

pompom

Thomas C. Chung

"...It Was Like Seeing A Fallen Rainbow"

17 October - 11 November 2018

In a world that is in search of Utopia – reaching for such great heights – there is an uncertainty to this pursuit. In being vulnerable we become susceptible, a process which reveals its own limits.

"...It Was Like Seeing A Fallen Rainbow", is an exhibition connecting the loss of innocence with our reflected self. Continuing my earliest years of research into exploring the childlike psyche, this lifelong narrative is a conceptual fusion mediating my interests in psychology, philosophy and contemporary aesthetics.

Utilising aerial photography, *"From Up Above...So It Is"* is a vast series of cloudscapes printed upon mirrors. The compositions are in a state of free fall, drifting in the sky, passing through a prism of colour and peering into the sea. Occupying a space between disturbance and the aftermath, a rainbow is a temporary rift formed by the dispersion of light. A moment between moments.

Sitting on a bed of chiselled stone is a text-based installation created in neon. The twisted sentence spelling out the title of the show. Contrasting elements of dense, dark stone the fluorescence of electrified glass is a play on weight and tone, content and tension.

Displayed upon a shelf is a batch of fairy bread – a favoured treat from childhood – in two different forms; a whole slice and a half slice. *"You Said It Wasn't Possible"*, are metallurgical sculptures made from a base of melted plastic toy aeroplanes, plated in electromagnetic chrome and covered in resin-preserved sprinkles. It is layered as if to safeguard its future.

Thomas C. Chung is a Chinese-Australian artist, based in Sydney. In 2004, Chung completed his BFA at the College of Fine Arts at the University of New South Wales. He is currently studying his MFA at the National Art School.

In the last several years he has represented Australia at the 2nd Land Art Biennial in Mongolia, 4th Ghetto Biennale in Haiti, 9th Shiryaevo Biennale in Russia, 1st Karachi Biennale in Pakistan and The APS Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale in Malta. His recent exhibitions have included The 40th Alice Prize, Araluen Arts Centre, Australia; The 65th Blake Prize, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Australia; Korea Through The Lens, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, South Korea; Central Russian Zen, National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Russia; YIA Art Fair #10, Basel Art Center, Switzerland.

Chung's past decade has seen him awarded selected residencies to Kemijärvi (Finland), Gothenburg (Sweden), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Shanghai (China), Zürich (Switzerland), Hohenstein (Germany) and Sapporo (Japan). His work is included in public collections of The Swatch Group (Biel, Switzerland); Swatch Art Peace Hotel (Shanghai, China), National Centre for Contemporary Arts (Moscow, Russia); Sofia Arsenal Museum for Contemporary Art (Sofia, Bulgaria); Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia); and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul, South Korea), as well as various private collections in Australia and internationally.

"I am satisfied with the course my life has taken . . . I am astonished, disappointed, pleased with myself. I am distressed, depressed, rapturous. I am all these things at once, and cannot add up the sum . . . Yet in spite of all uncertainties, I feel a solidity underlying all existence and a continuity in my mode of being . . . Life is – or has – meaning and meaninglessness. I cherish the anxious hope that meaning will preponderate and win the battle."

Carl Gustav Jung (Swiss psychoanalyst, 1875 - 1961)