

\*\*\*For immediate release

**Exhibition “FRANK TANG KAI-YIU: *I was away for a while*”**  
**17.7 – 13.8.2015**  
**@ Connecting Space Hong Kong**



*I was away for a while* – an exhibition by Hong Kong artist Frank Tang Kai-yiu, presents the artist's reflections and responses to his artistic residency in Zurich.

During the 6 months in Zurich, Tang lived as an urban observer, engaging in understanding, interacting with, and portraying the city. *I was away for a while* is a summary of the artist's active participation in and fascination with city life. The exhibition at the same time displays a critical attitude towards the uniformity and speed of life in a modern city, calling into question the individual's relationship with nature.

Before Tang managed to look at Zurich in person, he learned about the city by reading its map. Deeply impressed, he realized that reading such a map could quickly influence a visitor's impression of a place. For his piece *impression mapping*, Tang recorded small details of things such as trees, lakes, and old buildings he encountered. To the artist, these tiny little things witnessed the history and the development of the city, and they together formed the artist's experience in a city completely new to him.

In his paintings depicting the landscapes and trees, Tang tends to give prominence to the main subject, leaving the backgrounds entirely blank. The structural composition, method of expression, as well as the very absence of content, however, create rhythm and variety. This technique can be seen in the *Clouds* and *Trees* series, in which the variety and balance created is further enriched through the use of video projection, light tube and by the imagination of the viewers.

Apart from this, Tang has also employed an abstract style to describe his visual experience in the city. In his video work *X:Y*, Tang filmed the plain blue sky over Zurich, where planes leave their white lines in the air. The sky seems to lose its colour gradation and dimensions in the video. Viewers' perceptions are also distorted by the juxtaposition of the video screens: one plane disappears on this screen, seems to appear on another screen.

Through the various traces of the cityscape shown in this exhibition, the artist wishes to reflect the relationship between humans and nature, a relationship that is no longer so present in our daily lives.

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## **Curator**

Alice Wong

## **Opening**

17.7.2015 (五 Fri) | 18:00 – 20:00

19:00 | Artists talk

“4 Solos @ Connecting Space”

Frank Tang Kai-yiu, Lukka Gao Shiyu, Sandra Bühle, Marc Latzel in Dialogue

## **Exhibition**

18.7 – 13.8.2015 | open daily 11:00 – 18:00

## **Venue**

Connecting Space, Hong Kong

Fort Street 18-20, Wah Kin Mansion, North Point, Hong Kong

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### ***About the Artist***

**Frank Tang Kai-yiu** is a Hong Kong-based artist whose artworks look into the performative elements of Chinese painting. Tang received his Bachelor of Visual Arts (Hons) from Hong Kong Baptist University in 2010. In 2014, he was invited to a 5-month residency in Zurich by The Zurich University of the Arts. During his studies his works were well-recognized, winning the Yau Sang Cheong Chinese painting Award of AVA in 2009, and an AVA Award in SOLOS Graduation Show 2010. He also won the Louis Mak Chinese Painting Award, as well as the Grant Award from Muses Foundation for Culture and Education Limited in 2012. His artworks have been exhibited in museums, art organizations and galleries in Germany, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Taiwan.

Tang's works are provocative to human thoughts, senses and behaviour. As a process-oriented artist he is confident that the actual experience weighs more than the result itself. Through the medium of video, Tang captures the process of art-making, which he believes to be an experience including senses, thinking process, action and reaction, and unexpected happenings. His works invoke viewers' reflection into their daily life experience from a fresh perspective. <http://www.tangkaiyu.com/>

### ***About the Curator***

**Alice Wong** has been working as an art administrator since graduated from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, majored in Language and Communication. Wong has worked for such art organizations and companies as PIP Theatre (former Theatre Ensemble), ABA Productions and City Contemporary Dance Company. She worked as a Gallery Executive at Osage Gallery where she managed a number of visual arts exhibitions and performing arts projects. Alice is also the Assistant Producer of HK Arts Festival's programmes: *June Lovers* and *Hong Kong Jockey Club Contemporary Dance Series 2012*; and Producer of LCSD Cultural Presentations: *Brian Eno's Music For Airports – New Audio-visual Counterpoint*, *Silent Film New Music: Chaplin & Philip Glass*, *Electric Company: An Orchestra of Laptops* and Wind Mill Grass Theatre's *Super Mama Market* for International Arts Carnival 2015. She joined soundpocket as Manager (Curatorial Affairs) in 2011 and is also a co-curator of Around sound art festival and retreat 2013 and Around sound art festival and retreat 2014 (artist residency and retreat camp in Amino, Kyoto). She is currently a Master's student at The Chinese University of Hong Kong majoring in Values Education.

### ***Media Enquiry***

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\*\*\* Press images available upon request.

~end of English press release~

## **Press Images**



*Exhibition View*

Taken at "Frank Tang: The Painter of Modern Life" held at the Museum Bärengasse, Zurich



*Exhibition View*

Taken at "Frank Tang: The Painter of Modern Life" held at the Museum Bärengasse, Zurich

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