

Amphibia: Indonesian art collective Tromarama playfully considers imaginary futures and the evolutionary impacts of a digital age

VANCOUVER, BC (August 10, 2017) – Centre A is pleased to announce the September 8th opening of *Amphibia*, an exhibition of newly commissioned works by Indonesian collective Tromarama, curated by Ying Tan.

Recent headlines raise daily alarms as they tease with clickbaity tales of thought-controlled prosthetics, sweat-activated radios, and even AI bots inventing their own indecipherable languages. These headlines and details of new technological innovations urge us to contend with as well as confront what seems to be an imminent and potentially threatening future. Much like amphibia, the class of animals that live both in water and on land, today's humans interact daily with technologies that move us between physical and virtual worlds. We almost completely exist in between the two. Are we witnessing the early stages of our own evolutionary transition?

Throughout Tromarama's practice, they have been experimenting with digital imaging technology and exploring how the digital world redefines our existence. Through a careful orchestra of lenticular prints, stop motion animation, and newly commissioned moving image works, the artists weave a narrative thread between real and virtual worlds. Tromarama invites us to consider what it means to exist at a moment when rapidly adapting technologies destabilize the line between human and machine. Audiences will be driven to question how digital experiences remake and recontextualize our understandings of today's dominant narratives.

Amphibia, Tromarama's first solo exhibition in Canada, will transform Centre A into a hybrid physical and digital space using five newly commissioned works, ranging from site-specific pieces to pulse-sensing technologies that interact with our own physical, individual bodies. Meanwhile, a continuous, cumulative, and interactive piece, *24 hours being others*, will be generated throughout the show based on social media algorithmic prompts and audience responses. This exhibition marks the Canadian debut of Ying Tan, curator at the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art in Manchester, UK.

Join us on Friday, September 8th for the opening reception of *Amphibia*. Regular gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 12 pm to 5 pm.

Public Programs

Artist Talk with Tromarama at Centre A
September 8th, 4 pm

Opening Reception at Centre A
September 8th, 7 pm

The opening is taking place in conjunction with SWARM, the Pacific Association of Artist Run Centres' annual festival of artist run culture.

Curator's Talk with Ying Tan at Simon Fraser University
September 9th, 1 pm

For this exhibition and programming, we are indebted to the Edouard Malingue Gallery, the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art, the Simon Fraser University Institute for Humanities, and the David Lam Centre for International Communication.



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TROMARAMA is a collective founded by Febie Babyrose (b. 1985, Jakarta), Ruddy Hatumena (b. 1984, Bahrain), and Herbert Hans (b. 1984, Jakarta) and is widely considered one of Indonesia's most exciting rising talents, exhibited worldwide. They have held solo exhibitions at the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam, 2015), National Gallery of Victoria (Melbourne, 2015), and Mori Art Museum (Japan, 2010), amongst others. Group exhibitions include the 4th Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art (Ekaterinburg and cities of the Ural region, Russia 2017), Gwangju Biennale (Seoul, 2016), Frankfurter Kunstverein (Frankfurt, 2015), Samstag Museum of Art (Adelaide, 2014), APT 7 QAGOMA (Brisbane, 2012), and Singapore Art Museum (Singapore, 2012).

Tromarama website: <http://www.tromarama.com/>

Video profile of Tromarama: <https://indoartnow.com/videos/tromarama>

YING TAN is a UK-based Canadian curator with a concern for negotiating sites of cultural specificity in her practice. She is currently the curator at the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art (CFCCA). She has curated numerous exhibitions at the CFCCA, in addition to many other off-site projects in London and internationally. This includes the co-commission of Haze & Fog with Cao Fei (2013), as well as UK premieres of What Happened in the Year of the Dragon (2014) with Sun Xun and Xu Bing's Book from the Ground (2003-present). She is a visiting lecturer for Christie's Education (UK) and a contributor to KALEIDOSCOPE Asia Magazine. She was also on the curatorial faculty for Liverpool Biennial 2016.

CENTRE FOR CHINESE CONTEMPORARY ART (CFCCA) is leading the UK in exploring Chinese contemporary culture through a diverse range of art and artists. Centrally located in Manchester's creative Northern Quarter, the gallery is open six days a week and free to enter. CFCCA has a proud 30-year history of UK 'first' solo exhibitions, featuring exceptional artists that go on to achieve international acclaim. CFCCA works with a wide array of partners to provide audiences with a lively and innovative programme of exhibitions, residencies, engagement projects, festivals and events. As the only non-profit organisation in Europe to specialise in Chinese contemporary art and visual culture it is uniquely placed to explore a global century where Chinese art is moving firmly centre-stage.

Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art: <http://www.cfcca.org.uk/>

About Centre A

Established in 1999, Centre A is Canada's only public gallery devoted to contemporary art of the Asia-Pacific. Located in Chinatown's East Georgia Gallery Cluster, we have presented the works of over 300 Canadian and international artists and produced over 80 original projects. As a key piece of Vancouver's cultural infrastructure, Centre A works with artists, curators, and other cultural producers from throughout the region to facilitate critical inquiry and provide a platform for conversation and artistic experimentation. Centre A is also home to the Centre A Reading Room including, among a vast collection, the Finlayson Collection of Rare Asian Art Books.

Centre A is a collaborative effort powered by generous support from:



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– 30 –

Available for comment on Amphibia:

Exhibition curator: Ying Tan

Artists: Tromarama

Images and a PDF of the press release are available through our [Google Drive press pack](#).

To arrange an interview with any of the above, or for media requests and further information, please contact:

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