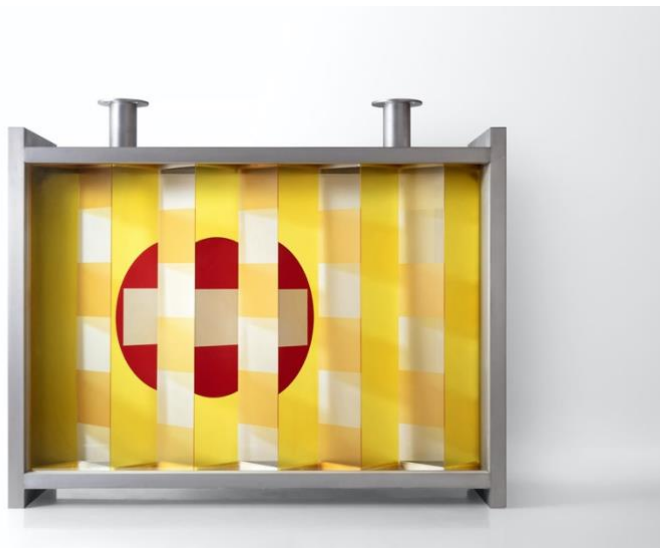


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Vancouver Art Gallery's new public art exhibition
Offsite: Christopher K. Ho evokes nostalgia for
Hong Kong's beloved Kai Tak Airport**

The latest installation from the Hong-Kong based artist Christopher K. Ho is on view for a limited time from June 23, 2022, to October 16, 2022



Christopher K. Ho, CX 889 (detail), 2022, Courtesy of the Artist

June 20, 2022, Vancouver, BC // *Traditional Coast Salish Lands, including the Musqueam (xwməθkwəyəm), Squamish (Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Tsleil-Waututh (səlilwətaʔ) Nations.*

This summer, the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#)'s outdoor public art space Offsite, located at 1100 West Georgia Street, takes us back to midnight Hong Kong Time on July 1, 1997, when Hong Kong's sovereignty passed from the United Kingdom to the People's Republic of China in what is commonly referred to today as the "Handover."

Following the Handover, Hong Kong was designated a Special Administration Region, subject to economic and administrative systems distinct from Mainland China. This arrangement, which was given a fifty-year term, is popularly known as "one country, two systems." Hong Kong-based artist Christopher K. Ho's site-specific installation for Offsite, CX 889, marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of

the Handover and reflects on the halfway point of Hong Kong's full integration into the People's Republic of China.

The exhibition [Offsite: Christopher K. Ho](#), presented by the Vancouver Art Gallery on behalf of the City of Vancouver's Public Art Program, re-stages familiar sights from Hong Kong's beloved Kai Tak Airport, which was dismantled a year after the 1997 handover. The title of the installation—CX 889—refers to Cathay Pacific's recently discontinued flight from New York City to Hong Kong, which included a layover at Vancouver International Airport.

Revisiting these ends of eras, CX 889 asks: what is Hong Kong Time, or, what was Hong Kong Time? The installation also ponders: where is Hong Kong Time now? Ho explores the emotional residue of diaspora, with special attention to the wave of Hong Kong-to-Vancouver immigration between 1989 and 1997.

As we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Hong Kong Handover, the installation evokes the disorienting but warm reactivation of familiar sights, sounds and scents after a trans-Pacific flight. Prefabricated sculptural elements reminiscent of airport architecture signal the installation's central motif: the iconic double ramps at Kai Tak's arrivals hall, where Hong Kong residents once reunited with their loved ones. In present-day Vancouver, "Hong Kong" is a loaded term that ignites strong feelings along cultural, regional and generational lines. As CX 889 transports us back to Kai Tak, it also engages our memories of Vancouver in the 1990s, exploring the wave of immigration from Hong Kong to Vancouver and its imprint on the city.

Offsite: Christopher K. Ho is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery on behalf of the City of Vancouver's Public Art Program and guest curated by Godfre Leung. This exhibition is an initiative of the Vancouver Art Gallery's Institute of Asian Art.

The exhibition opens to the public on June 23, 2022, and runs through to October 16, 2022.

Offsite is located at 1100 West Georgia Street (between Thurlow and Bute), just west of the Shangri-La Hotel.

FEATURED PROGRAMS

Artist Talk | Thursday, June 23, 6-7 PM

In conjunction with the exhibition *Offsite: Christopher K. Ho*, the Vancouver Art Gallery invites you to an artist talk featuring Christopher K. Ho in conversation with guest curator Godfre Leung and local children's book author Holman Wang. The panel will reflect on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Hong Kong Handover and consider issues such as Hong Kong diaspora, transnational citizenship and the imprint of the wave of Hong Kong to Vancouver immigration, between 1989 and 1997, on the city today. This talk will be moderated by Melissa Karmen Lee, Director of Education and Public Programs.

Opening Reception | Thursday, June 23, 7-8 PM

Following the artist talk, join us for the opening reception of *Offsite: Christopher K. Ho*, the 23rd installation in the Gallery's ongoing Offsite series. Free and open to the public. Remarks will begin at 7:15 PM.

Find out more about these programs at www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/events.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Christopher K. Ho is a speculative artist based in Hong Kong and New York. His practice encompasses making, organizing, writing and teaching. He is known for materially exquisite objects that draw from lived encounters with otherness and with privilege. Recent solo shows include *Marvin ♥ Henry* at 56 Henry, *Aloha to the World* at the Don Ho Terrace at the Bronx Museum and *Dear John* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, all in New York City. He has exhibited at Asia Society, Hong Kong; UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; Guangdong Times Museum, Guangzhou; Queens Museum, New York; and Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, NY. *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, *ArtAsiaPacific*, *South China Morning Post*, *ArtReview*, *Art in America*, *Modern Painters*, *Frieze* and *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* have featured his work. He currently serves as Executive Director of Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong.

ABOUT THE GUEST CURATOR

Godfre Leung is a critic and curator. His writing has appeared in *ArtAsiaPacific*, *Art in America*, *C Magazine* and *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*, as well as in publications by institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. His exhibitions include *Pao Houa Her: Emplotment*, Or Gallery, Vancouver, 2020; *Guesthood and Alienhood: Sun Yung Shin, Jinny Yu, Republic of the Other*, Hotam Press Gallery, Vancouver, 2021; and *TJ Shin: The Vegetarian*, The Bows. He is currently Artistic Director at The Bows in Mohkínstsis (Calgary), on Treaty 7 lands.

ABOUT OFFSITE

Offsite is the Vancouver Art Gallery's outdoor public art space located at 1100 West Georgia Street between Thurlow and Bute Streets, west of the Shangri-La Hotel, in downtown Vancouver. Presenting an innovative program of temporary projects, it is a site for local and international contemporary artists to exhibit works related to the surrounding urban context. Featured artists consider the site-specific potential of art within the public realm and respond to the changing social and cultural conditions of our contemporary world. New projects are installed in the spring and fall. *Offsite: Christopher K. Ho* is the 23rd Offsite installation of this series.



Offsite is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery on behalf of the City of Vancouver Public Art Program. The Gallery recognizes Ian Gillespie, President, Westbank; Ben Yeung, President, Peterson Investment Group; and the residents of the Shangri-La for their support of this space

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF ASIAN ART

Responding to the city's geographic location on the eastern edge of the Pacific Rim, the Vancouver Art Gallery has been committed to presenting contemporary art of the Asia Pacific region for more than two decades. Launched in 2014, the Gallery's Institute of Asian Art (IAA) is a comprehensive initiative committed to advancing scholarship and public appreciation of Asian art.

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ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs, and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design, and architecture.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and the work of the Gallery. Learn more at vanartgallery.bc.ca.

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