

# Querying The Quotidian: Lee Kit's Hong Kong Exhibition at the Venice Biennale

The artist [Lee Kit](#) has been selected to represent [Hong Kong](#) in their exhibition at the [55th International Art Exhibition in Venice - La Biennale di Venezia](#). Curated by [Lars Nittve](#) along with Yung Ma of prospective [Hong Kong gallery M+](#), they will display an exhibition entitled *You (you)*, which questions identity and its myriad manifestations within quotidian life.



The curator of the 2013 Venice Biennale – the 55th incarnation of the event - is [Massimiliano Gioni](#). He has entitled the space and theme of the event 'Il Palazzo Enciclopedico' or 'The Encyclopedic Palace'. The dream offered by this idea is the desire to both see and know everything; it is a show about obsessions and the transformative power of the imagination. Gioni affirms that 'The Encyclopedic Palace.. is a show that illustrates a condition we all share: we ourselves are media, channelling images, or at times even finding ourselves possessed by images.' *You (you)* shares a specific framework of thought with Gioni: Kit's exhibit incorporates various elements of artistic creativity to evoke the textures of both real and imagined memories. Conceived through recollections of the artist's own personal and collective moments, the 'artist's world' (in the words of Gioni) is visually articulated through Kit's use of mixed media.

For the first time, the 2013 co-presentation and selection comes from the [Hong Kong Arts Development Council](#) (HKADC), which has adopted a model which has been successfully utilised in many other participating countries, where an esteemed local arts body or institution is given the responsibility to select the curator and the artist to represent their country. *You (you)* constitutes entirely new commissions and continues Kit's exploration into the realm of the everyday, utilising his familiar framework of sparse yet intimate installations.



The exhibition space will incorporate found images, performance, moving image, ready-made objects and lighting to highlight immaterial dialogues and relationships amongst the forms created by the artist. *You (you)* expands upon Kit's technique of manipulating mundane objects and other ephemeral materials to function as emotive triggers for the audience. [Lee Kit](#) explains that the feeling received from the exhibition will be familiar to that of 'waking up... you'll be faced with yourself. It's mostly comprised of items from daily life.' The various elements of the installations will be meticulously arranged to recall qualities familiar to those in painterly compositions. The layout of the exhibition is formulated in a series of spatial reconfigurations, blending together and alternating between concealment and revelation. The artist envisions his Venice presentation to look like 'an impressionistic house' consisting of a courtyard, two rooms and a washroom at the back. Kit also confirms that he will place a guard booth in the courtyard exclaiming, 'it's an image that's been inside my mind for a very long time.' Kit's objective with the space is to create a type of inherent endlessness which will transcend our perception of time and question concepts of identity and memory, and their relationship to our spatial perception.



[Lee Kit](#) was born in [Hong Kong](#) in 1978 and during his studies at [The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#) was already selected for a solo exhibition entitled 'Painting Furniture' in Fo Tan. Lee Kit works with various media but his works are most recognisable for their reflections upon aspects of daily life. Recent solo exhibitions include *Something in my hands* at [ART HK 12](#) where he won the ART FUTURES PRIZE (2012). He has also participated in many group exhibitions across the world; highlights including *No soul for sale* at the [Tate Modern](#) in 2010.

The lead curator [Dr Lars Nittve](#), was born in Stockholm in 1953; after postgraduate studies at [New York University](#), he returned to his undergraduate institution to serve as a lecturer in art history at the [University of Stockholm](#). Throughout his career he has been Director of both the [Louisiana Museum of Modern Art](#) in Denmark and the [Tate Modern](#) in London. Since January 2011 he has been the Executive Director of [M+](#), the

museum of visual culture in the West Kowloon Cultural District in [Hong Kong](#), scheduled to open in 2017. A fully illustrated bilingual (Chinese and English) catalogue published by M+ will

accompany the exhibition with contributions from [Lee Kit](#), Yung Ma, [Lars Nittve](#), Pauline J. Yao and Jean Ruo Jin, exploring the intricate layers of Lee's artistic vision from a variety of perspectives.

The Hong Kong Team:

Artist: [Lee Kit](#).

Commissioners: [M+](#), Museum for Visual Culture, West Kowloon Cultural District & Hong Kong Arts Development Council.

Curators: [Dr Lars Nittve](#) with Yung Ma, [M+](#).

Venue: Castello 2126, Campo della Tana, 30122 Venezia, Italy.

[The 55th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale](#) will take place from 1 June 24 November. The Culture Trip's Venice Biennale Series is an article series leading up to the start of the exhibition. With 88 countries participating in this year's Biennale 10 of them for the first time and 150 artists from 37 countries, our coverage over the next couple of months will highlight a selection of the National Pavilions that will be participating in the 2013 edition of the Venice Biennale. Watch the Biennale page on our site or The Culture Trip's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Pinterest](#) pages for our daily Biennale articles and updates.

*Images courtesy: the artist, [M+](#), [WKCD](#) and [HKADC](#).*

*Installation shots of [You, \(you\)](#) by [Lee Kit](#). Photographer: [David Levene](#).*

*By Helen Brady*



**The Culture Trip** showcases the best of art, culture and travel for every country in the world. Have a look at our [Hong Kong](#) or [Asia](#) sections to find out more or become involved.