

Kunsthalle Wien

Ting-Jung Chen & Hui Ye

Keep me close to you 5/12 2018 – 27/1 2019

Kunsthalle Wien Prize 2018

Press conference

Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 10 am

(following a presentation of the Kunsthalle Wien Program 2019)

Opening & Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 7 pm

Publication Launch & Artist Talk with Ting-Jung Chen & Hui Ye

Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 6 pm

The Kunsthalle Wien Prize 2018 goes to two artists who hail from a cultural sphere that has been riven by a sharp political divide since the end of the Chinese Civil war in 1949: from the People's Republic of China and the island nation of Taiwan (officially known as the "Republic of China"). The two honorees agreed on the title *Keep me close to you* for their diverse explorations of current as well as historic forms of the transmission of immaterial goods across both countries' respective political and ideological boundaries.

Ting-Jung Chen's audio installation *You Are the Only One I Care About (whisper)* conveys a vivid impression of a peculiar phenomenon spawned by propaganda strategies between the poles of projection and appropriation: the artist has reimagined the enormous "broadcast walls" that both socialist and capitalist countries in East Asia erected along their borders to flood their enemy neighbors with slogans and songs from the "better world." Her sculptural and musical

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composition prompts wide-ranging reflections on the transformation of modes of the dissemination of ideology specific to a place and time into today's global commercialized space.

The media and sound artist Hui Ye presents the 32-minute video *Quick Code Service*, which scrutinizes contemporary digital communication technology and its limitations. Using WeChat, the most popular communication platform in China today, and her personal QR code, the artist “constructs” her own—digital—identity on the network from a distance. She is separated from her avatar by the Great Firewall, which the government of the People's Republic has installed to regulate data traffic and block many international online media. Balancing between documentation and fiction, Hui Ye's video draws attention to the potential for manipulation inherent in digital media while also grappling with how far she has come.

Ting-Jung Chen (b. Taipei/Taiwan, 1985) studied performative art and sculpture with Prof. Monica Bonvicini at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. She graduated in 2018.

Hui Ye (b. Guangzhou, People's Republic of China, 1981) studied transdisciplinary art with Ricarda Denzer and Franz Thalmair at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. She graduated in 2018.

Curator: Lucas Gehrmann

The Kunsthalle Wien Prize

The annual Kunsthalle Wien Prize, has been awarded in cooperation with the University of Applied Arts Vienna and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna since 2015. Every year, the jury reviews ca. 150 diploma projects in fine arts and media art. “The Kunsthalle Wien Prize is meant to help young artists gain a foothold in today's competitive art world with its challenging attention economy. With this purpose in mind and conscious of their responsibility, the judges address themselves to the difficult task of selecting two winning projects from the work of many highly qualified recent graduates,” Nicolaus Schafhausen explains.

Jury

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna: Erwin Bohatsch, Dorit Margreiter, Anne Faucheret, Lucas Gehrmann, Nicolaus Schafhausen, and Marcus A. Hürttig (Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig). Chairwoman and organizer: Andrea B. Braidt (vice-rector, art | research)

Universität of Applied Arts Vienna: Gerald Bast (chairman), Juliane Bischoff, Lucas Gehrmann, Nicolaus Schafhausen, and Marcus A. Hürttig (Museum der bildenden

Press release

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Künste Leipzig). Organizer: Anja Seipenbusch

Two catalogues with essays by the editors and members of the jury, conversations with the artists, and an illustration section will be published by Sternberg Press, Berlin, in conjunction with the exhibition.

In 2018, the prize monies of EUR 3.000 each are donated by HS art service austria GmbH and Deko Trend GmbH.

Press release

Kunsthalle Wien GmbH
Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna, Austria
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Press

Susanne Fernandes Silva
+43 (0)1 5 21 89 - 1221
susanne.fernandes-silva@
kunsthallewien.at

Stefanie Obermeir
+43 (0)1 5 21 89 - 1224
presse@kunsthallewien.at

The logo for the Kunsthalle Wien Prize 2018 is a black speech bubble with a white outline. The text "Kunsthalle Wien" is on the top line and "Prize 2018" is on the bottom line, both in white sans-serif font. A small white bird icon is positioned at the top right of the bubble, appearing to be part of the speech. The entire logo is set against a white background.

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Prize 2018