

PRESS RELEASE

**lamina | ink**

a solo exhibition of Kenny Ng

28 Sep - 18 Nov, 2018 @ The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre



details of *Well-wisher* 2018 by Kenny Ng | joss paper, ink, watercolor on paper

**Kenny Ng's** first solo exhibition, titled '**lamina|ink**', will showcase a series of abstract characters, inspired by the diverse shapes and forms of mysterious deep sea organisms, combined with colonial and old temple architecture of Ho Chi Minh City. The architectural lines of these drawings tell a story of history and culture, both familiar and strange to Kenny, a young artist who returned to Vietnam in 2015, after 7 years studying and living abroad.

Throughout his university years, Kenny's practice centered on printmaking and book-making, requiring the combination of many different types of material, especially paper. His love for paper, especially those originating from East Asia, such as the Vietnamese *giấy dó* or the Japanese *kitaka*, stems from their thinness and ability to absorb ink. On the surface of his artworks in '**lamina|ink**', one can easily see the appearance of funerary gold (used in offerings) bought from Thai Nguyen (his mother's hometown), as a link to his roots. For Kenny, this type of paper passed down through the generations from mother to son, from son to artwork, creates a parent-child thread linking Kenny with the organisms he paints.

Soon after returning to Vietnam he began travelling around South East Asia, observing and taking note of typical motifs in the design and construction of temple domes, or the pillars and ventilation bricks of colonial buildings. Many of the structures that he visited are no longer in their original condition (ie. destroyed or badly renovated), such as the Binh An People's cemetery (Binh Duong), Giac Vien temple (Sai Gon), Kien Trung Palace (Hue), Ta Prohm (Siem Reap) to name a few. With sensitivity and nostalgia, Kenny transforms these architectural layers as 'skin' for different imaginary creatures who 'live' or 'hide' beneath the evidence of time - an architectural landscape embodying differing history and social upheaval - similar to the way we live in Vietnamese society after many years of colonial influences.

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**Kenny Ng** (b.1993, Ho Chi Minh City) grew up in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. He graduated with a degree in Visual Arts from the College of Art and Design, Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. After completing his Bachelor's degree in the US, he returned to Vietnam to live and work in Ho Chi Minh City. Kenny's works are often personal, abstract and poetic. During his time studying abroad he was fascinated by the technique of printmaking and traditional book-binding. This dynamic - the folds of paper with the smell of ink in the print workshop - is always a source of motivation and inspiration for the artist. Kenny's artworks have been exhibited by a number of institutions abroad such as: : 'Kệ - A History of NOW' (Wedeman Gallery, Newton, MA, 2017), 'Spotlight On Book Arts' (Lesley University, Cambridge, MA, 2016), 'Sheffield International Artist Book Prize' (Bank Street Arts, Sheffield, UK), etc.

**The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre ('The Factory')** is the first purpose-built space for contemporary art in Vietnam, established April 2016. As an independent private initiative, it creates and hosts interdisciplinary activities in order to introduce and expand knowledge of contemporary art and cultural trends, both past and present, in Vietnam. As a social enterprise, The Factory also offers a publicly accessible reading room of art-educational resource; workshop and co-working space; replete with café, bar and restaurant. All profit from sale of art and business on-site supports the running costs of its Arts Centre. <http://www.factoryartscentre.com>