

China Today

Divided Minds

一向以女性自身身分探討為題材的林慧潔，在「左思右想」中把她／我們腦袋的狀態用影像告訴我們。以環境事物與自拍照組合成一幅作品並非是她首次的創作模式，亦非她獨有。可是她告訴了我們，「她」在不同環境包圍下是怎樣的存在，呼應的心理狀態則在相連的景物照中可見。對於觀眾而言，看她的自拍照可以看到「她」在哪裡，同時看到「她」所見到所想到的是什麼。「她」把「她」的思想用影像告訴觀看的「他們」。要把「她」的思想告訴「他們」，若不先「思想」，何來安排影像擺放和展示的方式？那又會是「隨意」的拍攝呢？



Wai Kit Lam's work is primarily concerned with the relationship of individuals to their immediate environment and questions the extent to which we are molded by our surroundings or whether it is, in fact, our surroundings that mold us. She uses large-format photography to present two apparently dissociated images on one sheet of aluminum. One image usually portrays an object—perhaps a lone coffee cup, a detail of a lace curtain, shadows of leaves on pavement or a forgotten corner of a room—while the other image is a self-portrait of the artist reflected in whatever mirror-like object appears within a given scene—a mirror, a shop window and even an elevator

roof. These self-portraits are always taken from a wide-angle so that the viewer can see the artist within the larger environment in which she finds herself: at a carousel ride in Paris, on a train in Italy or perhaps at a hairdresser in Japan.

What makes these works so interesting, though, is the juxtaposition between the two images and the tension that this contrast incites between that which is dynamic and that which is static. The viewer is left to determine whether these are indeed random associations or whether they, conversely, possess hidden meanings, which the viewer is left to uncover. The artist's aim is to reconstruct the images and daily experiences with which we are all familiar, but also to present them from an alternate perspective, and in such a way that one is forced to reexamine and reevaluate them.

Alongside her large photographs, Lam is also debuting two of her recent video and sound installations. Again presented in split-screen format, the videos mix the moving images of two entirely unrelated episodes set to a soundtrack that is similarly irrelevant in terms of the images unfolding. Reminiscent of the works of the seminal artist Bill Viola, the artist's video installations are both haunting and captivatingly poetic.

Born in 1966 in Hong Kong, Lam currently lives and works in Hong Kong, China, and Ferrara, Italy. In 2003, she graduated with an MFA from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her media includes photography, video art, sound and mixed media. Since 1996, she has held several solo and group exhibitions in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Italy and Canada. □



Top to Bottom: **Wai Kit Lam**, *Displacement 3*, 2005. C-type photograph on aluminum, 90 x 120 cms. / **Wai Kit Lam**, *Divided Minds 43*, 2007. C-type photograph on aluminium, 180 x 60 cms.