

Gallery 2 :: Model Home

Christine Ko

May 24 – June 30 // Opening Night May 24, 6–8pm

PUBLIC PROGRAMS MAY / JUNE AT VERGE ::

- + + May 24, 5.30–8pm, artist introductions and openings of *Parting Words* and *Model Home*
 - + May 26, 1–3pm Creative Reading Group with Kathleen Linn
 - + June 2, 1–3.30pm, *Aftersound* performances curated by Rainbow Chan
 - + June 16, 1–3pm, Spartak Improvised Set responding to *Parting Words*
 - + June 23, 1–3pm, Creative Reading Group with Kathleen Linn
 - + June 30, 1–3pm, Art Crit with May exhibitors Elena Papanikolakis and Christine Ko
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Christine Ko works with large scale installation and photomedia to explore marginality and spaces characterised by the 'in-between'. Ko's practice uses an autoethnographic methodology to explore the liminal experience of the modern Chinese-Australian immigrant and conflicting multi-cultural identities. By interrogating spaces of liminality and hybridity, Ko explores feelings of ambivalence—between hopes, dreams, invisibility and guilt, which can result from experiencing cultural displacement as an immigrant, to create installations that often use immersion to engage with the audience.

'*Model Home*' continues Ko's research into the duality and liminality of the migrant experience, self-identity and the transitory and uncertain nature of the modern human condition. The work builds upon ideas Ko has visually referenced in previous works of home and the icon of the house as a metaphor for the self and windows as a liminal zone between the outer (surface) and hidden inner worlds.

At the core of the installation is a house shaped from a number of strategically hung vertical blinds that are motorised so they are constantly opening and closing. The blinds are made of mirror tint film whose dual transparent and reflective properties creates multiple layers and fractured reflections that warp the viewers' sense of depth and perception of self and are used to explore the experience of 'in-betweenness'—a dream-like state one encounters when they are in a space of being neither here nor there.

Projections of the sky and the ocean, chosen for their universal symbolism of hopes and dreams and romanticised allusions to the two main forms of migration, are projected onto the turning blinds creating a fractured view of the world. As the images hit the mirror surfaces, they are transformed into glowing reflections of light that creates a new form of imagery allowing the viewer to construct their own narrative about themselves and their place in the world. An audio soundtrack of 'Waltzing Matilda' from a vintage souvenir toy koala that Ko received from her father before migrating to Australia plays in the background triggering childhood memories of hopes and dreams for the future at the same time as a sense nostalgia for the past.

'*Model Home*' aims to provide viewers with an immersive and disorientating space to reflect upon ideas around home, identity and migration; conjuring up questions about whether our dreams are realities to aspire to or just fleeting illusions.

Artwork details:

Christine Ko, *Model Home*,

Mixed media installation - motorised vertical blinds with mirror tint film and frosted film, two-channel video projections, audio soundtrack, framed photograph

Dimensions variable.