

## ***THOUSAND PAPERS* 千紙**

**ShumGhostJohn**

**Curated by Sandra Lam**

**2 - 7 PM, Wednesday 28 April - Thursday 6 May 2021**

**Making Space, 48 Aberfeldy Street, Poplar, London E14 0NU**

**#ThousandPapers | @shumghostjohn | @lamwanyisandra**

Private View: 6 - 9 PM, 28 April 2021

*Poplarism! Festival*, Poplar Union and Finborough Theatre: 1 - 2 May 2021

*First Thursday*, Whitechapel Gallery: 2 - 9 PM, 6 May 2021



ShumGhostJohn, *Thousand Papers* 千紙, community installation cum durational performance 2021.

**Hidden Keileon is pleased to announce ShumGhostJohn's solo exhibition *Thousand Papers* 千紙 in London. This is the first time the Hong Kong art trio presents a newly created community installation cum durational performance of East Asian folktales and traditions in a gallery space. The work connects the community in Poplar to its history of resistance and expands its legacy to a wider context in history.**

Since 2019, ShumGhostJohn has been at the forefront of the ongoing dialogue surrounding art activism with their performance works. The Poplar Rates Rebellion Mural, which was painted by artists during the revolt, has inspired them to put on a

show in Poplar, London. The mural tells the stories of the revolt, reminding the activists who put up the Lennon Walls in their home Hong Kong. People wrote down words of encouragement and solidarity on colourful post-it notes and stuck them on the walls.

*Thousand Papers* 千紙 started with collecting stories and later became a community installation that holds happiness, sadness, hopes, dreams and memories. The trio leads the activities of folding papers - making origami, a traditional Japanese art form which is popular in Hong Kong. In East Asian culture, traditional funerals often include the burning of folded paper as a ritual to send gifts and companions to the deceased. They invite the spectators to fold paper and create origami - the paper figures and to express their thoughts, stories and memories in the space. Participants write down their hopes and dreams in the origami, expressing their love and care through words.

The work is also a durational performance taking inspiration from physical gestures and energy at social movements with participants and performers collectively contributing to the making of the work. As making origami is easily accessible, it is an activity for everyone, including the grassroots. With repetition in folding, it is a way of social meditation and healing, enhancing the connection of family, friends and the community. These origami will be tied up and hovered in the air, holding memories and hopes of the Poplar community. The hovering of the origami allows us to put our hopes and dreams high. Together, we sing, dance and celebrate.

The work was previously presented by art duo Ghost and John in exhibitions at Bow Arts, Goldsmiths, and Queen Mary University of London in 2019, later with RUMAH in 2020. In Poplar, the art trio is broadening and adapting this piece in a street store and discovering what chemistry it will create with the local community.

**‘也許故事從未結束，暫此封印在千鶴內。Tell us your stories, hopes and dreams. So then we can build the Senbazuru of ours.’**

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

ShumGhostJohn is a collaborative art trio comprised of Hong Kong performance artists Pui-Yung Shum, Ghost Chan and John Chan. They work across various disciplines, ranging from contemporary dance, ballet, computer science, biology and language. Met in 2017, they devise storytelling works that recognise the distinctive Hong Kong identity, the power of being a collective and the nature of interdependence. Their research topics include the use of technology in democratic society, object-oriented ontology as well as the relations between folklore and contemporary art practices. The trio received their MA in Contemporary Dance at the London Contemporary Dance School in 2019. Their works have been presented internationally at renowned venues and festivals, including ImPulsTanz in Vienna, Rambert and The Place in London, Goethe-Institut in Hong

Kong and Genee in Antwerp. Their interactive game performance *Cart Noodle Show* (2021) was presented in DARE Festival with Upstart Theatre and Shoreditch Town Hall. Their performance in the Vault Festival with Papergang Theatre, London was awarded Show of The Week 2020. Their collaborative work *Meniscus* (2019) was presented at The Place and Rambert, London and later developed into an online interactive experience *Meniscus Going Online* (2020).

Instagram/Facebook/Twitter: @shumghostjohn

### **ABOUT THE CURATOR**

Wan Yi Sandra Lam is an independent curator and writer based in London. She holds an MFA in Curating from Goldsmiths, University of London. Her curatorial research examines the politics of aesthetics and investigates how curating can contribute to an understanding of contemporary discourses, focusing on activism, migration and the environment. She works with contemporary artists to develop socially engaged practice that addresses questions of identity and belonging. In London, she has initiated and co-curated a number of independent public events and exhibition programmes that involves local communities in social interaction, including *Home is wherever I'm with you* (2019) at Enclave Lab, *By the time we are gone* (2019) at Safehouse 1, *The Second Umbrella* (2019) and *We are all in the business of fighting for air* (2019) at Chisenhale Studios. She has also organised workshops, performances, talks, film screenings, roundtable discussions, and contributed writings to various publications.

Instagram: @lamwanyisandra

### **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**

Hidden Keileon is a multidisciplinary creative agency that provides a wide-range of artistic services for East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) creatives. We commission live art performances, curate visual exhibitions, present film screenings, produce podcasts and sell merchandise and prints. It provides artistic platforms for ESEA stories to be told, collaborates with British institutions to spotlight ESEA artists and investigate post-colonial impact in contemporary society through the arts.

*For more information about the exhibition and artists, please contact Sandra Lam at [hiddenkeileon@gmail.com](mailto:hiddenkeileon@gmail.com). This exhibition is facilitated by Fitzrovia Noir, and supported by Poplar Union and Finborough Theatre.*

Presenters:



Hidden Keileon



Facilitator:



**FITZROVIA  
NOIR**

Supporters:

**poplar  
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