

GALLERY4A

ASIA-AUSTRALIA ARTS CENTRE

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www.4a.com.au

Media release

MING WONG VAIN EFFORTS

Solo exhibition

Vain Efforts Ming Wong

6 March – 18 April 2009

Cinema Alley

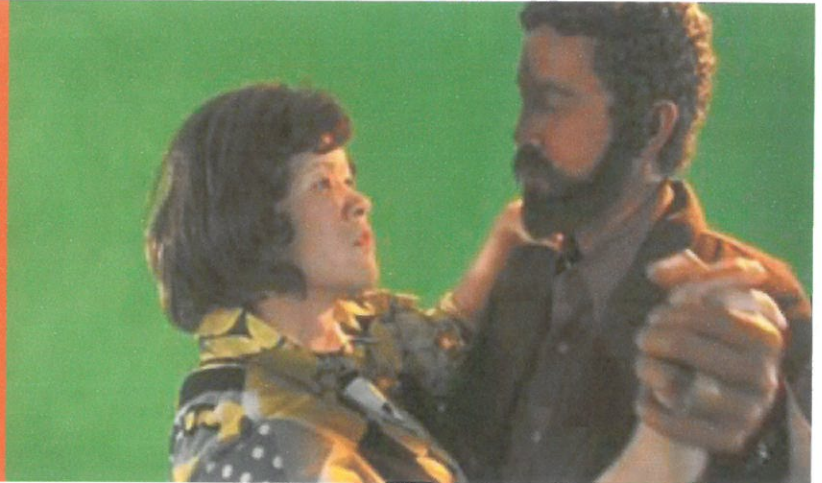
Screening of Ming Wong video artworks

Friday 27 February, 830pm

One night only, Parker Street, Haymarket

Free event, bookings required

Limited seating is available



Gallery 4A is proud to present **Vain Efforts**, a solo exhibition of recent work by **MING WONG**. This will be **Ming Wong's** first solo exhibition in Australia timed to coincide with the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival. **Vain Efforts** is a key element of Gallery 4A's program of international contemporary Asian art in its 2009 Exhibition Program.

Vain Efforts consists of a major solo exhibition at Gallery 4A and a special one-night only screening of key video works in Gallery 4A's **Cinema Alley** an offsite street 'cinema' initiative for contemporary video art.

Wong lives between his native Singapore and Berlin, working mainly in video and photography. He creates irreverent works that explore slippages in language, cross-cultural experiences and gender stereotyping through appropriation of iconic 20th Century cinema such as the Malay film maker P Ramlee and Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

Re-enacting key scenes within these films, Wong plays multiple roles using the films' original languages. Wong's performances in his remake of Fassbinder's *Angst essen Seele auf* draw emphasis to the film's themes of racial prejudice and economic inequality, reflecting the state of contemporary cross-cultural experiences. Wong's work has both local and international relevance making sharp commentary on cross-cultural dialogues often located within local vernaculars.

Wong will also be exhibiting *Filem-Filem-Filem*, a major work commissioned by the Singapore Fringe Festival developed from the artist's research into old cinemas built during the sixties in Malaysia and Singapore. The work features Polaroid shots of 'grand' and 'modernist' buildings which were at the heart of a growing film industry in the two countries. The images also present an unusual insight into experiences of cultural pluralism in the days pre- and post-independence in the 1950s and 1960s.

Born in 1971 in Singapore, Ming Wong trained in Chinese Art at the Nanyang Academy from 1992 to 1995. He obtained a Masters of Fine Arts at the Slade School of Art at the University College London in 1999. Wong currently lives and works between Singapore and Berlin, having featured in numerous group exhibitions in both countries as well as in the United Kingdom. In 2008 alone, he was featured in solo exhibitions at Mkgalerie in Berlin, the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin and the Singapore Fringe Festival, Singapore. Ming Wong is an exhibitor at the 2009 Jakarta Biennale in Indonesia.

Cinema Alley is a free event - limited seating is available please arrive early to avoid disappointment

Please check www.4a.com.au for more details and wet weather plans

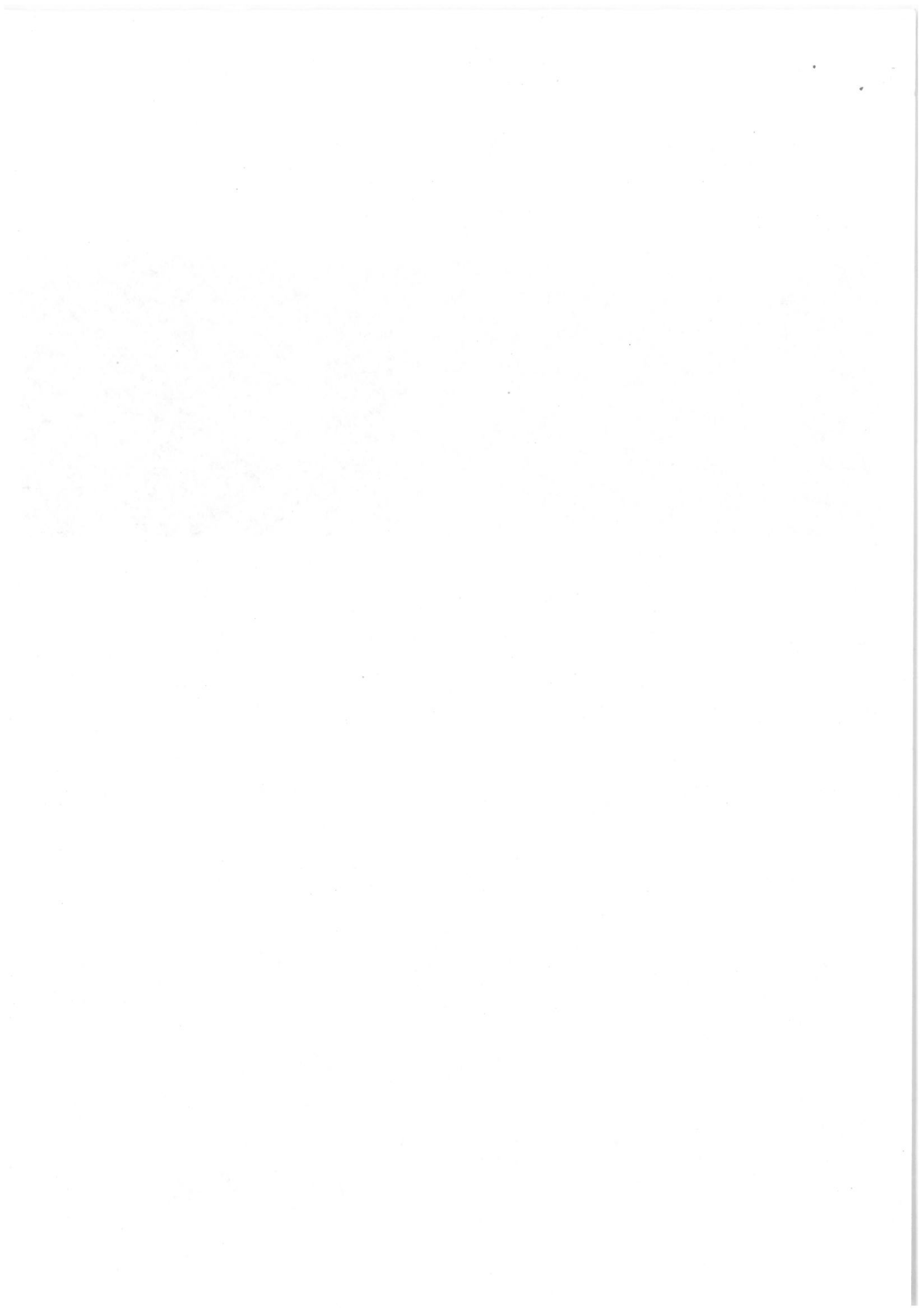
Cinema Alley is an initiative of Gallery 4A. It has been supported by the City of Sydney and through the generous support of Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth and ARTCELL.

Contact Yeehwan Yeoh 9212 0380 or 0415297359 or email media@4a.com.au for a Chinese Language media release, more program information, hi-res images or media interviews.

Image: Ming Wong, *Angst/Essen (Eat/Fear)* (2008), video still from digital video installation

CITY OF SYDNEY

SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN
MARDI GRAS
2009



MING WONG'S CURRICULUM VITAE

born Singapore 1971, lives & works in Berlin & Singapore

EXHIBITIONS 2001 -

Jakarta Biennale, Jakarta, Indonesia 6 - 27 Nov 09
Queerelanti, Galleria neon, campobase, Bologna, Italy 1-20 Nov 08
ART FORUM BERLIN, Berlin Exhibition Grounds 31 Oct - 3 Nov 08
PREVIEW BERLIN, Tempelhof Airport Berlin 30 Oct - 2 Nov 08
VideoVortex3, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey 10-11 Oct 08
mononoaware, MK Galerie Berlin 5 Sept - 18 Oct 08*
Das Piraterieproblem, Brandenburgischer Kunstverein Potsdam Aug-Sept 08
(curated by Gerrit Gohlke & Astrid Mania)
Everybody Knows This is Nowhere, Galerie Wendt + Friedman, Berlin July-Aug 08
(curated by Marc Wellmann & David Keating)
Vertraut oder Verdaut, ZKM Center for Art & Media, Karlsruhe June-Oct 08
(curated by Ludwig Seyfarth with Chantal Blatzheim)
Angst Essen - Eat Fear, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin 5-22 June 08*
Kunst Invasion, Blumengroßmarkt, 31 May - 1 June 08
(curated by Initiative Berliner Kunsthalle)
Projecto MONOLOGS, Galatina, Italy 29-30 May 08
Film Programme, Kunstverein Dusseldorf, May-July 08
Damn! I Wish I'd Done That!! Project Space 176, London Feb 08
Chapter, Wales, Apr-May 08 (curated by Harold Offeh)
Filem-Filem-Filem, Singapore Fringe Festival, the Arts House, S'pore Jan 08*
100 Tage=100 Videoer, GL Strand, Copenhagen Sept 07-Jan 08
S.T.O.R.A.G.E.: Ming Wong, The Agency Gallery, London Sept-Oct 2007
Word of Mouth, Curating Lab, Singapore Art Show Aug-Oct 2007
WE, National University of Singapore Museum, July-Nov 2007
Futura and Re-inventing Tradition, Collegium Hungaricum Berlin, March-May 2007
100 Tage=100 Videos, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Sept-Dec 2006
The Mothership Collective South London Gallery, Aug 2006
A Complete Guide to Rewriting Your History 2, Sparwasser HQ, Berlin, March-Apr 2006
Peninsula, Singapore History Museum, Feb/Mar 2006
Lassie Come Home, Camden Arts Centre, Feb 2006
LabiLabu, The Esplanade, Singapore Oct 05 - Jan 06
Whodunnit? Toynbee Studios, London June 2005*
Homofonia, The British Library, London Feb 2005*
Whodunnit? Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester 2004*
Re:Thinking:Time, Peterborough City Art Museum, Peterborough 2004
Tape291, 291 Gallery, London 2004
Glamour, Windows Gallery, British Council Prague 2003
Michael Marriott & Ming Wong, Windows Gallery, British Council Prague 2003
ASSEMBLY, Sackler Centre of Arts Education, Serpentine Gallery 2002
The Acton Art Crawl, Acton Town, London 2002
Camden Remix, Camden Town, 2001
Waterwall, Regents Canal, Kings Cross, London 2001
Dia E Vento, Teatro do Campo Alegre, Porto, Portugal 2001
swipe2001, PVA MediaLab, Bridport, Dorset 2001
No Sleep till Hammersmith, The Central Space, London 2001
Cultural Advancement, Century Gallery, London 2001

AWARDS/COMMISSIONS/RESIDENCIES 2001 -

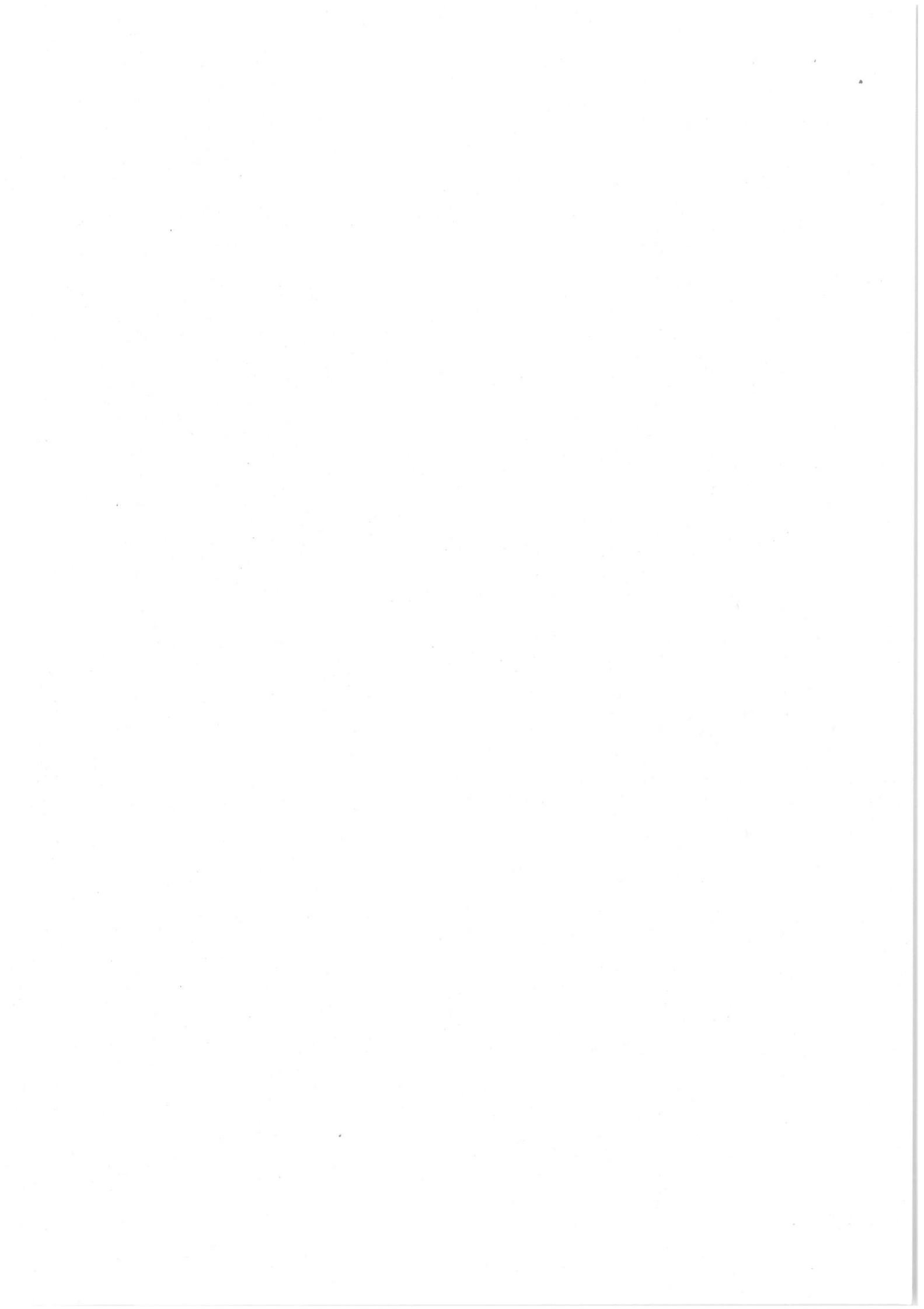
Awarded the Wollita Kulturpreis 2008 by Wolfgang Müller & Françoise Cactus
One year residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin (fr Aug 2007)
Nominated for Jerwood Artists Platform 2006
The Fire Station Residency and Bursary, awarded by ACME Studios. (Apr 2005)
Pearson Creative Research Fellowship, at the British Library. (Nov 2003 - Feb 2005)
'Silent Films' commission from Statement Media Arts, Bath. (Oct 2003)
London Artists Film & Video Award from Film London. (2002/2003)
Combined Arts Award from London Arts for The Acton Art Crawl. (2002)
PVA MediaLab commission & residency for new media festival swipe2001. (2001).
Big Screens Year of the Artist Residency, Arts Council England/ACAVA (2001)
Nominated for Beck's Futures ICA Art Award 2001

About Gallery 4A

Gallery 4A was founded in 1997 as an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc. (4A, a non-profit organization established to present and promote the work of Asian-Australian artists and a greater understanding of diverse cultures through the arts.

Our exhibition program focuses on contemporary art practice. Our exhibition program is culturally diverse, and many of the projects and artists who exhibit here reflect this diversity. The exhibition program has played a significant role in the cultural development of this region. We also run regular public programs including video art screenings and artist talks.

GALLERY 4A provides a vital cross-cultural dialogue through an innovative and comprehensive program of exhibitions, conferences, seminars and workshops. Over the past 10 years we have exhibited over 300 artists from around Australia as well as from India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, China, the USA, the UK and New Zealand.



AVAILABLE IMAGES

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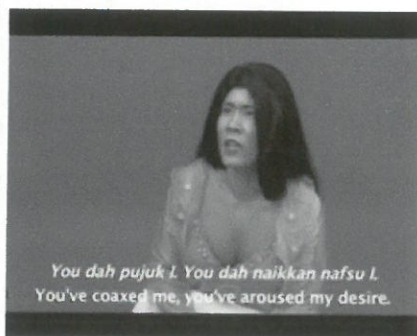
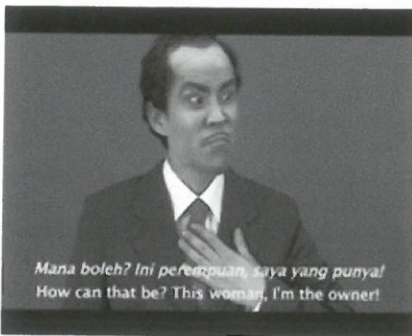
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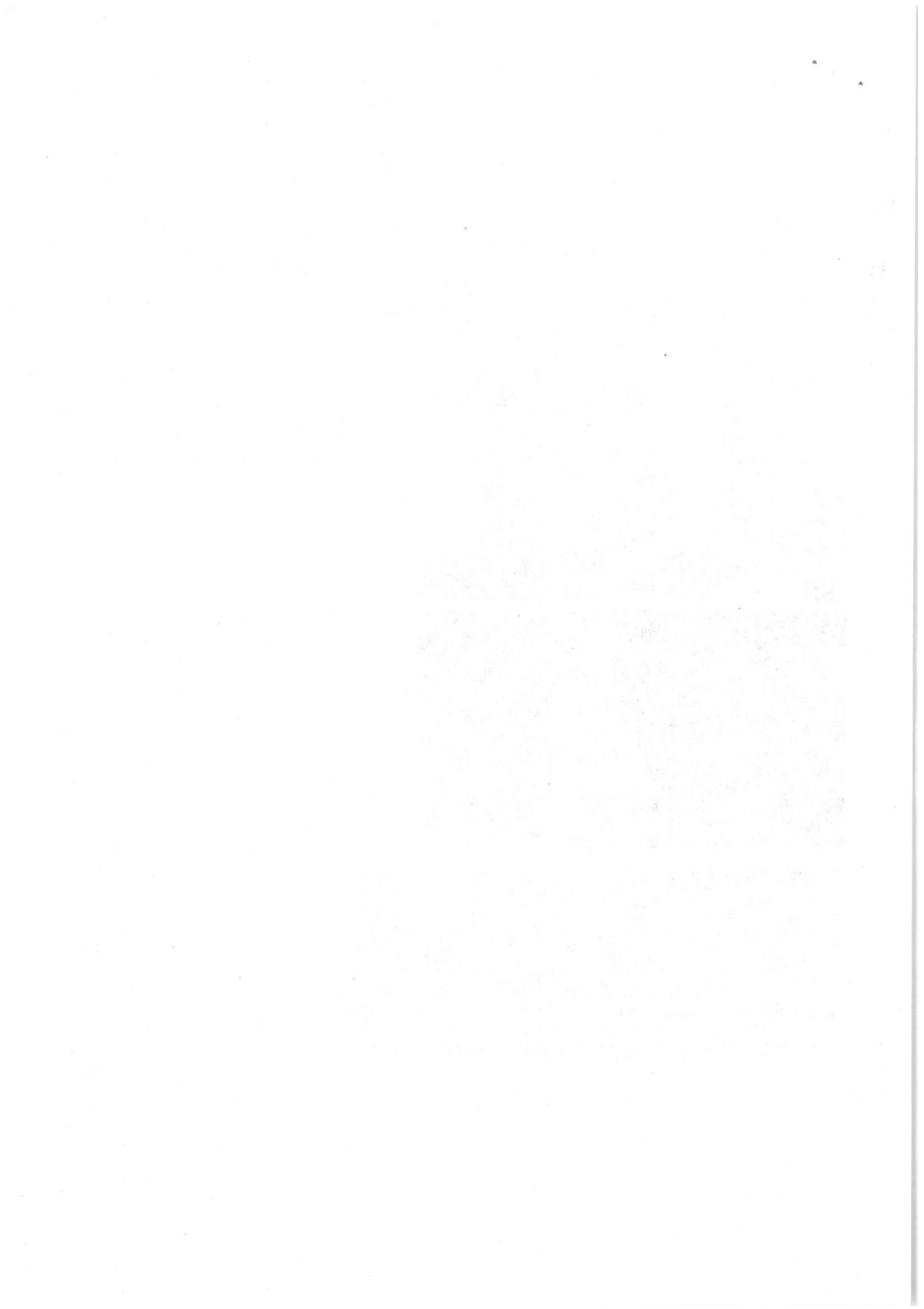
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Images:
TOP/MIDDLE
BOTTOM

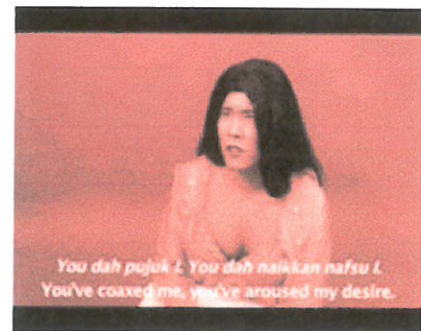
Ming Wong, *Angst/EsSEN (Eat/Fear)* (2008), video still from digital video installation
Ming Wong, *Four Malay Stories* (2005), video still from 4 channel digital video installation



MING WONG

Solo exhibition
Cinema Alley

born Singapore 1971, lives & works
in Berlin & Singapore



Gallery 4A presents a solo exhibition by Berlin-based Singaporean artist Ming Wong.

Ming Wong works in video, creating irreverent and equally serious works which explore slippages in language, cross-cultural experiences and gender stereotyping. Wong uses existing films and recreates key scenes, where he acts out multiple parts in the original languages of each film. Wong works with the films of some of the most iconic 20th century film makers such as Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *Angst essen Seele auf* (*Fear eats the Soul*), reworking stories of racial prejudice and economic inequality to reflect on the state of contemporary cross-cultural experiences in heterogeneous societies.

Currently based in Berlin the irony of Wong, a Singaporean working in Germany with key German texts, is a reflection on cross cultural dialogues which are often located within local vernaculars, but having both regional and international relevance.

This will be Ming Wong's first solo exhibition in Australia.

