

San Francisco Cinematheque presents

AFTERSHOCKS

Experimental Films and Animation from Taiwan

Guest Curator Anita Chang In Person
Presented in Association with the Center for Asian American Media, and Sponsored by
the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office of San Francisco

Sunday, May 7, 2006 – Yerba Buena Center for the Arts – 7:30 pm

As part of our Pacific Rim series, Cinematheque presents a rare showcase of recent experimental media from Taiwan brought by Bay Area filmmaker Anita Chang. A well-respected and much loved Bay Area artist and teacher, Anita has been a Fulbright lecturer and artist resident in Taiwan for the past few years. She brings us an evening of works that “reverberate with incisiveness, sensitivity, and introspection as they speak to what remains for a young democratic stateless nation vulnerable to the whims of dominant global economic exploits. Shifting between the lingering and fleeting, reconstructed and abandoned, sentiment and satire, they are soulful reclamations in the midst of precipitous change and loss.”

The Program

Red-Label Rice Wine (2004) by Mia CHEN; 35mm, color, sound, 11 minutes, print from artist
The story of this “animation-documentary” takes place on the last day of 2001 - the night before Taiwan's entry into the World Trade Organization, referred to in this piece as “W-Tee-Onh” (“Tee-Onh” means “dark sky” in Minnan Taiwanese). Through the eyes of a wine bottle, it shows what Globalization and “Free Trade” really mean to ordinary people.

Mia Chen has written and directed video documentaries and experimental theatre plays since 1997. She has curated numerous programs for film festivals, including the Taiwan Int'l Documentary film festival, and was the Festival Director for the 2000 & 2001 Women Make Waves film festival. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Fine Arts Practice at University of Leeds, U.K.

Stardust 15749001 (2003) by HOU Chi-Jan; DVD, color, sound, 12 minutes, disc from artist
“Perhaps a certain spirit accidentally learns the status of a certain stardust in a certain time and galaxy...”

Hou Chi-Jan started making short films in 2002. While in college, he worked on creating the Database of Taiwanese Cinema. His works tend towards the lyrical and experimental, and is characterized by the themes of time and memory. *Stardust 15749001* won the Grand Prix at the Taipei International Film Festival. His latest work, *Taiwan Black Movies*, is a documentary about cult films in the repressive age of 1970's Taiwan, which was screened at the Tokyo International film festival and was nominated for Best Documentary at the Taiwan Golden Horse festival.

ExTAIPEIit (2005) by Tony Chun-Hui WU; DVcam, color, sound, 16 minutes, tape from artist
The forces that push and pull people through, across, and into the metropolis are in full exposure here. 26 individuals from Taipei reflect on their movements, and together “construct a journey of a wandering heart full of contradiction and uncertainty.”

Tony Chun-Hui Wu received his BFA in Filmmaking at San Francisco Art Institute and a MFA in Film/Video at Bard College. He is a member and company manager of Rive-Gauche Theatre Group and a co-founder and curator of Image-Movement Cinematheque. His films have shown at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Centre Pompidou in Paris, San Francisco Cinematheque, and Robert Beck Memorial Cinema in New York. His film *Sentimental Journey* (2003) won Best Experimental Film at 2003 Taipei Film Festival, and “*Noah, Noah*” (2004) won the same award at 2004 Taipei Film Festival, and also the 27th Golden Harvest Award.

Farewell 1999 (2003) by Nana WU; Betacam, color, sound, 26 minutes, tape from artist
“Everything fades, dear persons, familiar things/ Everything distant, person's dearness, things' familiarity/
2003, I was searching for days in 1999 while mom was still alive/ 2003, those traces still lay in my memory/

2003, memory left me as well/ 2003, Mother's image goes on forever in this film along with my sorrow/ 2003, I do acknowledge 1999 has gone, and what about 2003? It's fading."

Nana Wu was born in 1976 in Taoyuan, Taiwan. She graduated from the Documentary Graduate Institute at Tainan National University of Arts. Her first documentary, *Echo*, won Best Documentary at the Taipei Film Festival. *Farewell 1999* is her second documentary, which received awards at the Taipei Film Festival, Taiwan International Documentary Film Festival and the New Visions award at the Nyon Visions du Reel in Switzerland.

She says... (2005) by LIN Chun-Hua; 35mm, color, sound, 6 minutes, print from artist
"Wrinkles become lines that separate red and black. Beware of the claw. The lines are expanding, so does the red..." Delicate, charming, yet deeply melancholic, Lin Chun-Hua's animation probes deeper and deeper into our psyche.

Born in 1976 in Taiwan, Chun-Hua Lin graduated from the Graduate Institute of Animation of Tainan National University of Arts. She also received an MFA in Filmmaking at Taipei National University of the Arts. Her script had once been shot into film. Lin is an independent filmmaker, and continues to write scripts and make animation. *She says...* was recently invited to screen at the Festival International du Film in Aubagne, France.

Factory (2003) by CHEN Chieh-Jen; Digibeta (from S-16mm), color, silent, 30 minutes, tape from artist
Seeking lower labor costs, the 1990's saw the shutdown of numerous manufacturing industries throughout Taiwan and the layoff of large numbers of workers. In 2003, Chen Chieh-Jen invited some women textile workers whom he had met accidentally to return to the Lien Fu garment factory, where they had worked for over two decades and which had been abandoned for seven years. Seven years ago when the company owners closed their doors, the women protested the lack of retirement pensions and severance pay. To this day, the problem remains unresolved, and the factory continues to exist in its abandoned state. (CCJ)

Chen Chieh-Jen was born in Taoyuan, Taiwan in 1960, and is one of Taiwan's leading contemporary artists. From the 80s to the early 90s, before and after the lifting of martial law (1987) in Taiwan, he was active in performance art. Starting in 1996, he created the series *Revolt in the Soul & Body* (1900-1999), using the computer to alter historical photographs of criminal executions. In 2000, he began his straight photography series *The Twelve Karmas Under the City*, exploring the virtual future. His use of intense and frightening images to provoke a reflection on the relationship between image and power soon drew people's attention. His works have been featured in the Biennials of Taipei (2004, 2002, 1998), Sao Paulo (1998), Venezia (1999), Lyon Contemporary Art (2000), Kwangju (2000), PhotoEspana (2004) and Shanghai (2004). Since 2002, he has created video installations such as *Lingchi - Echoes of a Historical Photograph* and *Factory*.

Total Running Time: 101 minutes

Pre-screening Loop:

Chinatown Dizzy (2005) by YAO Jui-Chung; DVD, color, silent, disc from artist
Shot in Yokohama's Chinatown, *Chinatown Dizzy* is one component of Yao's most recent installation series, *World is for All*. In this series of video loops and photography, Yao visited various cities around the world and photographed himself standing under the gates that symbolically mark the entrance to Chinatowns. The title, *World is for All* is adopted from the inscription on these gates and Yao uses it deliberately to examine the patterns of immigration and settlement by Chinese all over the world.

Born in 1969 in Taipei, Taiwan, Yao Jui-Chung is an artist, writer, critic and curator. Published books include [Performance Art in Taiwan](#) (2005), [Roam the Ruins of Taiwan](#) (2004), [Installation Art in Taiwan](#) (2002), and [New Wave of Contemporary Taiwan Photography Since 1999](#) (2003). He was nominated Best Art Director at the 31st Golden Horse Award for the film *A Confucian Confusion* (1994) directed by Edward Yang. His works have exhibited at various international exhibitions. Solo exhibitions include MOMA Art Gallery in Fukuoka, Japan (2000) and Lee Ka-sing Photo Gallery, Toronto, Canada (2002).

**IF YOU ARE NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE SIGN UP TO RECEIVE CALENDARS BY MAIL OR EMAIL & PLEASE PICK UP A FLYER ABOUT OUR PACIFIC RIM SERIES.
THE SERIES CONTINUES ON MAY 21**

www.sfcinematheque.org

