

I_S_L_A_N_D_S

FOR PERPETUAL RELEASE

Imaginary homeland: kang ouw (—)

Boedi Widjaja

17 January – 21 February 2018

I_S_L_A_N_D_S is pleased to present **Imaginary homeland: kang ouw (—)** by Boedi Widjaja. A transliteration from Hokkien (江湖) into Bahasa Indonesia, *kang ouw* refers to a realm where swordsmen in *wuxia* (武侠) stories roam and fight, in the name of honour. It is a territory that is marked not by geographical lines but within the minds of its actors; a psychological, action-packed space concerning the adventures of itinerant martial arts warriors in Ancient China.

The *Imaginary homeland* series stemmed from Widjaja's experience as a child migrant living out his homeland's history through mass media images and the imaginary. **kang ouw (—)** explores *wuxia* as a genre of fiction that he grew up with in the early 1980s, converging scenes from classic cinema as well as symbols and structures from traditional literature. The artist creates drawings of different characters and scenography, subsequently making abstracted reproductions of these drawings using photocopiers and scanners. Considered in its entirety, the work contemplates the subjectivity of memory and personal narratives.



###

I_S_L_A_N_D_S

Boedi Widjaja (b. 1975, Solo City, Indonesia) lives and works in Singapore. Trained as an architect, he spent his young adulthood in graphic design, and turned to art in his thirties. His works often connect diverse conceptual references through his own lived experience of migration, culture and aesthetics; and investigate into concerns regarding diaspora, hybridity, travel and isolation. The artistic outcomes are processual and conceptually-charged, and embrace multiple mediums ranging from drawings to installations, sound and live art.

He has shown in numerous exhibitions internationally, including: *MAP1: Waterways* (2017), Diaspora Pavilion, 57th Venice Biennale; Jerusalem Biennale (2017); Yinchuan Biennale (2016), China; *From east to the Barbican* (2015), Barbican, London; *Infinity in flux* (2015), ArtJog, Indonesia; and *Bains Numériques #7* (2012), Enghien-les-Bains, France. The artist's solo exhibitions include: *Black—Hut* (2016), Singapore Biennale Affiliate Project, ICA Singapore; *Path. 6, Unpacking my Library*。书城 (2014), Esplanade, Singapore; and *Sungai, Sejarah* 河流, 历史, 源 (2012), YRAC S-Base, Singapore. Recent accolades include: Top 10 Winner, *FID Prize* (2017); Finalist, *Sovereign Asian Art Prize* (2015); *ArtReview Asia FutureGreats* (2014); Grand Prize (Sound Arts; with David Letellier), *Bains Numeriques, France* (2012); and First Prize, *Land Transport Authority Beauty World Station* (2012).

I_S_L_A_N_D_S

I_S_L_A_N_D_S is an experimental platform that encourages artists to reconsider the boundaries of their practice by testing novel concepts and alternative means of exhibition-making. The programme introduces short-term presentations in various formats, each building upon a topic or subject matter proposed by the artists.

[Island ecology ascribes increased speciation and biodiversity to islands, due to their isolation and high concentration of empty niches.]

Eight showcase windows situated in the passage between Peninsula Shopping Centre and Excelsior Shopping Centre are repurposed as a hybrid social network, bulletin, and transitory space for dialogue and exchange. **I_S_L_A_N_D_S** adds and distracts from each individual's practice, much like the ebb and flow of the tides.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

www.islands-peninsula.com



islands.peninsula



islands.peninsula

IN COLLABORATION WITH AND SUPPORTED BY:



SPITFIRE SKATE
PENINSULA SHOPPING CENTRE
3 COLEMAN STREET, #02-23
SINGAPORE 179804