

MING WONG

VAIN EFFORTS

Exhibition dates: 6 March – 18 April 2009

and the one night only 'Cinema Alley' Screening of Ming Wong's video art works. Friday 27 February, 730PM Parker Street Haymarket

EXHIBITION LIST OF WORKS

GROUND FLOOR

Four Malay Stories (2005)

4 channel digital video installation
black/white, looped DVD, 25 mins

Filem-Filem-Filem (2008)

Instant colour photographs

LEVEL ONE

Lerne Deutsch mit Petra Von Kant

(Learn German with Petra Von Kant) (2007)

digital video installation
10 mins

Angst Essen/Eat Fear (2008)

digital video installation
22 minutes

Credits: Camera / SFX editing assistant - Carlos Vasquez; Production Assistants - Sonja Schmidt and Jungju An; Music: Julia Kny (www.myspace.com/juliakny); Technical Consultant - Toni Lebkücher; Make-up - Julia Lohmüller, Katrin Wespel and Lyn Kato; Supporting Actors - Kate Fulton and Hermann Heisig; Stills Photography - Anja Teske, Job Janssen and Anouk Kruithof; Locations - Kegel Ecke, Daniel Barocca & Lara Torres, Claire Healy & Sean Cordeiro and Sophia Tabatadze

KING (2009)

acrylic on found objects

ALCOVE

Whodunnit? (2003/2004)

digital video installation
32 mins loop

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SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN
MARDI GRAS
2009

CINEMA ALLEY - MING WONG VAIN EFFORTS - has been sponsored by the City of Sydney and supported by the NSW Government through ARTS NSW. The project has been made possible by the support of the National Arts Council Singapore, ARTCELL and is an event of the 2009 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

The Australian Government is committed to



Gallery 4A gratefully acknowledges its Principal Patrons Geoff and Vicki Ainsworth, Daniel and Lyndell Droga and Dr Dick Quan; Patrons Johnson Pilton Walker, Richard Funston, John Lam-Po-Tang, Kerr and Judith Neilson; Benefactors Peter Talbot, Steensen Varming and Dr Gene and Brian Sherman AM and Friends Ari and Lisa Droga, Phillip Haw, David Droga, Richard and Margie Holden, VisAsia, Annika Droga-Susskind, Isabella and Sam Droga, Ann Lewis and Peter Fay. The assistance of the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its funding and advisory body, the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the City of Sydney.

MING WONG

VAIN EFFORTS

Ming 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 work of Malay film maker P Ramlee and German director Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

Re-enacting key scenes within these films, Wong plays multiple roles using the films' original languages. In his remake of Fassbinder's *Angst essen Seele auf* (*Fear Eats the Soul*, 1973), Wong plays both leading characters, a sixty year old German woman and a Moroccan immigrant who are involved in an ill-fated romance whilst recontextualising the narrative within the contemporary experiences of people living in ethnically diverse societies. Wong draws 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.

Four Malay Stories (2005), a four channel video installation appropriates the work of Malay film maker P Ramlee. P Ramlee is an icon of the Malaya film industry that was based in Singapore during the late 1950s and early 1960s. It was a multicultural industry - Chinese producers, Indian directors and Malay performers. By the mid-1960s the industry ground to a halt. Wong became interested in this period of cinema history, as much of it has been forgotten by the general populace. In *Four Malay Stories* he reflects on this film period - its ground breaking social, cultural and political advances - by taking on the different identities of the multicultural community during this time in Malaya.

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 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 and the Singaporean representative for the 53rd Venice Biennale to be held this year.

GALLERY4A

181-187 Hay Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone: 9212 0380
info@4a.com.au
WWW.4A.COM.AU

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm
Closed public holidays