

MEDIA RELEASE 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art



Tell Me My Truth

Simon Fujiwara, Helen Grace, Amala Groom, FX Harsono, He Xiangyu, James Newitt, Tony Schwensen, John von Sturmer

27 March – 16 May 2015



He Xiangyu, *The Death of Marat*, 2011, fiberglass, silicone, fabric, human hair and leather, life-size. Courtesy the artist and WHITE SPACE BEIJING.

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art announces its latest exhibition, [Tell Me My Truth](#) featuring newly commissioned and existing works presented in Australia for the first time, and brings together eight significant Australian and international artists from Indonesia, Germany, and the USA. Both thought-provoking and challenging, *Tell Me My Truth* gives form to alternative narratives and histories mediated through technology, fiction, documentary, remembrance, and surveillance to explore what it means to be an individual within a group.

Artists include Simon Fujiwara (Berlin), Helen Grace (Sydney), Amala Groom (Sydney), FX Harsono (Jakarta), He Xiangyu (Beijing), James Newitt (Tasmania), Tony Schwensen (Boston), John von Sturmer (Sydney). *Tell Me My Truth* is the second exhibition installment of [MASS GROUP INCIDENT](#), a major five-month multi-stage project at 4A.

Aaron Seeto, Director of 4A says: “We are proud to present these artists and significant works in Australia. 4A continues to lead an expanded discussion of how artists reflect our social and cultural environments. *Tell Me My Truth* looks to the ways in which our immediate realities, and those things which we hold true are mediated by tools of their representation. Revealing - in the case of

FX Harsono's investigation into the persecution of the Chinese in Indonesia's modern history - the hidden and the suppressed, or a tendency towards fictions, as in Simon Fujiwara's Studio Pietà and John von Stumer's Twitter intervention."

Indeed influential artist, FX Harsono's video work, *Pilgrimage to History* (2013) explores the politically charged era of Indonesian history through a process of contemplation at various mass grave sites in Indonesia, while Sydney-based Indigenous artist, Amala Groom's installation *Ceremony* (2014) fuses Indigenous and Christian methodologies and symbolism to comment on contemporary Australian politics and race relations.

In his video work, *Studio Pietà (King Kong Komplex)* (2013), Simon Fujiwara creates a dense and comical drama interweaving fiction, autobiography and political history restaged from a single photograph remembered from childhood. This work was commissioned for the *Sharjah Biennial 2013*.

Also in *Tell Me My Truth*, Chinese conceptual artist, He Xiangyu's *The Death of Marat* (2011) – a life-size sculpture of Ai Weiwei made of fiberglass and silicon – is presented as a video documenting the work in a Beijing storeroom, after the sculpture was refused a temporary export permit by Chinese authorities for this exhibition.

The exhibition opens at 4A on Thursday 26 March from 6pm-8pm and will be launched by Michael Snelling, Director and Chief Executive, National Art School, Sydney.

Tell Me My Truth is curated by Pedro de Almeida, Toby Chapman, and Aaron Seeto.

***Tell Me My Truth* artists and curators are available for interview and photo opportunities.**

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FX Harsono, *Pilgrimage to History* (still), 2013, single-channel video, 13.40mins. Courtesy the artist.



Amala Groom, *Ceremony*, 2014, sculpture, dimensions variable. Courtesy the artist.



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EXHIBITION DATES: 27 March – 16 May 2015

VENUE: 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, 181 – 187 Hay St, Sydney NSW 2000

4A opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11AM – 6PM, closed on public holidays.

www.4a.com.au

PRODUCED BY



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ABOUT 4A

From early beginnings as an independent space on Sussex St incorporated in 1996 to its present location on Hay St in Sydney's Chinatown, 4A has come a long way to being recognised as one of Australia's foremost contemporary art organisations. 4A is committed to creating opportunities for artists, developing platforms to exhibit and encouraging critical discussion along the way. 4A is known both within Australia and internationally as an authority on the contemporary art from the Asia Pacific Region.

ABOUT MASS GROUP INCIDENT

MASS GROUP INCIDENT is an ambitious five-month multi-stage project which brings together artists from Asia, Australia and Europe to present new and existing works over a range of platforms and venues including exhibitions, performances, film screenings and site-specific interventions. Between 17 January and 31 May 2015, *MASS GROUP INCIDENT* will explore ideas of social engagement, collective action and the ever-shifting and complex position of the individual in relation to the group.