

PRESS RELEASE

Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Evelyn Taocheng Wang, Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi and Andrew Yong Hoon Lee

No other cure none other than words in talking

Group exhibition at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden
08.03.-09.06.2024

Press conference on Friday, 08.03.2024, at 11 a.m. in the presence of Evelyn Taocheng Wang, Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi and Andrew Yong Hoon Lee

With contributions by Franziska Aigner, Audrey Chen, Lotus L. Kang, Hanne Lippard, Tanasgol Sabbagh, Fabian Saul, Hyunhye Seo, Senthuran Varatharajah, Alex Zhang Hungtai and Ketuta Alexi-Meskhishvili

Curated by Christina Lehnert

About the exhibition

The exhibition ***No other cure none other than words in talking*** presents historical and contemporary artists whose works are interlinked by the topics of language, memory, and the experience of being foreign.


The show begins with the work of artist **Theresa Hak Kyung Cha** (1951, Busan, KOR – 1982, New York, USA). Cha is known for her book *Dictée*, which can be read both as a multilingual autobiographical collage about displacement and disparity and a transgenerational story.

During her lifetime she created works in a wide range of media that explore the development of an artistic form of expression, her artistic and personal biography, and especially finding a language beyond one's own native tongue. In addition to language, speaking, and storytelling, Cha's works focus on remaining silent and the inability to speak, and are marked by her experiences as a Korean immigrant in the United States and the experience of foreign culture.

The exhibition's title is taken from Cha's book *Tempo Morts*. The first lines, which read "No cure none other than words in talking" is followed by lists of different forms of speaking and discourse, ranging from various instructions to the decision that ultimately leads to remaining silent.

The films and installations by **Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi** (b. 1988, Reutlingen, GER) investigate migration and its long-term impact over generations, the feeling of being foreign, memory, and the future. Her works, which are narratives from the past with references to science fiction, examine personal stories characterized by political events such as war, migration, and the dangers involved. The loss of one's homeland and the familiar is omnipresent in her works, crossing time in a nonlinear way and mixing historical events and personal reflections.

Evelyn Taocheng Wang (b. 1981, Chengdu, CHN) works in series and episodes. Wang, who studied Chinese painting in China and visual art in Europe, combines her own experience as a non-European artist with literature, fashion, art history, colonial history, and queer and feminist theory.



Her stories are intertwined with her own biography — not only her life as an artist, but as an Asian woman living in Europe — along with the stereotypical expectations of East and Western cultures. Despite this, her pictures are much more than self-referential fiction; they put existing perceptions about gender, nationality, culture, and time up for discussion.

Raising one's voice is a physical act; having the option to raise one's voice or being prohibited from doing so make it into a political act. While the artists in this exhibition have their own way of speaking and telling stories, the sound installation that was staged by **Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi** and composed by **Andrew Yong Hoon Lee** shows that this is not a self-evident process. Inspired by the book *Dictée*, the immersive installation unites nine voices.

The exhibition invites visitors to read, listen, and speak, transforming the institution into a place featuring the multivoiced narratives of these artists. The show opens a critical space that makes connections between artistic practices and experiences, between memories and periods, and between history and the present. Especially in periods in which communication is characterized by new terms that create atmospheres and form opinions but in which collective discussions no longer seem possible, the practices of these artists raise our awareness of the significance and importance of words when speaking with one another.

Biographies of the artists

Theresa Hak Kyung Cha (1951, Busan, KOR – 1982, New York, USA) migrated to the United States, settling in San Francisco with her family in 1964. She attended the Convent of the Sacred Heart, a Catholic high school where she learned and fell in love with the French language. Between 1973 and 1978, Cha earned four degrees (in comparative literature and art) from the University of California, Berkeley. Greatly inspired by her professors Jim Melchert, who introduced her to Conceptual and performance art, and Bertrand Augst, who launched her interest in film theory, Cha made a body of work that explores language, memory, time, history, and the spaces in between.

In 1982, the Theresa Hak Kyung Cha Archive was established at the Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, where her works are exhibited, as well as at Artists Space in New York, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Bronx Museum of Art.

Most recently, Cha's works were exhibited at the Whitney Biennial (USA) in 2022, at Bard College Berlin and at the Korean Cultural Centre of the Korean Embassy (2018).

Evelyn Taocheng Wang (b. 1981, Chengdu, CHN) lives and works in Rotterdam. Wang studied Chinese Art, Chinese Classical Literature and Visual Communication at Nanjing Normal University (CN) and continued her academic career at the Städelschule in Frankfurt/M and De Ateliers in Amsterdam. She was awarded the CoCA Commission Prize, 2015; Dorothea von Stetten Art Prize, 2016; De Volkskrant Beeldende Kunst Prijs, 2016; Dolf Henkes Prize, 2018-2019 and the ABN AMRO Art Award, 2019.

Wang has had numerous solo exhibitions since 2008, including at Kunstverein Göttingen; Vierterstock-Berlin. Berlin; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; Company Gallery, NY; Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach; Rockbund Museum, Shanghai; Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf; Dordrechts Museum, Dordrecht as well as several group exhibitions internationally. Her works can be found in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago; Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht; Centraal Museum,


Utrecht; Centre Pompidou, Paris; FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims; NOG Collection/Stichting Beheer SNS REAAL, among others.

Wang's last publication appeared in 2023: I.M. Personally, published by Dancing Foxes, NY and Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf.

Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi (b. 1988, Reutlingen, GER) is a Milky Way-based artist whose practice mutates in and out of film, sculpture, installation, performance, and interdisciplinary research. In collaboration with cinematic characters in search of consciousness, language, and freedom, her recent body of work explores the epistemological, aesthetic, political possibilities of the moving image at the intersections of art and science, documentary and fiction, personal/prosthetic memory and individual/collective histories. Having studied Fine Arts at the Städelschule in Frankfurt/M and Film at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, she is currently pursuing PhD research in Film at the University of Westminster.

The work of Nguyen-Chi has been presented in both the art and cinema context, including Akademie der Künste, Berlin; Art Collider Lab, Seoul; Atletika, Vilnius; Belvedere 21, Vienna; Centro di Musica Contemporanea di Milano, Milan; De Appel, Amsterdam; Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Kunsthall Trondheim, Trondheim; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt/M; Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila; Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham; Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater, Los Angeles; Sàn Art, Saigon; Villa Medici, Rome; Whitechapel Gallery, London; 12th Berlin Biennale; 12th BlackStar Film Festival; 20th Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival; 42nd Montréal International Festival of Films on Art; 60th New York Film Festival; Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin 2023/24; 20th Reykjavík International Film Festival; 33rd Singapore International Film Festival; 37th Stuttgarter Filmwinter; 42nd Uppsala Short Film Festival, among other spaces.

Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi has participated in performances at Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin; and Portikus, Frankfurt. In 2023, Nguyen-Chi was included among the 20 New Talents in Art in America,



nominated for the New:Vision Award, and awarded the Jury Grand Prix and Golden Lola for *Into The Violet Belly*.

Andrew Yong Hoon Lee is an artist working with performance, music, sound, video, drawing and text, exploring themes of memory, movement and distance. His work often culminates into installations where relationships between media and sensory perception operate as a field with objects, images, and sounds. Lee's work highlights the contrasts and commonalities between location and dislocation, perception and unknowability, and visibility and legibility. Recent presentations include Catriona Jeffries (Vancouver, Canada, 2023), Friedman Gallery (New York, New York 2022), New York Artist Residency Foundation (Brooklyn, New York 2021), Achtung Cinema (Paris, France 2019), Kinoskop International Analog Film Festival (Belgrade, Serbia 2019), Mono No Aware Festival of Cinema-Arts (Brooklyn, New York 2018), and the Vancouver Art Gallery (2012). As a musician, composer, and performer, Lee has released four full-length recordings and four EPs, scored music for feature-length films, and toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Western Europe, South Korea, and Japan.

Further information on <https://kunsthalle-baden-baden.de/>

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Program

Weekend Program (Opening Weekend)

March 8-9, 2024

Friday, March 8

Opening from 7 pm

Saturday, March 9

12 pm Artists brunch
2 pm Artists talk with
Thuy-Han Nguyen-Chi and Andrew Yong Hoon Lee

The Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden is an institution of the State of Baden-Württemberg under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg.



Baden-Württemberg

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Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm

Open on all holidays except December 24 and 31.

Prices

7€, reduced 5€, Friday free entry

Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden

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www.kunsthalle-baden-baden.de