

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mountain Pass: Negotiating Ambivalence

A solo exhibition by Zen Teh, curated by Hera

13 July – 10 August 2019

Artist & Curator Talk: Saturday, 13 July 2019, 4pm – 5pm

Opening Reception: Saturday, 13 July 2019, 5pm – 7pm



Mizuma Gallery is pleased to announce *Mountain Pass: Negotiating Ambivalence*, a solo exhibition by Singaporean artist Zen Teh.

Mountain Pass: Negotiating Ambivalence is a solo exhibition by Singaporean artist Zen Teh first presented at Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia from January to March 2019, as a result of her artist residency from November 2018 to January 2019. The exhibition involved interdisciplinary collaborations between Zen Teh (artist) with Made Ananta (local research collaborator), Aldiansyah Waluyo (documentary videographer), Hera (art writer and researcher), Rinaldi Ikham (geologist), and Chabib Duta Hapsoro (curator), thus emphasising the subject of human-landscape interactions as a multifaceted pursuit that is aesthetic, cultural and scientific at the same time.

In its second presentation, *Mountain Pass: Negotiating Ambivalence* will be curated by Singapore-based art writer and researcher Hera, and will present selected works produced and exhibited in Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia.

The term *mountain pass* refers to a route which provides an entry point through the otherwise lofty and formidable mountain topography. The mountain pass allows people to approach and learn from the mountain, but it is also a potential gateway towards the exploitation of an otherwise inaccessible area.

In the period of her residency, Zen studied the geomorphology of Bandung, a city located on the site of an ancient caldera. In particular, she consulted geologists, local collaborators and residents regarding construction sites in Dago, an area in north Bandung undergoing relentless urbanisation and gentrification. Her research sheds light on a mesh of wicked problems surrounding the issues of land stewardship, economic growth and the sustainability of the residents' living environment. Through her practice, Zen reflects upon the conception of the landscape, as well as the individual's agency towards socio-ecological sustainability.

Mountain Pass: Negotiating Ambivalence consists of mixed media installations, stone, metal assemblages, and photographic sculptures. The exhibition will also be accompanied by documentary videos of the artist's process in Bandung, offering an opportunity for Singapore audience to be more immersed in the artworks and to better understand the multi-faceted pursuit of human-landscape interaction in Southeast Asia that the exhibition explores.

Mountain Pass: Negotiating Ambivalence will open on Saturday, 13 July 2019, with an Artist & Curator Talk from 4pm - 5pm followed by an opening reception from 5pm - 7pm. The exhibition will run till Saturday, 10 August 2019.



About the Artist



Zen Teh (b. 1988, Singapore) graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, majoring in Photography and Digital Imaging from Art, Design, Media, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in 2011. Aside from her artistic practise, Zen serves as a visual arts educator at School of the Arts (SOTA), in the Media Arts Department. Her solo exhibitions include the recent *Mountain Pass: Negotiating Ambivalence* at Selasar Sunaryo Art Space, Bandung, Indonesia (2019); *Garden State Palimpsest* at ARTIST+RUN, Bangkok, Thailand (2018); and *Vestiges: Tracing Urban-nature* at Alliance Française de Singapour, Singapore (2017). Zen has also exhibited regionally in Thailand, Taiwan and, China, as well as participated as an invited guest speaker at regional environmental conferences such as ASEAN Powershift 2015 and Hanoi Innovation Week 2016 on Sustainability. She was one of the finalists for the IMPART Awards 2019 and has been awarded the winning title for the 7th France+Singapore Photographic Arts Award (2017). Zen Teh lives and works in Singapore.

About the Curator



Hera (b. 1988, Indonesia) is a researcher working in the expanded field of art and design. She is currently pursuing an MA (Research) in Spaces of the Curatorial, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She is also a recipient of the NTU-NHB grant from the National Heritage Board Singapore for her research on the history of exhibitions in Singapore. Prior to that, Hera worked as a designer for a museum planning and design firm. Some of her projects include the design of permanent and temporary exhibitions in institutions such as Asian Civilisations Museum (Ancient Religions, Understanding Christian Art, Tang Shipwreck revamp) and the National Archives of Singapore (Surviving the Japanese Occupation at Former Ford Factory). Hera lives and works in Singapore.

About Mizuma Gallery

Executive Director Sueo Mizuma established Mizuma Art Gallery in Tokyo in 1994. Since its opening in Gillman Barracks, Singapore in 2012, the gallery aims for the promotion of East Asian artists in the region as well as the introduction of Southeast Asian artists to the international art scene. In 2014, the artist residency space “Rumah Kijang Mizuma” opened in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to create a new platform for dialogue by supporting exchanges between East Asia and Southeast Asia.

About Gillman Barracks

Set in a former military barracks dating back to 1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was launched in September 2012. Gillman Barracks' vision is to be Asia's destination for the presentation and discussion of international and Southeast Asian art. Today, Gillman Barracks is a place for art lovers, art collectors, and those curious about art. The cluster is a focal point of Singapore's arts landscape, and anchors the development of visual art in the region and beyond. For more information: www.gillmanbarracks.com

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Gallery hours:

Tue - Sat: 11am - 7pm
Sun: 11am - 6pm
Closed on Mondays &
Public Holidays

www.mizuma.sg
www.mizuma.shop
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Zen Teh
After Monument: Precipice 5 (2019)
found stone, iron off-cuts
21 x 18 x 15 cm
© Zen Teh, photo by Adi Rahmatullah,
courtesy of Selasar Sunaryo Art Space and
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Zen Teh
After Monument: Intrusion 1 (2019)
image layering on found rock with iron
off-cuts
33 x 52 x 21 cm
© Zen Teh, photo by Adi Rahmatullah,
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Zen Teh
After Monument: Stasis (2019)
image layering on found rock with iron
off-cuts
28 x 61.6 x 40 cm
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