

PRESS RELEASE**Jinny Yu**
Don't They Ever Stop Migrating?

Nuova Icona is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition by Jinny Yu *Don't They Ever Stop Migrating?* on September 4 at the Oratorio di San Ludovico.

Jinny Yu's site-specific installation at the Oratorio di San Ludovico in Venice comprises of a large three-dimensional painting with sound. Reflecting on the recent migration crises in the Mediterranean Sea and Bay of Bengal, Yu's new work *Don't They Ever Stop Migrating?* explores one's position within an increasingly globalized world. Using Hitchcock's *The Birds* (1963) as metaphor, the exhibition explores a range of emotional responses and attitudes towards mass migration.

Venice serves as the container for the space of Oratorio di San Ludovico as well as a conceptual ground for Yu's work. *Don't They Ever Stop Migrating?* exposes the city's history as a powerful maritime republic: a place of mixing cultures, a point of departure and arrival for manifold people and goods, and more recently a destination for mass tourism, with its inherent problems. The religious context of the exhibition space emphasizes the ethereal aspect of the work, combining the solemnity of the venue with the artwork's repetitive qualities.

The surface of Yu's painting is broken up with hundreds of thousands of black ink brushstrokes that resemble a foreign mass, circling at a distance. The abstract marks cover the structure in a vortex, alluding to the threat of them swooping down, perpetuating the sense of unease. Amongst the accompanying chorus of incoherent English words and abstracted voices emerge phrases such as "You don't think there's something going around, do you?" and "They're frightening the children." The words are remixed, layered and repeated in a rhythmic yet unpredictable sequence of utterances interrupted by the eerily segmented silences suggestive of a climax: the invasion by a foreign species. As our eyes and ears attempt to complete a narrative, the painting postulates on terms of migration while poignantly revealing the emotional and instinctual, or perhaps learned and inherited, responses towards the phenomenon of mass migration. This immersive environment questions individual prejudices and core beliefs about who constitutes "the other." The abstracted marks and collaged sounds in *Don't They Ever Stop Migrating?* act to describe a common response of animosity and suspicion towards migration, pointing to the social and political crux of this painting.

Born in the Republic of Korea and working in Canada and Italy, Jinny Yu's work has been shown widely, including in New York, London, Seoul, Düsseldorf, Miami, Kyoto, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver. She is Associate Professor of Painting at the University of Ottawa and the recipient of numerous grants and awards.

This exhibition is produced by Nuova Icona and supported by Ottawa Art Gallery.

NUOVA ICONA

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Nuova Icona (nuovaicona.org)

Nuova Icona is a non-profit cultural association founded in Venice in 1993 dedicated to support and promote contemporary visual arts. With an experimental attitude in contemporary art, Nuova Icona views itself as the organizational element, the active layer between the public and the artist, a workshop where new projects can be realized. Core activities are realization of exhibitions and conferences, curating of traveling exhibitions, and publication of catalogues.

Ottawa Art Gallery (www.ottawaartgallery.ca)

The Ottawa Art Gallery is an independent non-profit public art gallery in Ottawa, Canada committed to the acquisition, presentation, interpretation and dissemination of contemporary art for the benefit of the local arts community. Its programs explore a variety of issues and include exhibitions, talks, lectures, tours and publications.

Opening: Friday September 4, 2015, 6.00 pm

From September 5 till November 22, 2015

Tuesday - Friday, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closed on Monday

Artist-talk: Saturday September 5, 2015, 7 p.m.

Curated by: Elisa Genna, Vittorio Urbani, Ola Wlusek

Exhibition produced by: Nuova Icona

Sponsored by: Ottawa Art Gallery, City of Ottawa e Ontario Arts Council

Technical assistance: Emmeti impianti s.a.s.

Nuova Icona @ Oratorio di San Ludovico Venezia- Dorsoduro 2552 (Calle dei Vecchi) Waterbus n. 6, 2, San Basilio stop.

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