China to describe a continuous and rapid ringing sound, reminiscent of bonfires, firecrackers, or raindrops. We deliberately embrace this dual interpretation, as we believe it mirrors the sparks of creativity within our team and anticipates the resonance we aim to evoke in our audience’s minds.

Its phonetic resemblance to the sound of falling dominoes further resonates with our annual programme, the Domino Project. This linguistic coincidence represents a marvellous fusion of cultures and the art of nature, highlighting our commitment to interculturalism, diversity, and ingenuity.

As a collective specialising in contemporary art curating, we are devoted to guiding our audience around diverse contemporary themes and rich connotations encapsulated within the notion of Pili Pala. Through our exhibitions, screenings, and public programmes, we aspire to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of contemporary art while celebrating the exchange of cultures, the explosion of creativity, and the evolution of artistic vibrancy.

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IN FAULT MODE / Ningyue Zhang

ECO-SYMBIOSIS / Haoming Wang

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ZOOM IN: IN MBTI LENS / Fany Yuan

A DIALOGUE ACROSS GENERATIONS / Jianan Lu

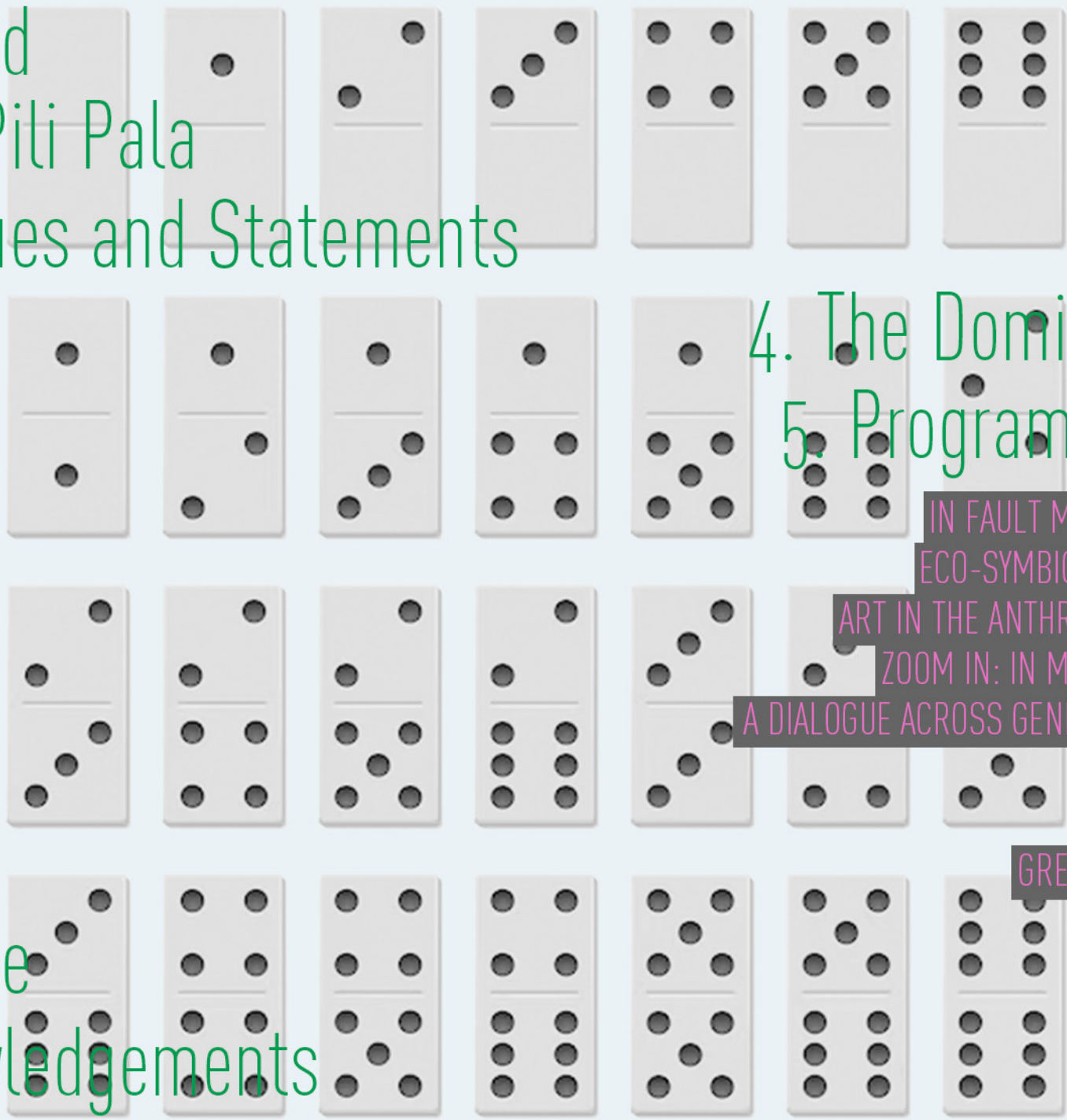
HER STORY / Jiani Li

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# What We Value

*Critical thinking*  
*Learning and relearning*  
*Wayward curating*

# What We Are Concerned About

*Interculturalism*  
*Equality*  
*Counterhegemony*  
*Care*  
*Sustainability*  
*De-anthropocentrism*  
*Activism*  
*Inclusiveness*  
*Pluralism*  
*Social responsibility*  
*Professionalism*  
*Innovation*  
*Education*

## Environmental and Operational Sustainability

**Sustainable Material Use:** We choose sustainable materials when installing temporary exhibitions to minimise direct and indirect environmental impacts.

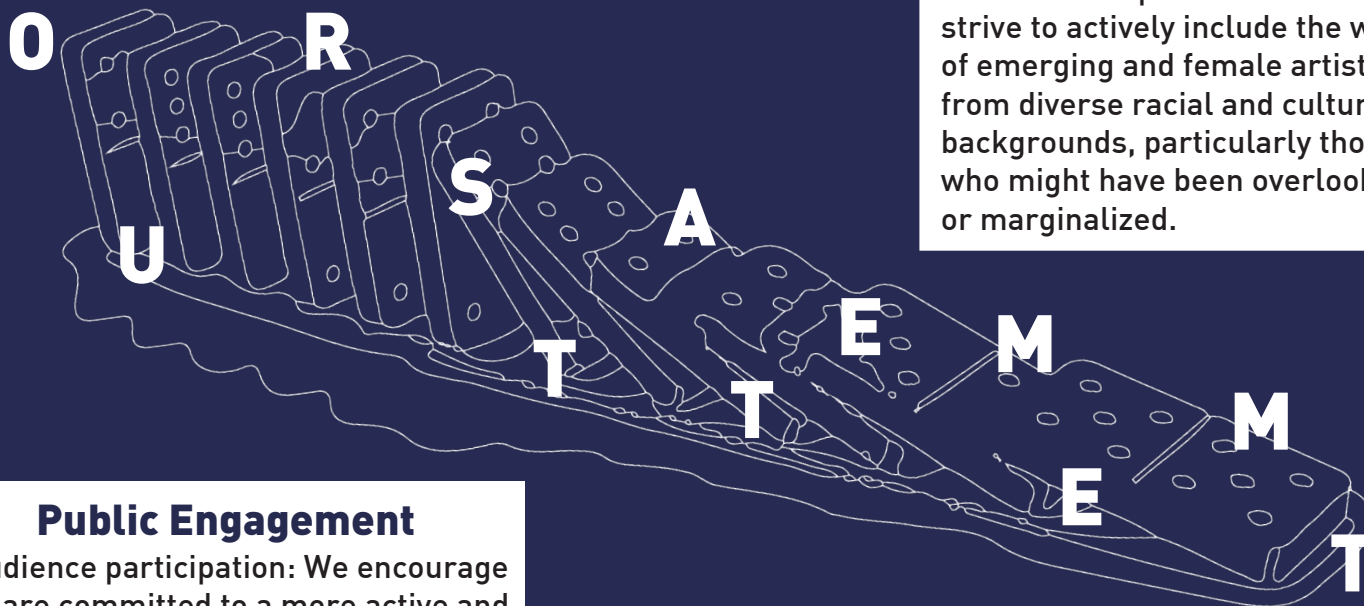
**Equality and Democracy:** We aim to develop a democratic operating mechanism wherein each team member participates in decision making, and tasks are distributed equitably.

## Care, Openness and Inclusiveness

**Care and Mutual Respect:** We encourage mutual understanding, sincerity, and consideration for all, providing full care and respect to guests, attendees and audiences.

**Courage and Open-mindedness:** We maintain courage and an open mind to embrace new norms and knowledge.

**Inclusive Representation:** We strive to actively include the work of emerging and female artists from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds, particularly those who might have been overlooked or marginalized.



## Public Engagement

**Audience participation:** We encourage and are committed to a more active and deeper involvement of the public in our exhibitions and events.

**Arts Education:** We are devoted to realising the aesthetic and educational value of the arts and to educating the public about multiculturalism and stimulating dialogue.

## Ethical Curating

**Integrity and Responsibility:** We authentically present artworks and artists' backgrounds, convey their voices with respect and accuracy, and unswervingly practice our social responsibilities.

## About The Domino Project

The Domino Project interconnects and interlocks our curators' individual practices, weaving them into a cohesive and captivating narrative. By orchestrating a series of exhibitions and events, it provides a multifaceted lens through which to contemplate the contemporary art world synchronically and diachronically.

In the Domino Project, a diversity of exhibitions is activated and unfolded in succession at various times of the year to create a temporal sequence, while the venues and spaces where they occur are connected in a coherent pattern from a synchronic viewpoint. In this way, exhibitions are no longer isolated, transient events as they never should have been. Instead, they have evolved into more extended and continuous forms with a greater impact through an invisible dominoes-like chain.

The Domino Project breaks through the conventional paradigm of curating and viewing as it liberates them from the constraints of physical location and space. We leverage the natural magnetic attraction between exhibitions and cultivate intentional connections, to empower curators and artists to engage with one another while retaining their independence and freedom.

As Pili Pala aims to ignite new sparks of creativity and vitality, the Domino Project provides an inspiring platform for curators and artists to communicate, a fresh approach for audiences to access art spaces, as well as a synchronic snapshot and chronological view for researchers to observe the contemporary art world.

# 2024

30/04-23/08

### CURATOR

Ningyue zhang

Jianan Lu

Zehui Ren

Juyee Lu

Haoxing Zhu

Haomiao Wang

Fanny Yuan

Jiani Li



# DOMINOES

## Exhibition

PROJECT GROUP

PILI PALA

# IN FAULT MODE

(1)

The Driver  
Solo Exhibition  
Curator  
Ningyue Zhang

25/05  
(Sat)

19/06  
(Sun)

2024  
May  
25th (Sat)  
June  
19th (Sun)

The visual landscape is dominated by the saturation of HD images. To capture a satisfying image requires meticulous orchestration of camera modes. Conversely, an image is foreseeable to produce noises, fractures, dissonance and a nauseous aesthetic under the setting of a fault mode. The exhibition showcases thousands of poor images produced by Chinese artist Huangyu, portraying the artist's roaming state, through which he crosses over the line between the real world and the dreamy landscape. His gaze penetrates the pandemonium of the urban district, condensing everything in extreme abstraction in the monochromatic landscape. Behind the blown-up pixels, the true living status of life is slowly being revealed.

IN  
TJUA7  
MODE 故  
态障

The Driver  
Solo Exhibition  
司机个展  
Curator  
Ningyue Zhang  
策展人  
张宁玥

三影堂厦门摄影艺术中心  
厦门市集美区杏林湾营运中心2号楼裙楼3层  
Three Shadow Xiamen Photography Art Centre  
3rd Floor of Building No.2, Xinglinwan Business  
Centre, Jimei District, Xiamen

# ECO-SYMBIOSIS

(2)

Group Exhibition  
Curator  
Haomiao Wang

01/06  
(Sat)

23/06  
(Sun)

On this beautiful planet, humans are not the only species, and all living things depend on each other. However, our destructive activities often lead to the collapse of the ecosystem, such as intensified climate change, frequent natural disasters, and the gradual loss of biodiversity. The exhibition is themed on symbiosis, aiming to awaken human attention to ecological issues and call on us to transcend human self-interest, expand our vision from humans to all things, consider a wider ecosystem, abandon anthropocentrism and re-examine the relationship between humans and other species. It is hoped that everyone can take action to maintain the symbiotic relationship between humans and other species and create a sustainable ecological environment for future generations.



# ART IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

(3)



Group Exhibition  
Curator  
Zehui Ren

28/04 (Sun)

08/05 (Tue)

This exhibition delves into the Anthropocene, a critical stage in Earth's history in which human activities have had an indelible impact on the planet's ecosystems and geology. The concept of the Anthropocene is crucial in contemporary art as it provides artists with a perspective to explore and critique the complex relationship between human behaviour, environmental degradation and sustainability. By situating art at the intersection of ecology and human impact, the exhibition sheds light on pressing global issues and invites reflection, dialogue and action towards a more sustainable coexistence with the planet.

This exhibition is more than an artistic endeavor; it is a call to action and reflection for the Anthropocene era, urging us to reconsider our roles and responsibilities towards the past, present and future of our planet.





# ZOOM IN: IN MBTI LENS

01/10(Tue)

01/11(Fri)

(4)

Group Exhibition  
Curator  
Fany Yuan

The MBTI is a psychometric tool used to assess an individual's personality type and has sparked the interest of many young Asians. Many people have addictively used MBTI in all aspects of their lives, constantly labelling objects, animals, people, etc. with MBTI. In this MBTI themed exhibition, you will see 16 pairs of paintings representing different MBTIs, an interactive street game installation about MBTI and an installation projection art. These artworks are a guide that I have created for the audience. I hope that through this MBTI themed exhibition, we can explore ourselves more diversely, break down some external or internal closed barriers, learn more about ourselves, express ourselves honestly, have our own stance, and don't let the outside world define who we are and what we should be doing, because we ourselves are the answer to the question.

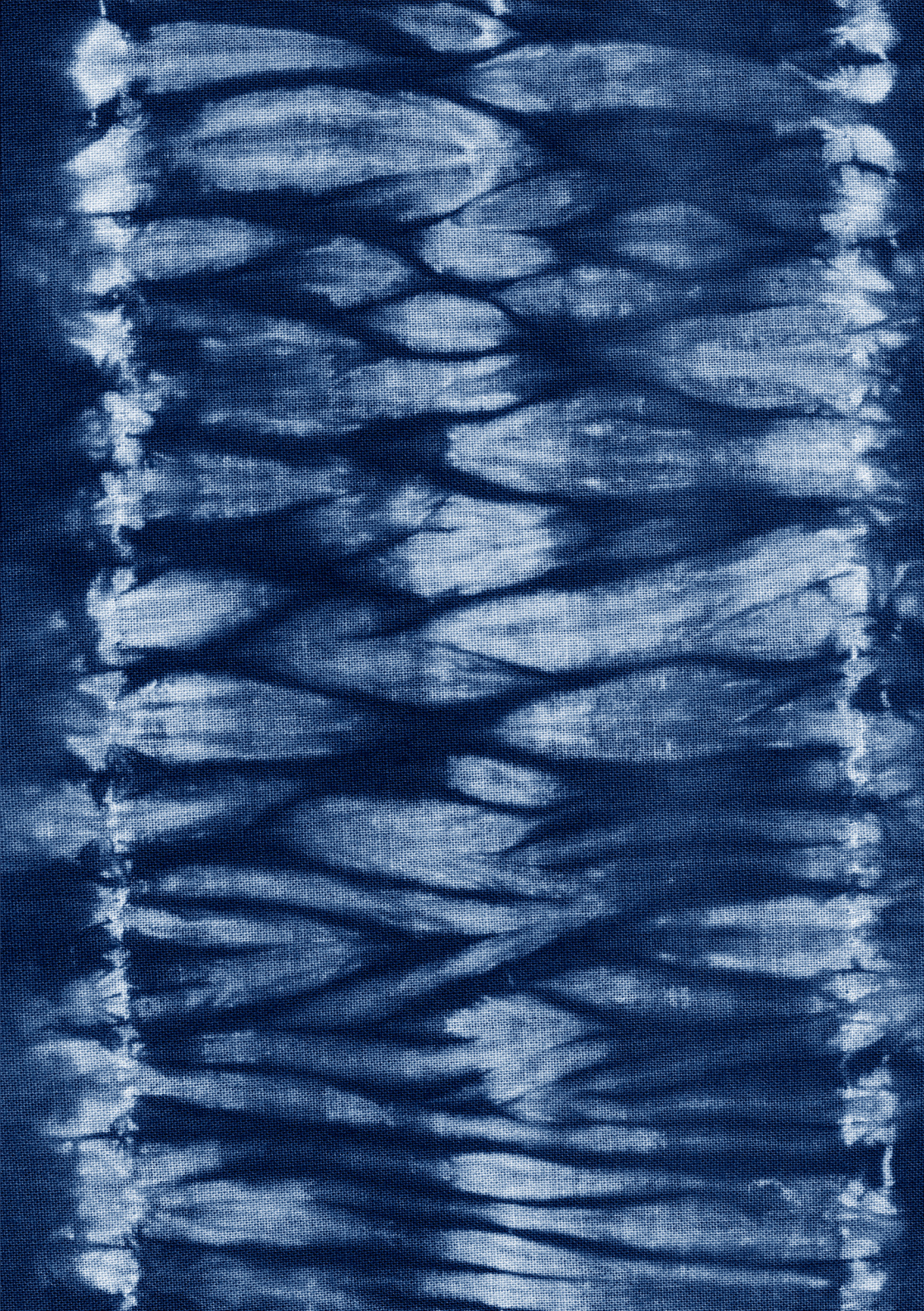
# A Dialogue Across Generations

## (5)

14/09  
(Sun)

31/10 Talbot Rice Gallery  
(Tue) Curator Jianan Lu

"Echoes in Blue: A Dialogue Across Generations" delves into the blue print as a cultural emblem, presenting its evolution through the juxtaposition of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary design. This curatorial venture sets the stage for an enriching dialogue on identity, heritage, and innovation across cultural and generational divides. It seeks to explore the viability of traditional crafts in a globalized world and how they can be reimagined to resonate with modern aesthetics. Through a collaboration of Chinese and British artists, the exhibition aims to foster cross-cultural understanding, celebrate cultural diversity, and highlight the creative interplay between tradition and modernity.



# HER STORY

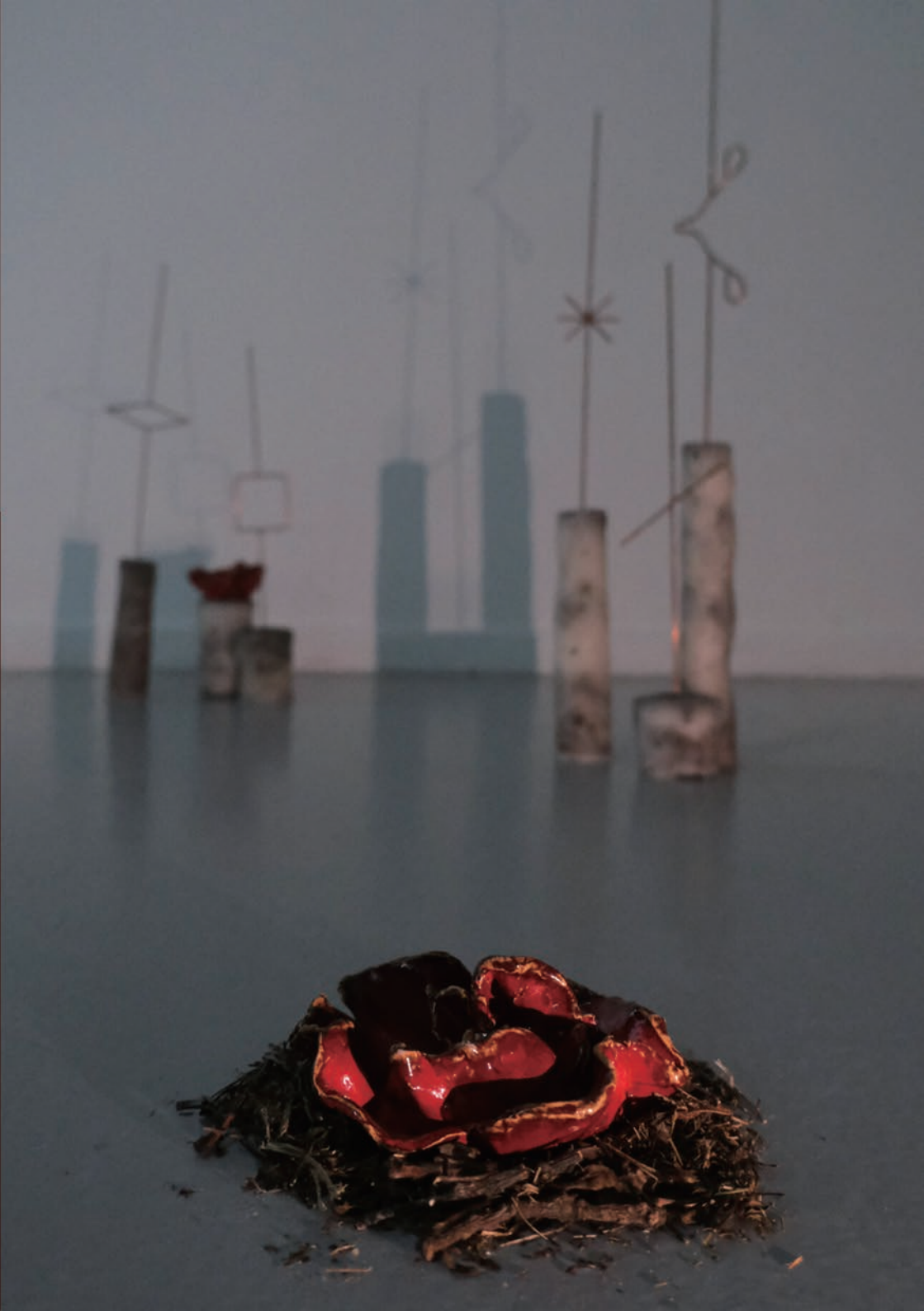
Women in the Fissures of Time  
Out of the Blue Drill Hall  
Curator  
Jiani Li

08/09  
(Sun)

(6)

21/09  
(Sat)

For many women, gender bias and racial differences result in frequent neglect and unfair treatment. This exhibition focuses on the injustices and challenges that women face and demonstrates their desire to work towards eradicating these stereotypes, showcasing the strength and resilience of women. This exhibition aims to push the boundaries of gender and race through the collaboration of two Chinese and British contemporary artists, Wenyi Pan and Saoirse Amira Anis, whose artistic practices are heavily influenced by feminist theory, showcasing the profound perspectives and indomitable spirit of female artists. This is not just an art exhibition, but a tribute to women who tirelessly pursue and express themselves, challenging traditional norms with bold creativity.



# (7) HERTZ

03/08  
(Sat)

21/08  
(Wed)

Artist-Led Program  
Curator  
Juyee Lu

“  
*The frequency of a sound determines whether that sound can be heard. In Scotland minority voices seem to be heard and responded to in most cases only by people of the same ethnicity, for others the voices are out of their hearing range.*  
”

The program Hertz is led by Scottish artists and activists focusing on racial injustice, race discrimination, minority interests, and social dissonance. There will be 4 episodes of events taking forms of round-table conference and work shop held over four weekends in July and August. The events will be hosted by contemporary art practitioners, bringing together the audiences to make artworks collectively, sharing stories, dance and relax. The events aim to explore how art practices can become part of systemic transformation, giving voice to minorities, dealing with misrepresentation and underrepresentation of ethnical minority people, and provide care and affective support to minorities in community. In addition the program will develop long-term collaboration with other organisations to provide employment assistance, housing grants, and legal assistance.



## ARTISTS

Rae-Yen Song  
Alaya Ang  
Ashanti Harris  
Sean Wai Keung

## MULTI-VENUE

GALSGOW  
EDINBURGH



# GREY ZONE

(8)

11/09  
(Wed)

21/09  
(Sat)

Screening  
Curator  
Haoxing Zhu

In an era dominated by the expansion of image power and AI algorithmic production, the term *grey zone* has been used to describe our media environment. The *greyness* has been blurring everything through mediatization, giving complex effects to the image and the viewer, and thus suspending the debate on the meaning of various contradictory terms in a field full of possibilities.

This screening programme seeks to guide the audience through an exploration of moving images as a medium in the *grey zone*. We invite viewers to contemplate the authenticity and ambiguity of what they see and to reflect on the inherent subjectivity of human beings as both creators and viewers.



## EPILOGUE

When curating a single exhibition, the Domino Project, featuring a concept-driven curatorial style, “consciously lengthens the usual conduct of curating into a continuous process, with the forms of artworks and information changing at any time” (Feng, 2009).

When we introduce the notion of domino into our organisation’s way of programming our curatorial projects, it intentionally strings together, continuously piles and extends each of them. In this way, the Domino Project constructs a new pattern of exhibitions, which could be a thread that has been guiding us to explore the infinite space of contemporary art.

## Thanks To

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