

FIONA TAN. MIT DER ANDEREN HAND / WITH THE OTHER HAND  
21.11.2020 – 14.02.2021  
Kunsthalle Krems



Fiona Tan, Pickpockets – Marie Thiriot, 2020 [Filmstill]  
Courtesy the artist, Frith Street Gallery, London, Peter Freeman Inc., New York, Wako Works of Art, Tokyo.

PRESS IMAGES:

<https://celum.noeku.at/pinaccess/pinaccess.do?pinCode=FionaTan>

**PRESS CONTACT**

Matej Gajdos  
+43 664 60499 176  
[matej.gajdos@kunstmeile.at](mailto:matej.gajdos@kunstmeile.at)

**KUNSTHALLE KREMS**

Museumsplatz 5  
3500 Krems an der Donau  
[www.kunsthalle.at](http://www.kunsthalle.at)

## FIONA TAN. MIT DER ANDEREN HAND / WITH THE OTHER HAND

21.11.2020 – 14.02.2021

Kunsthalle Krems

Memory, time and history are essential elements in the artistic work of Fiona Tan that she visualises primarily in the media of photography, film and video. Tan is considered a leading protagonist of an art based on research, documentation and archival work, and informed by a scientific approach. Art is understood here as a field of production of reflection, analysis and concept. This involves researching, archiving, explaining and depicting. Tan's art can also be regarded as a critique of seeing, for instance when she uses archival footage to deconstruct the European gaze vis-à-vis other cultures.

The Museum der Moderne Salzburg and the Kunsthalle Krems present Fiona Tan's first mid-career retrospective covering her artistic work of the past twenty years in two near concurrent exhibitions. The title of the exhibition, *With the other hand*, refers to Franz Kafka's melancholic diary entry about the sensitive outsider who cannot bear life and, for this very reason, becomes a keen chronicler and memory artist of his time.

Writing and recording against forgetting is also a central theme in Tan's work. Remembering is a search process leading into the past and into the deep and presenting itself as an imaginary journey in time that is invariably rhapsodic, never systematic. In the case of Fiona Tan, remembering and travelling is often linked to literature, as texts written by others accompany the artist's filmic imagery as voiceovers. The relationships between Orient and Occident and the imagination of the foreign and faraway, as reflected in Marco Polo's travelogue or in Italo Calvino's experimental city portraits in *Invisible Cities*, are key themes taken up by Fiona Tan in her powerful works *Disorient* (2009) and *Facing Forward* (1999). The video installation *Disorient*, for example, first shown in the Dutch Pavilion at the 2009 Venice Biennale, juxtaposes the Venetian merchant's literary travel account about the wonders of the East with disenchanted imagery of massive destruction and loss. The footage used by the artist contradicts the fantastic narrative of the escapist mediaeval traveller by confronting us with the consequences of colonialism, globalization and environmental destruction. Projected opposite, Tan shows a kind of Wunderkammer of the Far East featuring jewellery, textiles, spices, lanterns and exotic animals. Desirable goods from Asian cities appear as inventory of a depot in which the distant exotic has shrunk into a museum-like microcosm showing the appropriation of the world by means of things. Promise, stereotype and confusion converge in this brilliant deconstruction of orientalism.

The thematic focus of the exhibition at the Kunsthalle Krems is on utopian and dystopian sites as well as archives and collections, presented primarily through video installations. Added to this is a work specifically reflecting on the venue's immediate proximity to Stein prison. The video installation *Correction* is shown in a circular arrangement in the Central Hall, confronting visitors with inmates and wardens of US prisons who have been video-recorded in monumental portrait format. A new work is *Pickpockets*: it is based on a photo album of more than 250 catalogued pickpockets (each offenders' personal information is written on the back) who were arrested at the 1889 Paris World's Fair. The artist has linked this archival photographic material with Franz Kafka's *The Trial*. Another series of portraits in the exhibition is *Countenance*, a black-and-white video installation from 2002: Tan filmed 200 individuals in Berlin, creating a sociological study closely linked to August Sander's epochal photographic encyclopaedia *People of the 20th Century*. Among the most recent works in the exhibition is *Archive* (2019), the digital animation of an archive in imaginary circular architecture based on Paul Otlet's vision of a utopian World City consisting of a system for cataloguing all human knowledge. This work is complemented by a series of photogravures titled *Shadow Archive* (2019). In the 2018 film *Elsewhere* the artist describes a utopian place in audio overlaid by footage showing the mega-city of Los Angeles. In the 2012 video *Inventory*, a filmic 'portrait' of a collection of ancient sculptures and architectural fragments, Tan

worked with different film formats from Super 8 to high-definition, resulting in variations of the materiality of the film imagery.

**Florian Steininger, Artistic Director Kunsthalle Krems**

## FIONA TAN BIOGRAPHY

### **Fiona Tan**

born 1966 in Pekan Baru, Indonesia,  
lives und works in Amsterdam, Netherlands

1988 – 1992     Gerrit Rietveld Academie  
1996 – 1997     Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten

### **Recent solo exhibitions:**

*GAAF* in Museum Ludwig in Cologne, Germany (2019)  
*Ascent* in Museum De Pont in Tilburg, Netherlands (2017)  
*Geography of Time* in Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt am Main, Germany (2016)  
*Geography of Time* in Mudam in Luxembourg (2016)  
*Ascent* in Izu Photo Museum in Nagaizumi, Japan (2016)  
*Depot* in Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead, England (2015)  
*Geography of Time* in Nasjonalmuseet in Oslo, Norway (2015)



Fiona Tan Portait, Foto: Marieke Wijntjes  
Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London.

## EXHIBITION CATALOG

available at the Kunsthalle Krems store



<b>Title</b>	Fiona Tan. Mit der anderen Hand / With the other hand
<b>Editor</b>	Thorsten Sadowsky (Museum der Moderne Salzburg) Florian Steininger (Kunsthalle Krems)
<b>Year of publication</b>	2020
<b>Publishe by</b>	Snoeck Verlagsgesellschaft mbH Köln
<b>Format</b>	240 x 320 mm (Hardcover)
<b>Pages</b>	160
<b>Language</b>	German / English
<b>Authors</b>	Ruth Horak, Thorsten Sadowsky, Eva Sangiorgi, Nina Schedlmayer, Marijana Schneider, Fiona Tan
<b>ISBN</b>	978-3-86442-324-6
<b>Price</b>	€ 24,90 € 39,90 (Exhibition catalog and Reader)

## READER

<b>Editor</b>	Gilda Williams
<b>Published by</b>	Snoeck Verlagsgesellschaft mbH Köln
<b>Texts by</b>	John Berger, Saskia Bos, David Company, Stéphane Carrayrou, Dawn Chan, Lynne Cooke, Laura Cumming, Brian Dillon, Doris von Drathen, Thomas Elsa- esser, Juliana Engberg, Okwui Enwezor, David Frankel, Christophe Gallois, Philip Geffer, Denis Gielen, Massimiliano Gioni, Mark Godfrey, Hettie Judah, Midori Matsui, Philip Monk, Elisa Schaar, Sabine Maria Schmidt, Adrian Se- arle, Joel Snyder, Fiona Tan, Adelina Vlas, Gilda Williams
<b>Pages</b>	240
<b>Language</b>	German / English
<b>Format</b>	140 x 200 mm (Freirückenbroschur)
<b>ISBN</b>	978-3-86442-325-3 (Reader, English) 978-3-86442-326-0 (Reader, German)
<b>Price</b>	€ 19,90

WORKS OF THE EXHIBITION (SELECTION)



Fiona Tan, *Archive*, 2019 (Filmstills)  
Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London.



Fiona Tan, *Elsewhere*, 2018  
Installation views at Frith Street Gallery, London. Courtesy of the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London.  
Photos: Steve White



Fiona Tan, *Inventory*, 2012  
Installation views at Frith Street Gallery, London, 2015. Courtesy of the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London.  
Photos: Steve White

## EXHIBITION DETAILS

### **FIONA TAN. MIT DER ANDEREN HAND / WITH THE OTHER HAND**

21.11.2020 – 14.02.2021

Kunsthalle Krems

### **PRESS IMAGES**

<https://celum.noeku.at/pinaccess/pinaccess.do?pinCode=FionaTan>

### **PRESS CONTACT**

Matej Gajdos

+43 664 60499 176

[matej.gajdos@kunstmeile.at](mailto:matej.gajdos@kunstmeile.at)

Kunstmeile Krems Betriebs GmbH

Museumsplatz 5

3500 Krems an der Donau

### **KUNSTHALLE KREMS**

Museumsplatz 5

3500 Krems an der Donau

T +43 2732 908010

E [office@kunstmeile.at](mailto:office@kunstmeile.at)

[www.kunsthalle.at](http://www.kunsthalle.at)

### **OPENING HOURS**

Tue–Sun

10 am – 5 pm (November–February)

10 am – 6 pm (March–October)

Mo closed (except on public holidays)

Closed on 24.12., 31.12., 01.01.

### **ADMISSION**

Adults € 10

reduced € 9

Family ticket € 18

**KUNST HALLE KREMS**

**Kunstmeile Krems**  
● — ○ — ●