

Monash University Museum of Art presents first major Australian performance by cutting-edge artist Ivan Cheng



Ivan Cheng: NP 17 – 21 September 2024

Naarm/Melbourne, Australia—Monash University Museum of Art | MUMA is pleased to announce the first major Australian commission by cutting-edge Australian-born, Amsterdam-based contemporary performance artist Ivan Cheng. Entitled NP, the week-long performance-exhibition will unfold within MUMA's galleries from 17 to 21 September 2024, and will see Cheng collaborate for the first time with high school students from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS). NP will be accompanied by a performance lecture by Cheng, presented by Monash Art Lectures in partnership with ACMI, on 10 September at ACMI, and the publication of the fourth book of Cheng's vampire series, *Confidences*.

Visitors to the Museum will experience an installation of Cheng's video works, often extending from his performance works. The week will be punctuated by three distinct performances:

Tuesday 17 September, 4pm
Thursday 19 September, 6pm
Saturday 21 September, 4pm

These are free events but tickets are essential as places are limited, booking via MUMA's website.

Dr Rebecca Coates, Director of MUMA says, "*Ivan Cheng's experimental approach to collaborating with young artists provides a rare opportunity for students to become deeply immersed in a unique interdisciplinary learning experience in a contemporary art museum.*"

Our program with Ivan reflects MUMA's commitment to presenting innovative and experimental contemporary art in its many forms and at the same time, as an art museum in a university context, fostering opportunities for student growth and exploration."

Known for his extensive exhibitions and performances across Europe, Cheng's return to his homeland brings forth a captivating exploration of cultural identity, history and the dynamics of global influence. The newly commissioned performance exhibition will explore the cultural nuances of Cheng's relationship with the Netherlands and Australia and the global movement of culture in the twenty-first century.

At the heart of *NP* lies Cheng's unique artistic premise, employing Father Christmas as an allegorical figure to symbolise the global movement of culture and ideas. Through humour and astute observation, Cheng will explore the complexities of cultural exchange and what it means to travel and present work as an artist in locations with distinct and shared cultural nuances.

Central to the collaborative endeavour of *NP* is Cheng's partnership with students from the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS). This innovative approach not only expands Cheng's creative methodologies but also provides young artists with a rare opportunity to participate actively in the creation of a museum presentation.

Pip Wallis, MUMA's Senior Curator, says, "This new commission by Ivan Cheng continues MUMA's curatorial leadership in the field of performance art following the innovative research undertaken through the *Precarious Movements: Choreography and the Museum ARC project* and the associated presentation of Shelley Lasica's *WHEN I AM NOT THERE* in 2022."

The exhibition will be accompanied by a performance lecture Art+Film: Ivan Cheng, *Under Amour* presented by Monash Art Lectures in partnership with ACMI, on Tuesday 10 September, 6.30pm at ACMI, Federation Square. Cheng will showcase his video works, which document his expansive, context-specific performance projects, alongside various texts and presentation forms and will also introduce NP, the performance-exhibition at MUMA.

The program is presented by Monash Art Lectures (MUMA and Monash Fine Art) and takes place in conjunction with the exhibition *NP*, curated by Pip Wallis at MUMA, 17 – 21 September 2024.

In conjunction with the performance-exhibition, MUMA will also co-publish with After 8 Books Paris *Production*, the fourth in Cheng's vampire fiction series *Confidences*. Building upon the success of his previous works, this latest publication promises an exploration of desires, sensuality and transformation through diverse storytelling methods.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

For further information, interviews and images please contact Rhiannon Broomfield on 0410 596 021 or rhiannon.broomfield@monash.edu

Exhibition & Performance Details:

[Ivan Cheng: NP](#)

Venue: Monash University Museum of Art | MUMA, Melbourne, Australia

Dates: 17 – 21 September 2024

Address:

Ground Floor, Building F, Monash University, Caulfield Campus 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East VIC 3145

Opening Hours during Exhibitions, Entry is

Free: Tuesday to Friday: 10am–5pm Saturday: 12–5pm

Access:

MUMA is wheelchair and pram accessible. The museum is located on the ground level of Building F, which can be accessed from both the University and Dandenong Road sides. Entry is through a sliding door on the interior/University side of the building. Distance from the Caulfield railway station is approx. 450 metres.

Monash University Museum of Art

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About MUMA

Monash University Museum of Art | MUMA is one of Australia's most respected and influential contemporary art museums. MUMA has a dynamic artistic program of commissioning, exhibitions, and publishing, and is committed to connecting art, audiences and ideas.

MUMA presents major new exhibitions annually and the artistic program is recognised for its attention to new work by Australian and international artists and its focused curatorial research projects. MUMA's extensive touring program forms strong partnerships with significant Australian and international institutions to ensure wide audience access.

MUMA is also a leader in delivering artist-led education to early learners, school and tertiary students and educators and welcomes over 4,000 students to the museum annually. MUMA invites leading contemporary artists to work directly with diverse student groups to develop critically important skills of creative thinking, problem-solving, and visual and cultural literacy.

About Ivan Cheng

Ivan Cheng was born in Sydney and lives in Amsterdam. He completed a Bachelor of Music (performance) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and further study at the Royal Academy of Music, where he developed scores that relate to formalism and history across forms of culture, with an interest in the temporal act of reading and sight-reading. Cheng relocated to Amsterdam in 2016, where he completed a Master in Fine Arts in Critical Studies at the Sandberg Instituut.

Ivan Cheng's recent works are context-specific situations, dealing with language and driven by relations with collaborators and hosts. He produces videos, objects, paintings and publications that serve as reference points for staging performances, both complex and precarious. His background as a performer and musician form the basis for using performance as a critical medium. Invested in questions around publics and accessibility, he produces films, objects, paintings and publications as anchors for the staging of complex and precarious spectacles.

Cheng's most recent solo exhibitions include: *Milieu* (Édouard Montassut, Paris) and *Parataxis* (OoO, Vienna). His performances, works and writings have been recently presented at Voiture14 (Marseille), La Maison Pop (Montreuil), Les Urbaines (Lausanne), Volksbühne Roter Salon (Berlin), Oude Kerk (Amsterdam), Belvedere21 (Vienna), and MuHKA (Antwerp). In 2017, he initiated the project space bologna.cc in Amsterdam.

Images: *Ivan Cheng: NP; Part 2: My Showcase (WORLD WIPE)*, performance view, Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, 2024. Photo: Rudi Williams

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners and Elders—past, present and emerging—of the lands on which Monash University operates. We acknowledge Aboriginal connection to material and creative practice on these lands for more than 60,000 years.