

I_S_L_A_N_D_S

FOR PERPETUAL RELEASE

Aggregate

Ben Loong

24 February – 31 March 2018

I_S_L_A_N_D_S is pleased to unveil a site-specific installation by Ben Loong. “Aggregate” presents specimens of eroded pavement and broken asphalt, worn and weathered by forces of nature. The humble fragments carry a layered mineral history, compacted by man into the structures that build our urban environment. Juxtaposing these solid segments are clusters of composite objects, crafted from industrial materials to replicate organic forms in geological phenomena.

Base materials with an original and specific function are appropriated and reassembled according to new processes and decisions here. Objects are not defined by their inherent properties; rather, their conceivable value is shaped by the chance and contingencies of placement and consumption.

Reimagining the site of exhibition as vitrines of history and ethnography, “Aggregate” considers the agency of display and how value systems are constructed through our representations of material culture. Setting up a confrontation between industry and ecology, viewers find themselves in a liminal space of reflection where natural patterns are measured against societal precepts.



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Ben Loong (b.1988, Singapore) works in the medium of painting and sculpture and explores networks that underlie human communication. Following a fascination with geography and the natural world, his current “Terra Blanca” series examines geographical and geological phenomena, and considers it in a contemporary context. Working primarily with drywall plaster, these works engage with the industrial, inviting the viewer to question the value of our physical world.

Loong currently lives and works in Singapore, and has previously shown at Pearl Lam Galleries, Singapore (2017), Chan + Hori Contemporary, Singapore (2017), Kult Gallery, Singapore (2015), Hart Lane Studios, London (2014) and Mori + Stein, London (2013).

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I_S_L_A_N_D_S is an experimental platform that encourages artists to reconsider the boundaries of their practice by testing novel concepts and alternative means of exhibition-making. The programme introduces short-term presentations in various formats, each building upon a topic or subject matter proposed by the artists.

[Island ecology ascribes increased speciation and biodiversity to islands, due to their isolation and high concentration of empty niches.]

Eight showcase windows situated in the passage between Peninsula Shopping Centre and Excelsior Shopping Centre are repurposed as a hybrid social network, bulletin, and transitory space for dialogue and exchange. **I_S_L_A_N_D_S** adds and distracts from each individual's practice, much like the ebb and flow of the tides.

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