

STPI *PRINT SCREEN:* CHARLES LIM YI YONG



Charles Lim Yi Yong at *Staggered Observations of a Coast* (2021), STPI Gallery, Singapore.
Photo by Toni Cuhadi.

Open to Public

ArtSpace @ HeluTrans
39 Keppel Road, #01-05
Tanjong Pagar Distripark
Singapore 089065

Dates & Time

15 October to 20 November 2022
Mondays – Saturdays: 10am – 7pm
Sundays: 11am – 5pm
Free entry

Press Kit and images:
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For the third edition of its **PRINT SCREEN** programme, STPI Gallery presents a line-up of works by Charles Lim Yi Yong (Singapore) at its pop-up space, ArtSpace @ HeluTrans. Launched in August 2022, *PRINT SCREEN* is a brand new initiative dedicated to rediscovering works from STPI's past collaborations with international artists. In tandem with the featured works, it also showcases films by the artists, and films related to their works in the pop-up space. Lim's showcase at *PRINT SCREEN* follows the artistic presentations of Isabel & Alfredo Aquilizan (b. Philippines, based in Australia) and Melati Suryodarmo (Indonesia).

Rita Targui, Gallery Director, says, "Rigorous in his research and ambitious in the breadth of the works developed over the years, Charles Lim has fleshed out new dimensions in the conversation on our engagement with the natural world by methodically exploring the interplay between the physical and intangible attributes of Singapore's surrounding ecology. Although strongly rooted in our nation's geo-political intricacies, Lim's narratives are forward-looking and go beyond borders, providing a pertinent opportunity to grapple with global issues on capitalist expansion, environmentalism and national identity."

Lim has earned critical distinction through his unique approach to exploring the relationship between the manufactured and the natural worlds. His presentation at *PRINT SCREEN* comes at a time when the artist is taking part in major institutional showcases worldwide. A selection of video, print and paper-based works are part of the curation for *Collection Exhibition 2 Sea Lane - Connecting to the Islands* in the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan (3 Nov 2022 - 19 Mar 2023). Aligned with the exhibition's overarching theme, *Islands Connecting Okinawa and the Sea*, Lim's inclusion will touch on the political and cultural aspects of land expansion by referencing Singapore's land reclamation history. In collaboration with Simryn Gill, Lim is also participating in the 17th Istanbul Biennial—curated by Ute Meta Bauer, Amar Kanwar and David Teh—with a five minute-long video work that traces the instinctual yet shared anticipation of climatic events, inspired by a voyage the pair embarked upon years prior (17 Sep to 20 Nov 2022).

PRINT SCREEN's third edition will feature Lim's STPI print and paper artworks as well as a selection of his video works. His residency at STPI draws strongly from his enduring fascination with the visible and invisible lenses of the sea. As a former Olympic sailor, they are further inspired from his regular sailing trips along the East Coast anchorage of Singapore. In order to manoeuvre with the wind effectively, one has to apply their sense of 'staggered observations' – noting the sea and cloud patterns over an extended period of time so as to "see" the wind, an invisible space. This is the starting point for viewing Lim's body of work.



Staggered Observations of a Coast (2021) exhibition installation shot, STPI Gallery, Singapore.

The cloud motifs in works such as *HLL*, and the *Staggered Observations* and *Zone of Convergence* series speak to the phenomena known as wind doldrums, where the winds from the Northern and Southern hemispheres collide and cancel each other out. The resulting state of stillness suggests that nothing is taking place, paralleling the creation of a historical void when forming the "nation-state". The audience is thus invited apply our own sense of "staggered observations" to see the unseen.

For *SEASTATES Study* and *SEASTATE 029*, Lim's pursuit of manifesting the invisible is further applied through re-examining familiar imageries from his long-term project that started in 2005,

SEA STATE (presented in the Singapore Pavilion at the 56th Venice Biennale). The project investigates Singapore's unique maritime attributes and how it acts as a counterpoint to what takes place on the land politically, socially and culturally. Further correlations with his *SEA STATE* project are *SEASTATE 7 : sand print 2 (400,000 sqm, 2015, Tuas)* and *SEASTATE 7 : 3 (400,000 sqm, 2015, Tuas)* which aptly reflect on Singapore's relentless land reclamation project.



Charles Lim Yi Yong, *SEASTATE 5 : drift (rope sketch)* (still), 2012, Single-channel HD digital video, 5 minutes.
© Charles Lim Yi Yong.

PRINT SCREEN will also highlight two video works by Lim: *SEASTATE 5 : drift (rope sketch)* and *SEASTATE 9 : a lonely concert for what was there*. *drift* expresses the arbitrary nature of borders at sea, whereas *a lonely concert for what was there* pays tribute to mataikan, the coastal village that Lim grew up in and was subsequently demolished.

An established artist constantly seeking to push the boundaries of his oeuvre through an exploration of the natural world with manmade environments, Charles Lim Yi Yong's apt and dedicated study of Singapore's maritime context as a swirl of nature and human activities cements his place as an exciting contemporary voice in the international art world.

About the Artist

Charles Lim Yi Yong (b. 1973, Singapore) studied Fine Art at Central Saint Martins School of Art and Design, London, graduating in 2001. Lim's artistic practice stems from an intimate engagement with both man-made systems and the natural world, mediated and informed by field research and experimentation, drawing, photography and digital video. His epic SEA STATE project, begun in 2005, examines the political and biophysical contours of the nation state through the visible and invisible lenses of the sea.

Lim's work has been exhibited widely across Europe and the Asia-Pacific, at documenta 11 (with the collective tsunamii.net) and Manifesta 7, at biennales in Shanghai, Singapore and Osaka, and more recently in the Biennale of Sydney, Australia, the EVA International in Ireland, the Aichi Triennale in Japan and 2020's Busan Biennale. In 2015 he represented Singapore at the 56th Venice Biennale. Charles's short films have also travelled extensively in the film festival circuit, notably his short film 'All Lines Flow Out' won a Special Mention at the Venice Film Festival in 2011, making it the first Singapore film to win an award at the prestigious festival.

About PRINT SCREEN

STPI presents three consecutive solo artistic presentations at our pop-up space, ArtSpace @ HeluTrans, under the umbrella of *PRINT SCREEN*. The first component of this pop-up features the print and paper works created through the artists' residency with STPI. The second component is a screening room which will feature the artists' films, or films that are related to their works. By viewing the artworks in conjunction with the films for *PRINT SCREEN*, the audience can gather insights on how the artists' practices at large informed their STPI residencies, as well as understand the key role of these works in furthering their artistic concerns, introducing a new dimension into their ways of artmaking.

About STPI

STPI Gallery fosters the exchange of ideas in contemporary art with its diverse exhibitions and public programme. The gallery hosts specially curated exhibitions of works produced in the STPI Creative Workshop and regularly participates in international art fairs. This enables it to nurture and sustain local and international interest in both its residency artists as well as the mediums of print and paper.

STPI is a creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the mediums of print and paper, making it one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia. STPI sits alongside National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum as part of the national Visual Arts Cluster of leading institutions in the region.