

FLOWERS GALLERY AT ART BASEL HONG KONG 2021

21 - 23 May 2021

press@flowersgallery.com
www.flowersgallery.com

Flowers Gallery is delighted to participate in Art Basel Hong Kong 2021 with a solo presentation in the Insights sector of works by Hong Kong-based artist Movana Chen.

Chen's multidisciplinary practice is rooted in the exploration of communication across cultures. This presentation encompasses sculptures knitted from maps and dictionaries, drawings, and a participatory performance, creating an environment in which to connect and tell stories.

Works on display include an example of Chen's *Body Containers*, the wearable sculptures in which she often performs. The distinctive tubular shape of the sculpture is described by Chen as reflecting a manifestation of information in contemporary society. Created by the process of knitting fragmented maps from different countries acquired during her travels, they form a new communication code connecting people from around the world.

Alongside the sculpture will be *Words of Heartbeats #6*, a large hanging tapestry knitted from shredded dictionaries and maps using materials collected while travelling at the beginning of 2020. This work has been completed over the course of the year, and is assembled as a patchwork, where the seams and boundaries reflect divisions in today's society.

Chen's fascination with language can be seen in a series of new ink drawings on glass panels of her own *Dongba* symbols, a lexicon devised by the artist to communicate across borders. Chen also creates new systems of reading and communicating in her participatory work *Travelling into Your Bookshelf*, in which friends and acquaintances work together through the process of knitting, using shredded books given to the artist from new friends on her global journey. *Travelling into your Bookshelf* will be an ongoing participatory performance throughout the duration of the fair, inviting visitors to engage in creating part of the work.



Movana Chen, *Body Container - Travel Maps (Kid)*, 2019 - 2021
knitted shredded maps

ABOUT MOVANA CHEN

Movana Chen (b. 1974) lives and works in Hong Kong. Chen studied fashion design at London College of Fashion, UK; Fine Art at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Hong Kong, and Exhibition Studies and Art Curatorship at Hong Kong Art School. Chen's work is in the collections of the Hong Kong Heritage Museum and CHAT (Centre for Heritage, Arts and Textile, Hong Kong.) Her work has been shown in numerous group and solo exhibitions across the world. In 2019, Chen was nominated for the ARTSPACE residency in Sydney, Australia. In Spring 2020, she had a solo exhibition titled KNITerature - Silent conversation at Andong Culture and Art Centre in Korea, and in the Autumn of 2020 was exhibited as part of Sight Unseen - Forking Paths in the CHAT collection at CHAT, Hong Kong.



For more information and images please contact Hannah Hughes:
hannah@flowersgallery.com
T: +44 (0)20 7439 7766

NOTES TO EDITORS

Image credits: All images (c) Movana Chen, courtesy of Flowers Gallery.

Twitter @FlowersGallery Facebook @FlowersGalleries Instagram @FlowersGallery