



FEAR
ACCEPTANCE

KEN LUM

Born Vancouver, Canada 1956

Investigating the tensions between personal experience and external classification, Ken Lum creates complex bodies of work that include colorful geometrical charts, fabricated obituaries, strip mall signs and bronze busts of people who have faced tragic endings. The artist explores issues of identity, immigration, language, and spatial politics through a wide range of media including painting, sculpture, performance, video, and photography. Using mass-produced consumer materials, Lum fuses art and popular culture, questioning the systems that order our understanding of the everyday world.

As thought-provoking as it is entertaining, Lum's artistic practice often raises questions that are left unanswered, prompting viewers to decipher potential solutions to universal concerns. Works can be playful and witty while at other times, somber and jarringly unrefined.

An innovator of post-conceptual art, Lum is recognized as part of the Vancouver School of conceptual photography, alongside luminary artists such as Jeff Wall, Rodney Graham and Ian Wallace. His work has been widely exhibited since the 1970's. Currently, he resides in Philadelphia where he is the Chair of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design.

EDUCATION 1985 MFA, Department of Fine Arts, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada 1982 Graduate studies, Department of Art Education, New York University, New York, NY BSc, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser 1980 University, Burnaby, Canada SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS Royale Projects, Necrology, Los Angeles, CA CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, What's old is old for a dog, San Francisco, CA 2017 Art Gallery of Mississauga, A Matter of Life and Death, Ontario, Canada 2016 L.A. Galerie (Lothar Albrecht), Ken Lum works and videos, Frankfurt, Germany 2015 Vienna Kunsthalle Karlsplatz Public Space, Vienna, Austria Royale Projects, Ken Lum is an Artist: Work From the Last 30 Years, Los Angeles, CA 2013 Galerie Marc Jancou, New York, NY 2012 L.A. Galerie Lothar Albrecht, Frankfurt, Germany 2011 Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada 2008 Galeria Llucia Homs, Barcelona, Spain 2007 Centro de Arte Contempora neo De Huarte, Navarro, Spain SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS Swiss Institute Contemporary Art READYMADES RELONG TO

2018	Swiss Institute Contemporary Art, READYMADES BELONG TO
	EVERYONE, New York, NY
	The Hirshhorn Museum, Brand New: Art and Commodity in the 1980s,
	Washington, DC
2016	Audain Art Museum, Masterworks from the Audain Art Museum,
	Whistler, Canada
2015	Misa Shin Gallery, The Road Not Taken: Ai Weiwei, Ken Lum, Ozawa
	Tsuyoshi, Tomatsu Shomei, Tokyo, Japan
2014	The Whitney Museum of American Art, Whitney Biennial, New York, NY
2011	1A Space, One Suitcase Per Person: David Diao, Ken Lum, Hiram To,
	Hong Kong
2002	Documenta 11, Kassel, Germany
2001	49th Biennale di Venezia, Plateau of Humankind, Venice, Italy





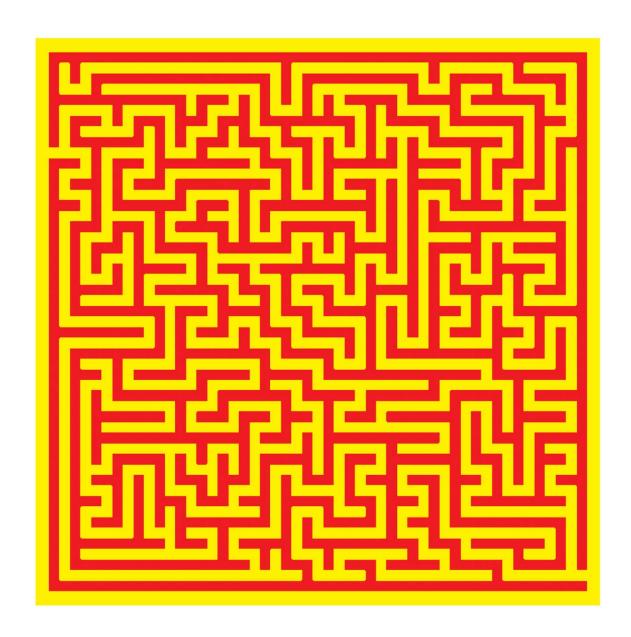
PATH CHART SERIES

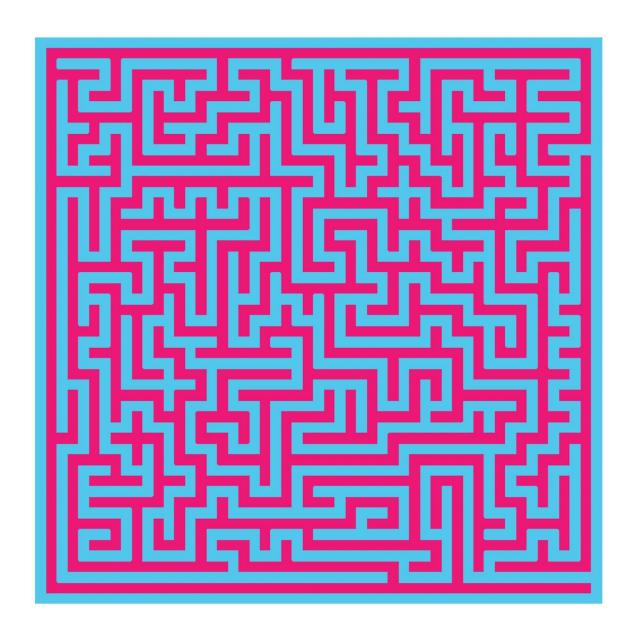
"To me, the Real can be understood in different ways. The first would be in terms of the relationship between art and non-art. Art having something to do with artifice and contrivance and the historical conventions and all those terms that make art 'art'. And then on the other side of that would be the question of: When is art not art while still having the effect within art? The second issue would be the Real in the Lacanian sense. The Real that exists outside what we can express in terms of language, I'm interested in that limit: When does art become non-art? And then there is the historical question of the relationship between art and life; that is a dialect that has been in play for many decades. The Real for me comes into play because I am not satisfied with much art. I don't think art the way it is conventionalized within the art system deals enough with all kinds of experiences."

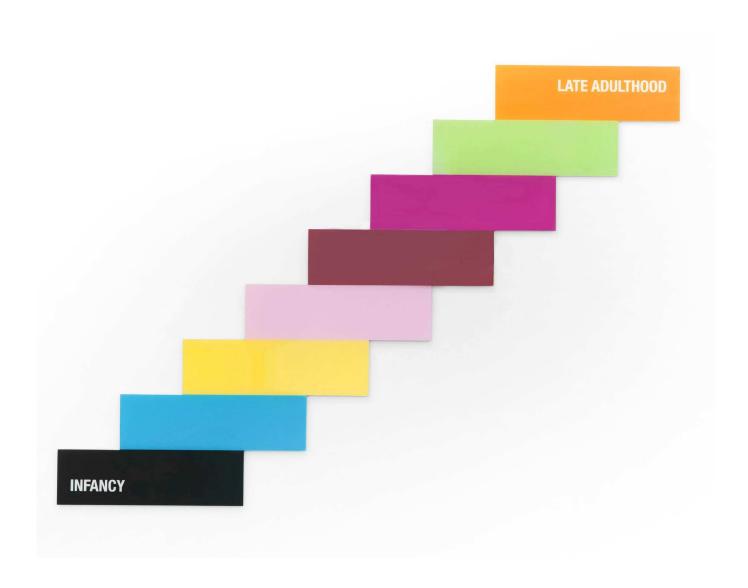
-Ken Lum

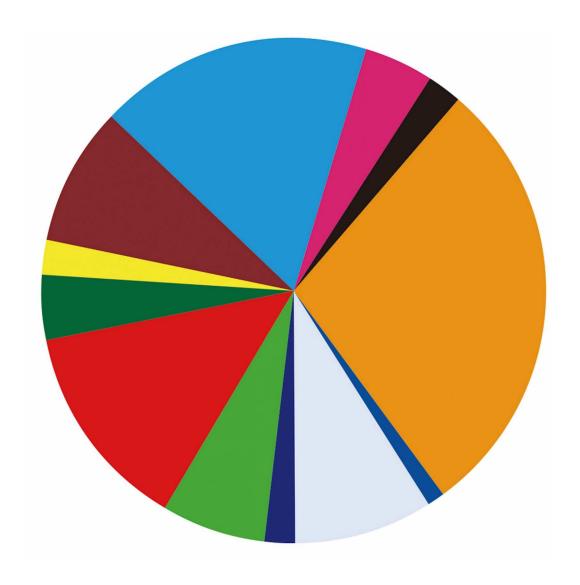


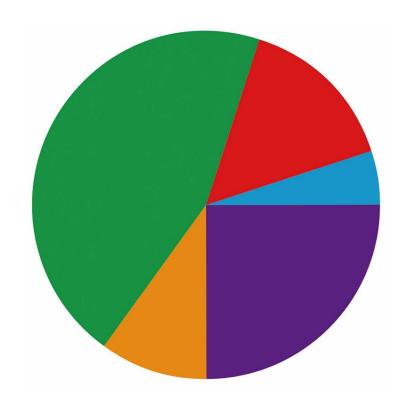


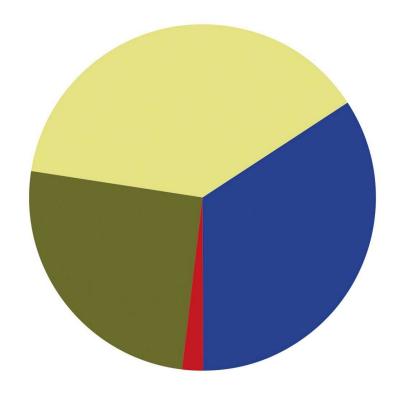




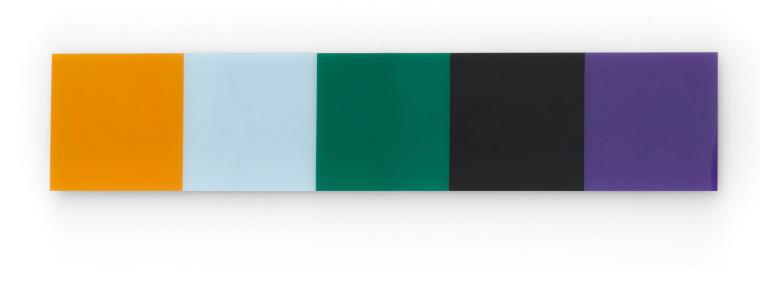


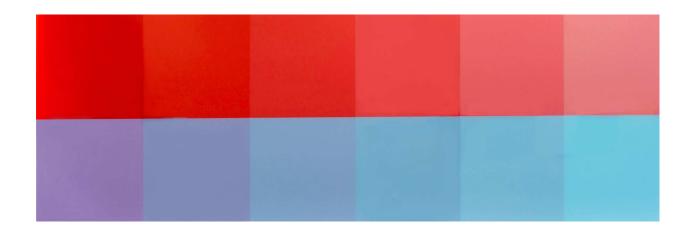


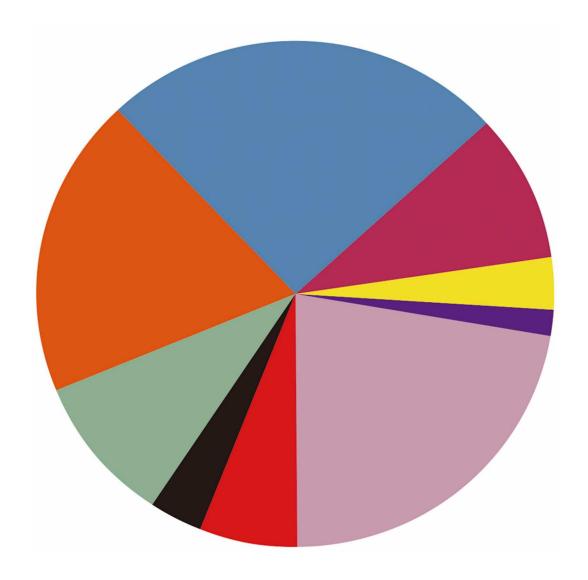




Left: Pie Chart (Food Consumption and the Environment), 2012 inkjet print on Arches paper 48 × 48 in (121.9 × 121.9 cm) Right: Pie Chart (Gender and Desire), 2012 inkjet print on Arches paper 48 × 48 in (121.9 × 121.9 cm)









THE CRUSADER,

One Woman's Saga; a story about the trials and tribulations of Beryl,

Mother and unassuming Housewife, LIVING IN THE SUBURBS,

HERSELF BORN THE HAPPIEST CHILD,

Who led a Crusade for change after her Son Was Killed

IN A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT BY A TRUCK,

And was mistreated Badly by insurance executives, government Officials and Others of unscrupulous Mind

WHOM SHE HAD DEEPLY TRUSTED, ONLY TO FIGHT FOR THE WAY THAT TRUCK WHEELS WERE DESIGNED,

SUCH THAT THEY MAINTAINED THEIR STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

Rather than to Explode;

For which she won Many accolades and much Gratitude,

UPON WHICH SHE RETURNED TO HER LOVE OF GARDENING, BRIDGE PLAYING, AND BIRD WATCHING.

And Finally passed Away from the Ravages of Parkinson's disease. WHO

THAT

Rat Her IMM

WIT



NECROLOGY SERIES

"I wanted this older form of written language, not to call it up nostalgically, but to comment about what's lost when language changes in terms of how we imagine. When you read this, your imagining of Yasir Khorshed in this form takes a very different form than if I was just to state it in the most perfunctory terms. That's been lost. I wouldn't call it a degradation of a language. But a certain reduction means we lose certain types of experiences. It's through language that we constitute ourselves."

-Ken Lum

THE CRUSADER,

One Woman's Saga;

Mother and unassuming Housewife, LIVING IN THE SUBURBS,

HERSELE BORN THE HAPPIEST CHILD.

Who led a Crusade for change after her Son Was Killed

IN A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT BY A TRUCK,

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WHOM SHE HAD DEEPLY TRUSTED, ONLY TO FIGHT FOR THE WAY THAT TRUCK WHEELS WERE DESIGNED,

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Rather than to Explode;
HOW SHE MADE THE TREACHEROUS ROADS SAFER FOR COUNTLESS OTHERS.

For which she won Many accolades and much Gratitude,

UPON WHICH SHE RETURNED TO HER LOVE OF GARDENING, BRIDGE PLAYING, AND BIRD WATCHING,

And Finally passed Away from the Ravages of Parkinson's disease. AN AMPLE AND EXCELLENT NARRATIVE OF

Damian Preveau

THE YOUNGEST OF ELEVEN

thus abandoned by his parents,

A child living in the streets in the most wretched circumstances,

in the sorest pain, in the vilest situation

AND BELONGING TO THE CRUDEST VIEW OF LIFE

To the most animal knowledge of humanity.

HE LEARNED NEITHER TO READ NOR WRITE

Yet rose to become the most powerful Gangster

IN ALL OF CITÉ SOLEIL.

KNOWN FOR HIS ASTOUNDING BRUTALITY

To those who challenged him and to those he claimed affection.

HE WAS DECLARED DEAD THREE TIMES:

the First when a child

Struck by a stray bullet; The Second when a young man

IN

a terrible gang beating

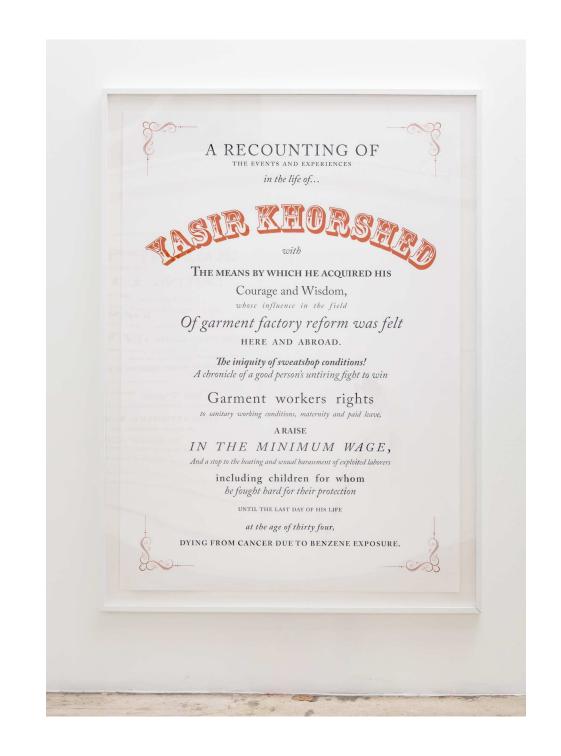
And the Third

as a Crime Lord when a member of his own

BETRAYED HIM MIGHTILY BY SLASHING HIM

with a machete

while he slept.



LIFE AS A KEYPUNCH OPERATOR

OP THE

EXCITING ESCAPADES

Of Charlotte Wilson Gurner,

The seventh of 10 children of George and Harriet *Wilson*

Who, upon graduating from Camden High School became a first rate

CLERK-TYPIST for the VETERANS ADMINISTRATION;

Comprising anecdotes of Willie Turner,

the police officer husband to whom she was married 62 years, with her death falling

exactly the one-year anniversary or her husband's death:

Giving a full account of all their



And other frolics, including saving up and going on a Caribbean cruise;

BEING a FAITHFUL PORTRAITURE of

Her joy in her daughters, Josephine and Lucy,

AND HER LOVE OF SEWING:

With particular observations of

Her attending the Camden School of Office Training

To further herself as a keypunch operator until her health failed

Forcing retirement but remaining active as an usher in the Antioch Camden Baptist Church.



FORGET - Thérèse Gabrie April 2, 1927, in Caen, France away peacefully after a short stay on October 5, 2001. Prec by her father Dominique Fo brother Arnaud Forget. She is remembered by her many frie generously gave of herself to with great love and passion. and commitment to God will great legacy to those who fo footsteps. In lieu of flowers, C may be made in Thérèse's me the Cardio-Vascular Found

FOUR FRENCH DEATHS IN WESTERN CANADA

The work consists of a collection of enlarged death notices printed onto the gallery walls describing the lives of people born in France who died in western Canada. The obituaries are in English and do not immediately announce themselves as connected by anything but their genre; each maintains a fidelity to the charge-by-the-word brevity of the form, the banal descriptions of a life expressed in a hundred words or less. The discomfort for the reader arrives in the same way it would if he or she were to read the obituaries in a newspaper, where the eye scans involuntarily for familiar names and cannot help imagine how her or his own life would read: which relationships warrant mention? Which accomplishments best represent a life lived? To whom would the task of composing the notice fall, and could that person be trusted to get things right? Is it possible to get things right?

-Jamie Hilder Art Critic, Artist

FORGET — Thérèse Gabrielle, born April 2, 1927, in Caen, France. Passed away peacefully after a short hospital stay on October 5, 2001. Predeceased by her father Dominique Forget and brother Arnaud Forget. She is lovingly remembered by her many friends. She generously gave of herself to so many with great love and passion. Her love and commitment to God will leave a great legacy to those who follow her footsteps. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Thérèse's memory to the Cardio-Vascular Foundation of British Columbia.

DE SOYSA — Indrani, born in Ile de la Reunion, France, beloved wife of late Chandra, loving mother of Ranjit (Winnipeg, Canada), Channa and Keerthi (Australia), Nalin (France) and Rathna (Singapore), expired November 5, 2001.

Mrs. De Soysa arrived in Toronto, Canada in 1972, moving to Vancouver in 1977. Mrs. De Soysa was a homemaker. In her later years, she became an independent scholar studying and writing about tropical plants and gardens. She requested no funeral service but that her ashes be returned and scattered in Reunion.

PERUSSE — Didier, born in Gascony, France, passed away suddenly on December 15, 2001 at the age of 58 Mr. Perusse is survived by his companion, Donald and dog Brownie. He was a bus driver for Sunshine Coast (Sechelt) Charter Ltd. Mr. Perusse will be remembered for his great love of Opera music, animals, his sense of humour. A memorial service will be held later in Sechelt.

CALABRESE — Sergio (Serge), age 94, deceased July 12, 2001. Born in Torino, Italy, Mr. Calabrese moved to France in 1930. He fought for the allies during the Second World War, suffering a serious leg injury. Mr. Calabrese was predeceased by his wife Sophie in 1956. He had no children. He moved to Canada in 1958 and worked as a handyman. He enjoyed fishing, gardening and outdoor life. Mr. Calabrese requested no service and that his ashes be scattered in his garden near Ruby Lake.

"Sergio, you are now at peace with God."

KESIAUKANI PAPUII Cafe phở 59 水 水 Phan Thiết special phở Y LOP Đắk Lắk ICES INC. GUYÊN GIÁP Café V Thích Quảng Đức ONG • CHINH Club Chenny Hué ssage / Áp Bắc Ngô Đình Diệm Thảm sa Dai Esthetics DOLLAR PLU\$ M VIX TRADING CO. Tai Chi Yana Fashion किंग नार



STRIP MALL SERIES

"Lum reconfigures the attractive beacons of reflective color blocks as slats in the signs, replicating real-world function and returning the acrylic to its natural habitat. He then deftly mimics the riot of competing fonts, amateur logos, randomly juxtaposed businesses, blank spaces, anachronistic phrasing, and wild hybrids of word and alphabet. Then he goes further, encoding events in the Vietnam War into fictional names and numbers. The address 8669 Midway Avenue refers to the failed June 8, 1969 presidential negotiation on Midway Island; Phan Thi Kim Phuc Pharmacy names the napalm-stricken girl in Nick Ut's photograph. Even without this insight, there is power in the strangely familiar mix of confusion and clarity in these ubiquitous palimpsests of a polyglot society. With it, they expose the capacity of mundanities to reflect deeper meanings in superficial forms."

-Shana Nys Dambrot Art Critic, Curator, Author





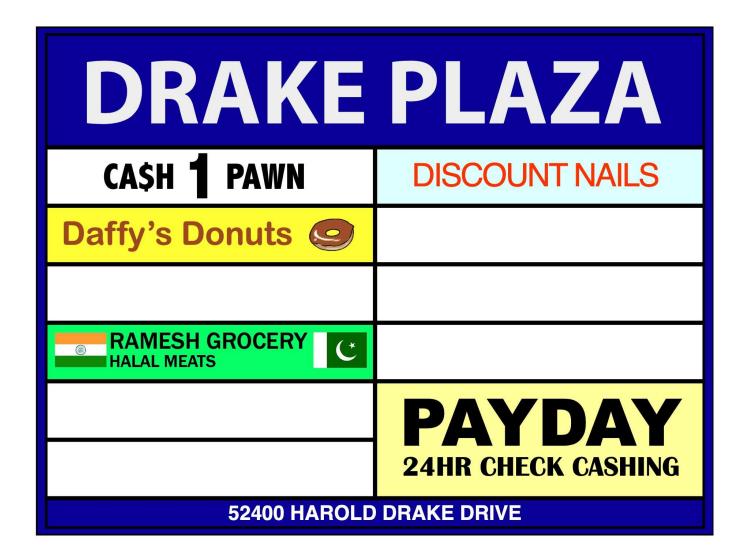
MIDWAY AVENUE MIDWAY AVENUE SHOPPING PLAZA

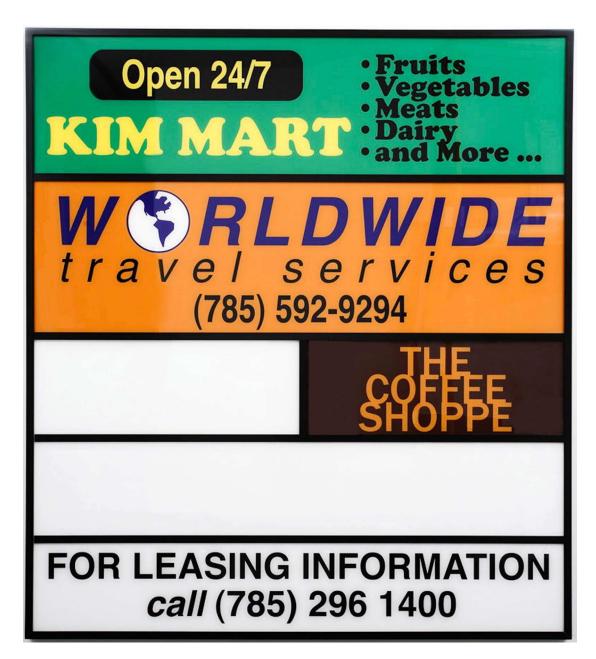


PHAN THI COPEN KIM PHUC OPEN APOTHECARY









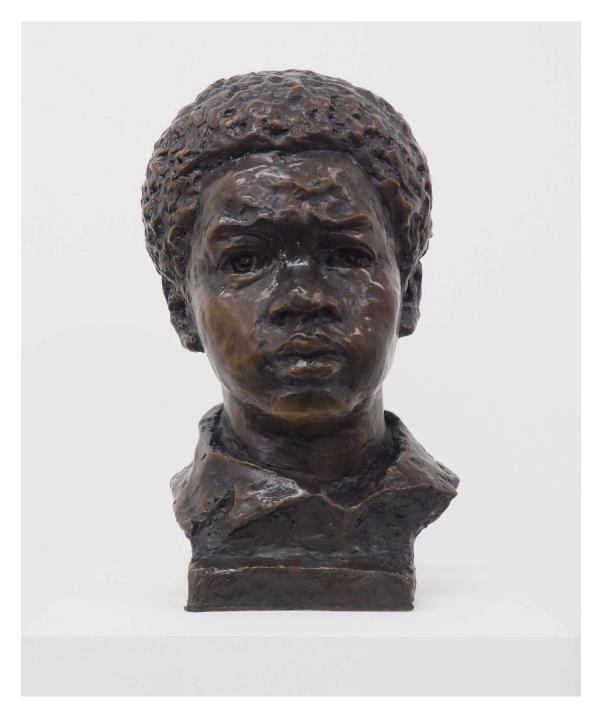


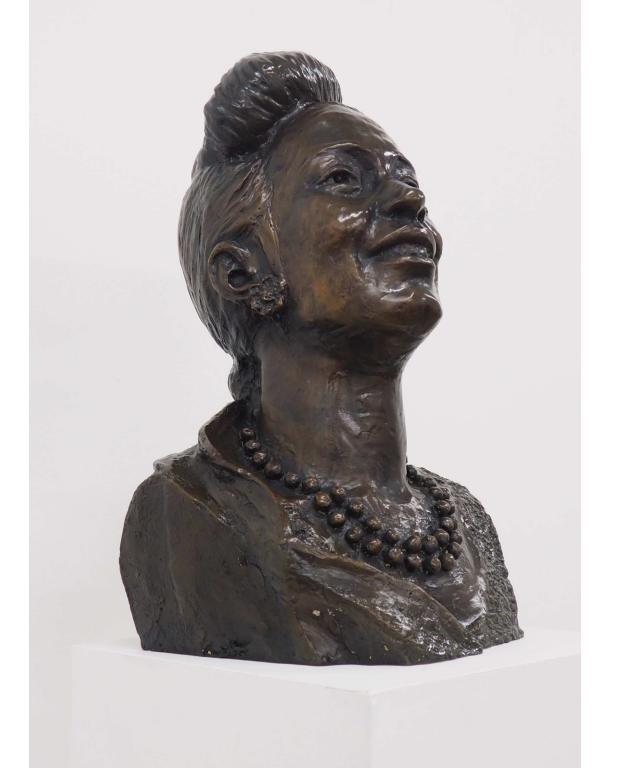


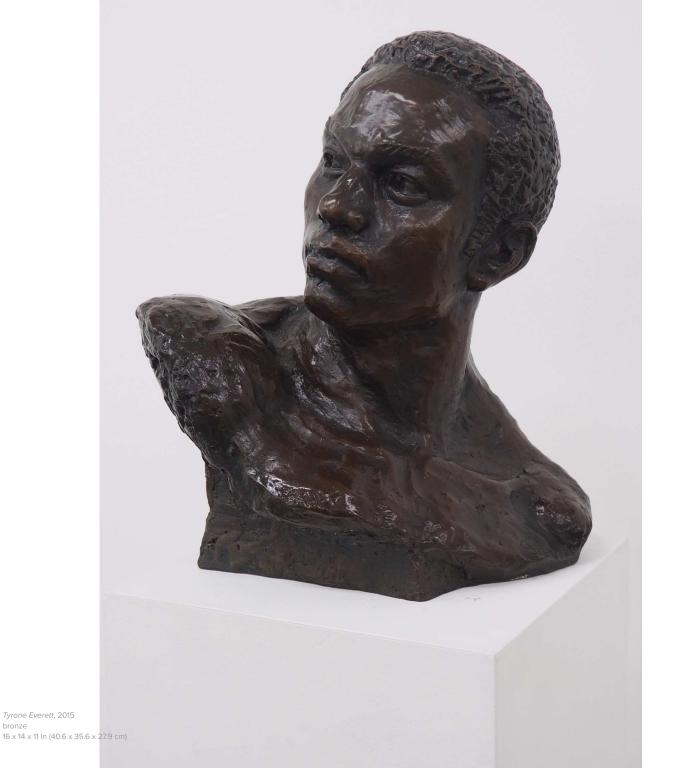
TRAGIC PHILADELPHIANS

"A space that inhabits both your shame and your relief is not one of reconciliation. It is, somehow, one that is equal parts affirmation and contradiction, real and imagined. It is how you can be alienated by labour while gathering self-worth from your competence. Or being embarrassed in private about being proud in public. Within this space, it is possible to be a person that offers empathy while being subsumed with incredulity, or to believe in a system that nurtures us, while losing faith in the very system that holds it together. You can be imbued with dignity but die anyway. Here, you can make a perfect home in which no one is permitted inside, or entice the wayward by declaring your family broken. You can be the lone child survivor of a police bombing—a goddamn miracle—only to be bested by a hot tub on a cruise ship."

-Kim Nguyen Curator



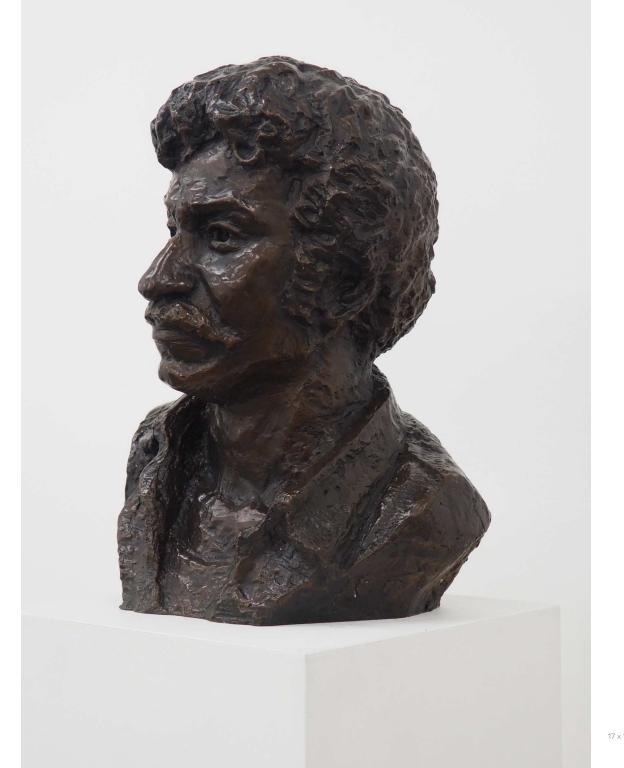




bronze







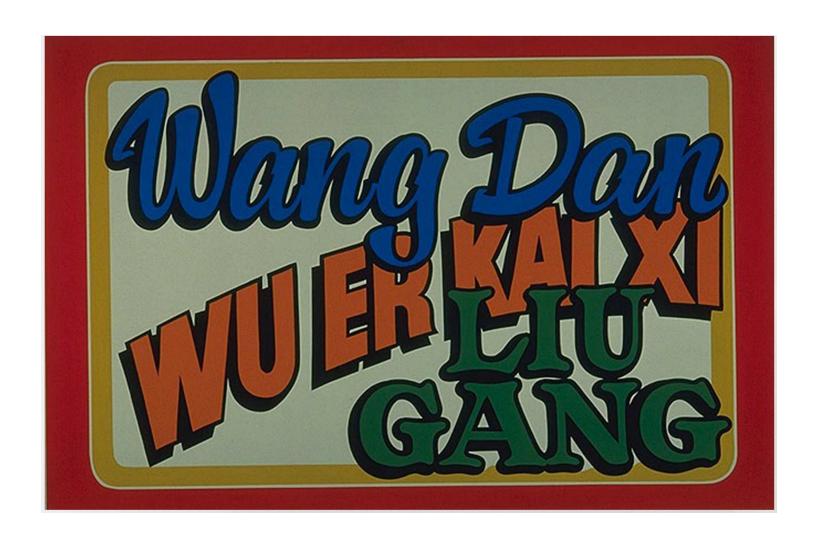




LANGUAGE PAINTINGS

"Lum's art investigates the constitution of identity in the face of the relentless forces of acculturation as played out in everyday lived experience... His fascination with the signs and symbols of the modern urban landscape has taken the form of performance, sculpture, paintings, photography and installation, often blurring the boundary between high art and popular aesthetics. Subverting the visual tropes of mass media - signs, billboards and logos - Lum reveals the tensions and contradictions that characterize life in an increasingly globalized world."

-Kathleen S. Bartels Director, Vancouver Art Gallery









MIRROR WORKS

"Our culture that has moved towards a fetish of the everyday, a fetish of drawing attention to yourself as an individual. It's a trend towards an ultra narcissism, and the emphasis on the individual comes at the exclusion of being able to formulate a critique on a societal level, because it's only about the individual, and that's a problem."

-Ken Lum



I must be losing my mind, 2003 two etched mirrors mounted on painted aluminum frames, Diptych $74\times30\times13/4$ in (187.7 \times 78.6 \times 6 cm) each







FURNITURE SERIES

"If we therefore take Lum's aggressive yet subtle sculptural blockades into the domains of the urban environment, spaces where forms of exclusion and boundary lines are constantly drawn according to social, political and economic rationals, one observes how, by the simple arrangement of furniture, a shape can be formed, and an outline of spacial attributes that is either self-enclosed and defensive or perhaps a transitory, anomalous sphere of temporary occupation is defined."

-Okwui Enwezor Curator, Writer, Scholar





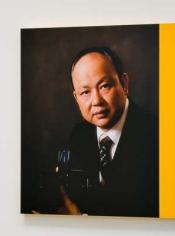


Untitled Furniture Sculpture, 1986 mixed media dimensions vary









BOON

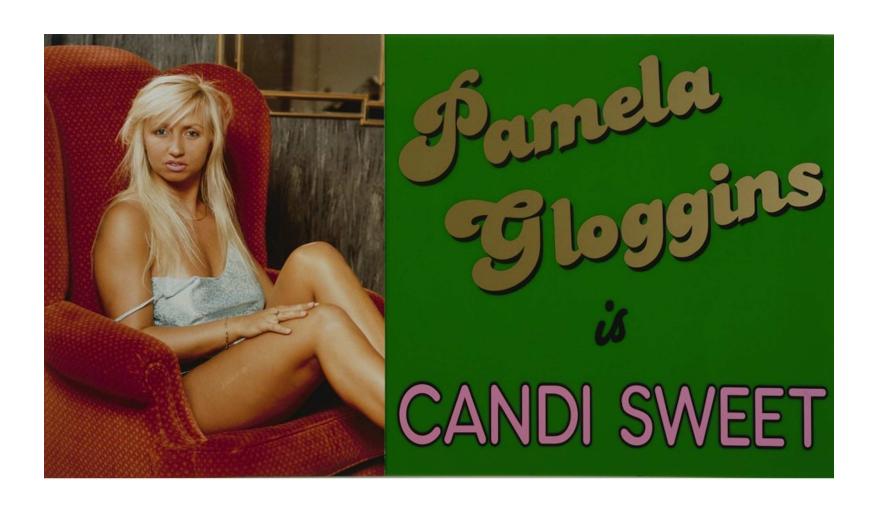
Photogram

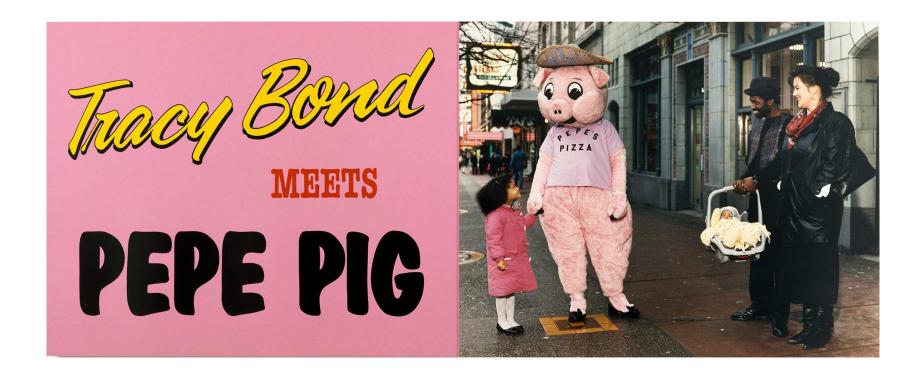


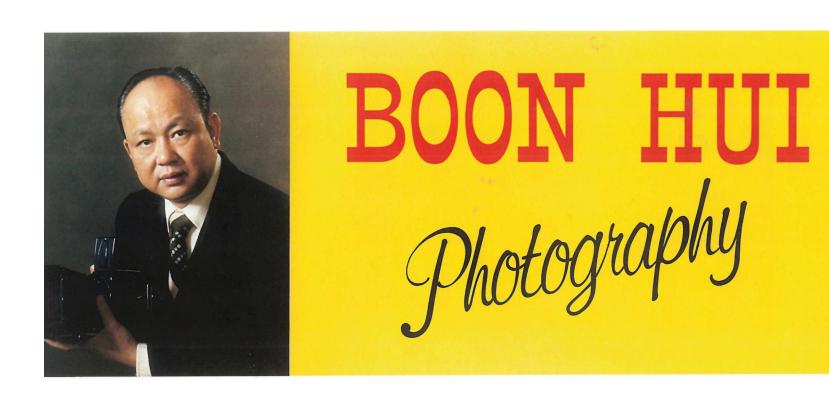
PORTRAIT-LOGO SERIES

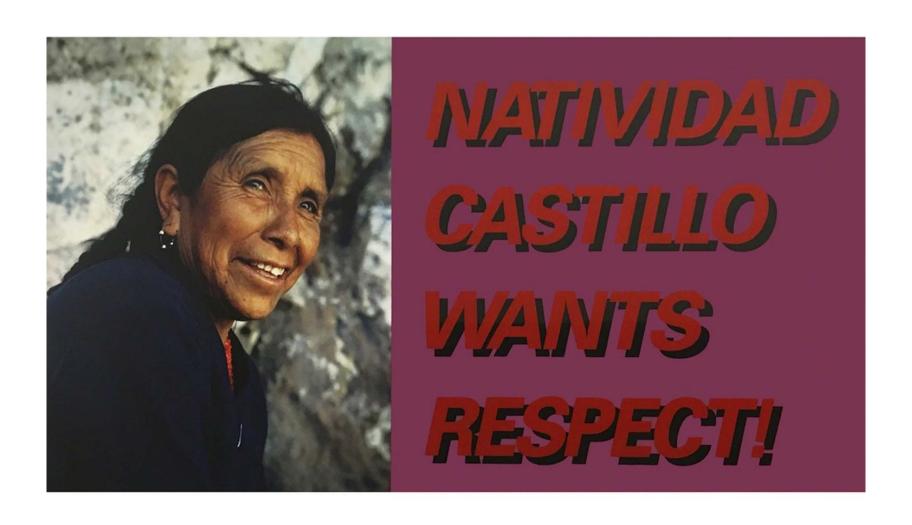
"Lum wants to intervene aggressively in the public and social spaces where he exhibits. Much of his art practice explores the anxiety, confusion, and contradictions that arise when people of disparate backgrounds meet. If Canada's New-World population of immigrants provides much of the content of his work, it is because he is interested in the interfaces (margins, borders, junctions, crosswords) where languages and cultures collide."

-Kitty Scott Curator











You don't lo You've neve loved me! When have loved me? When have given a shit about me?!

ve me r

you ever

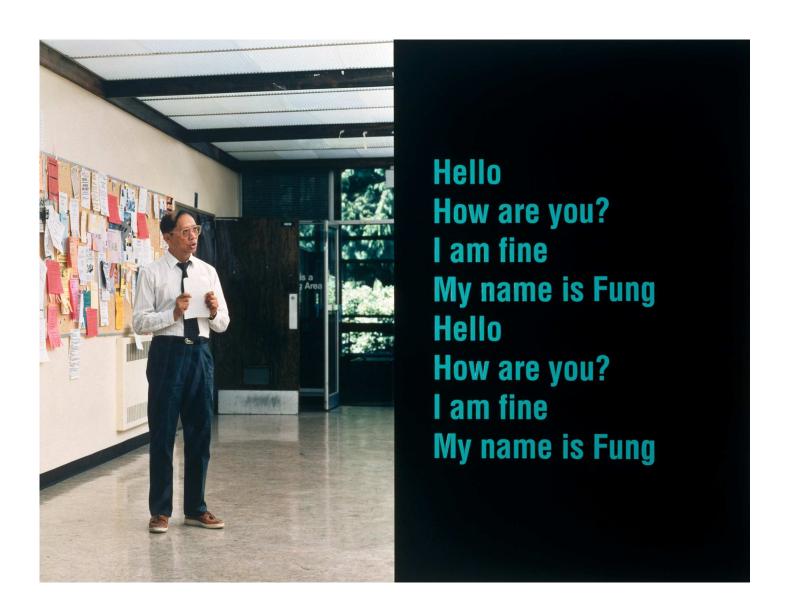
you ever

PORTRAIT-REPEATED TEXT SERIES

"Generally speaking, when art starts shrinking down into the art system it becomes less interesting. That's why I've always been interested in the signifiers of the street and the relationship of real lives to the form of art. It's art but I want people to think: this is plausible; this could be a real thing. I can identify with the young woman in *You Don't Love Me (1994)*. It strikes a set of emotions in me as a viewer... I remember being lost to language."

-Ken Lum

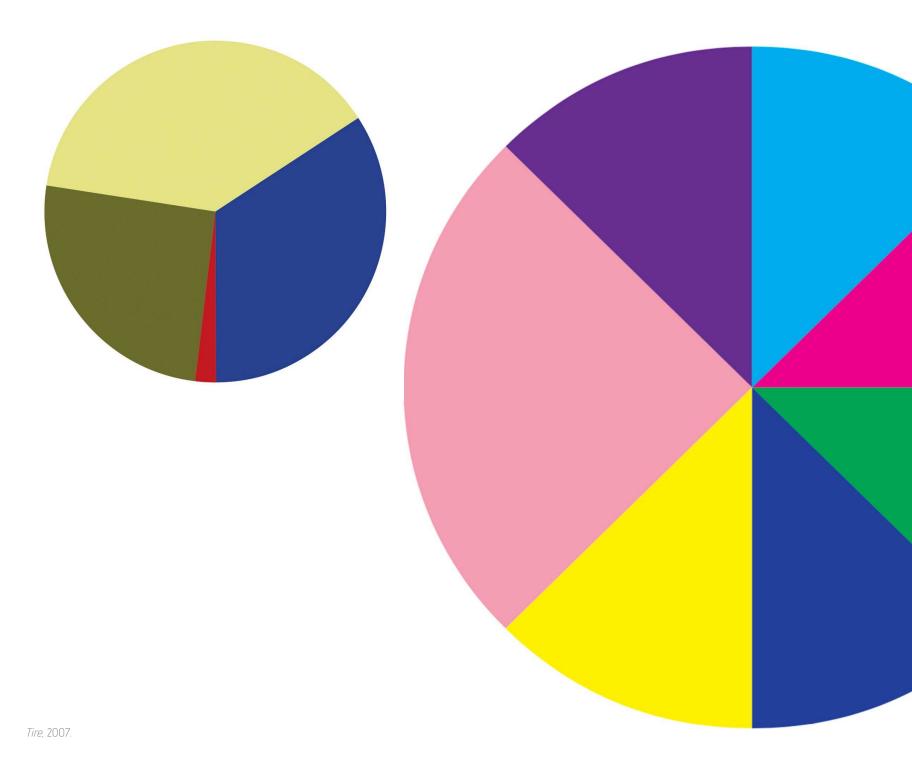






Onions, eggs, milk, butter, newspaper.





m royale projects

Royale Projects, established in 2008, focuses on the history and continuing advancement of abstraction in painting and sculpture, as well as on leading edge artists who find their roots in Conceptualism. Royale Projects maintains a rigorous schedule of solo and group exhibitions as well as site-responsive projects. The gallery debuted previously unseen works by Helen Pashgian, one of the innovators of the California Light & Space movement, and had the honor of presenting the last new works by Dennis Oppenheim. Royale Projects collaborated with Andrea Zittel's High Desert Test Sites to produce 'Trajectory Object c. 2000-2050' and the accompanying artist book by Karen Lofgren, as well as the career- defining project 'Lucid Stead' by Phillip K. Smith III, both in Joshua Tree, California. The downtown Los Angeles Arts District space opened with a survey exhibition of Ken Lum and was a participating gallery in The Getty's 'Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA', exhibiting new work by Rubén Ortiz Torres. Royale Projects recently began handling the estate of Clinton Hill (1922–2003), a lesser known member of the New York School. Contributing to the reappraisal of the artist as an important voice in American abstraction, the gallery debuted previously unseen works from the 1960s at The Frieze Art Fair in New York.

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Dambrot, Shana Nys. "Ken Lum is an artist: Work from the last 30 years". Art Itd. Nov. 2015.

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Heather, Rosemary. The Real and How to Find It – An Interview with Ken Lum by Rosemary Heather. Q&A Interviews, 2017.

Nguyen, Kim. "Whats old is old for a dog." CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, 2018.

Scott, Kitty. Ken Lum. "Ken Lum Works with Photography". Ottawa: National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. 2002. Print.

Kathleen S. Bartels: Director of Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada

Shana Nys Dambrot: Art critic, Curator, Author, Arts Editor for the LA Weekly and a contributor to Whitehot Magazine, KCET's Artbound,

Flaunt, Fabrik, Art and Cake, Artillery, Palm Springs Life, Riot Material, West Hollywood Lifestyle, Jenkem, and Porter & Sail

Okwui Enwezor: Former Artistic Director of Haus der Kunst in Munich, Germany, Curator, Critic, Writer, Poet, Educator

Rosemary Heather: Author at Momus, editor-in-chief of the digital imprint Q&A

Kim Nguyen: Curator and Head of Programs at the CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco, CA

Kitty Scott: The Carol and Morton Rapp Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada