



Press Release
March 2015
Bloomberg SPACE
Gayle Chong Kwan
Anthropo-scene
Opening 9th April, 6-8pm
10th April – 27th June 2015

Gayle Chong Kwan's 'Anthropo-scene' is a multi-layered installation that explores the built environment, strata and waste, in relation to the City of London.

Fantastical large wall-based photographic panoramas are created from London's lost buildings and contemporary waste. Installations in the gallery recall stacks of archaeological drawers. The photographic and sculptural elements range in ratio and scale. Chong Kwan brings together contemporary, historic and archaeological objects and materials, juxtaposing excavation and construction, ruin and renewal, and confounding their chronology in order to question what we leave to posterity.

Chong Kwan explores different landscape 'scenes' in terms of staging the view, as well as the place, where an action or event occurs. In 2002, Paul Crutzen, the Nobel Prize-winning chemist, suggested that due to increased human population and economic activity we have left the Holocene and entered a new geological epoch. In 2008, a proposal was made to the Stratigraphy Commission of the Geological Society of London to make Anthropocene a formal unit of geological epoch division. This shift in the relationship between humanity and nature further complicates distinctions between artificial and natural, and real and imaginary - questions raised by Chong Kwan's installation.

The works in 'Anthropo-scene' assert the importance of waste in giving measure to our lives. Waste is not just 'matter out place', a definition first given by Lord Palmerston in the mid-nineteenth century, it forms a denigrated, subordinate position within a spatial taxonomy dominated by binaries – clean and dirty, wanted and rejected, inside and outside. The early uses of the word reflect its Latinate etymology: 'waste' is derived from vastus, giving waste the same Latin root as the word 'vast' and meaning spaces that are void or immense. The exhibition admits this temporal nature of waste, suggesting places so large, empty or lacking in utility that they bring to bear ideas of space in limbo and out of synch with human activity and proportion.

Chong Kwan's exhibition for Bloomberg SPACE is the second in the 2015 series, 'The Homecoming', a programme of four projects by Adam Dant, Gayle Chong Kwan, David Blandy and Melanie Manchot that explore and respond to the history and architecture of the City of London.

Editor's Notes
10th April – 27th June 2015
Open Mon - Sat, 11am- 6pm

About Gayle Chong Kwan

Chong Kwan is a London-based artist whose large-scale installations, photographs, and public realm projects are exhibited and published internationally. Chong Kwan uses mythological forms, the senses and imagination to create immersive environments, mise-en-scènes and events, through which she explores simulacra and the sublime.

About Bloomberg's commissioning programme

The Bloomberg SPACE programme reflects our philanthropic passion to support exciting talent and to commission new works. Since 2002, Bloomberg SPACE has worked with more than 470 artists and has commissioned over 120 new works.

www.bloombergspace.com

About Bloomberg

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Listings information

Gayle Chong Kwan, Anthro-po-scene, 10th April – 27th June 2015

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