

Artists at The Fire Station: Biographies

Ming Wong, born in Singapore and bred on a diet of BBC World Service, US TV sitcoms, Asian Kung Fu and Bollywood movies, is an artist who makes films / videos / interventions / events that explore performance, moving image, language and identity. His work is informed by his experiences working in the theatre in multi-lingual, multi-ethnic Singapore from where he originates, before re-locating to London ten years ago. The use of stagecraft in his film/video/live art work is often subverted by structural breakdowns in language, narrative, visual continuity, etc to lay bare the artificiality in the construction of identity or modes of identification. He has recently completed a year-long creative fellowship at the British Library. For more information visit: www.mingwong.org.

Ben Cove was born in 1974 and has spent much of his life in Manchester. He studied Architecture at the University of Nottingham (1992-1995) and Fine Art at Sheffield Hallam University (1998-2001). He makes work across a range of disciplines, from paintings and sculptures to video and installed works. Recent solo exhibitions include Practical Mechanics at Cell Project Space, London and New Plastic Universal, at Castlefield Gallery, Manchester. He will use his time at the Fire Station to develop new work within an environment of fellow practitioners whilst studying part-time on the Masters at Goldsmiths College. For more information visit: www.benjamincove.com

Kate Broad completed an MA at the Royal College of Art in 1995 and has continued to develop her practice as a London-based artist. Over the last five years she has lectured at several institutions contributing to multi-disciplinary and fine art textiles graduate study. She hopes this residency will help consolidate her practice as a fine artist and raise its status in the public domain. With painting as her primary process she hopes to develop a body of research that looks at the discipline of drawing in its own right as well as an integral part of painting. The residency in all its diversity will contribute to her research into 'what constitutes painting' by influencing her exploration of alternative approaches to this question. Kate has also been awarded The Sarah Greengrass Memorial Award.

Lisa Cheung has lived in Hong Kong, Toronto, and has been based in London since 1996 when she attended Goldsmiths College. Her practice encompasses installation, lighting works, photography and participatory projects. Her work is site specific, often involving elements of a particular site and the people who use the space. In the past six years she has travelled

extensively to various different countries for exhibition, projects and artist residencies including Brazil, Martinique, Korea and Spain. The Fire Station residency will allow her to consolidate and further develop many of the ideas and projects she has already begun on these short-term residencies within the UK and abroad.

Maggie Hills graduated from Edinburgh College of Art in 1994 and has since led something of an itinerant existence: frequently re-locating in order to make the most of awards and residency opportunities (most recently she was the Durham Cathedral artist-in-residence). The Fire Station residency will provide a much needed injection of stability, allowing her a sustained period within which to develop her ideas and properly establish her practice. Maggie is (primarily) a painter whose current watercolour on canvas paintings address themes of escapism, nostalgia and loss. Her work has been exhibited in the UK, Europe, and the USA.

Robert Holyhead. Since completing an MA in Painting at Chelsea School of Art, Robert has continued to work with the language of abstraction, exploring its history whilst negotiating possible shifts within the painted surface, allowing for its vocabulary to be examined in an open process of addition and subtraction. The Fire Station residency serves to create a stable working environment over five years, in which time Robert will further his inquiry into the problems, solutions and possibilities in painting today. Expanding his relationship with the language and pursuing a context for the work outside the studio. Recent exhibitions include solo presentations at Kontainer (Los Angeles) and Keith Talent (London) with forthcoming projects in Bristol (U.K) and Miami (U.S.A).

Lizzie Hughes was born in Wales in 1973. She recently completed an MFA at the Slade School of Fine Art and has exhibited widely both in the UK and abroad. Looking at mapping and measurement she works across many different media including sound, installation and text. The Fire Station will give her the time, space and stability she needs to develop new projects.

Riccardo Iacono makes abstract animations, video collages, performance tapes and installations using a range of techniques: direct painting on to film, photography, optical printing, digital imaging, chemical processing; improvisation, recycling and feedback. His works are musical, poetic and experimental in nature and are formed through an exploration of visual and aural perception; language, identity and culture; the body, the image, and the interaction of different materials and processes. Iacono (b. 1969) studied Painting at Glasgow School of Art and Electronic Imaging at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee. Works have been

shown on Channel 4 and Tate Britain. A solo show is scheduled from 20 April to 27 May 2007 at Castlefield Gallery, Manchester.

For more information visit: <http://www.riccardoiacono.co.uk>
<http://www.axisweb.org/artist/riccardoiacono>

Samson Kambalu was born in Malawi, in 1975, where he attended Kamuzu Academy, the famed 'Eton of the Bush' and taught Fine Art at the University of Malawi's Chancellor College. Since graduating from Nottingham Trent University in 2003, Samson Kambalu has been featured in Bloomberg New Contemporaries, been described by the Guardian Newspaper as one of the 'seven artists to colour the future of British art' and was awarded the Decibel Award for visual art in 2004. He has exhibited his work widely, in Africa, Europe, and the United States. His first book, a childhood memoir, entitled 'The Jive Talker' will be published by Jonathan Cape in the spring of 2008.

For more information visit: www.holyballism.com

Damien Roach. Since completing an MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art, Damien has continued to work on his increasingly diverse research project, which centres around investigations into the indeterminate or transitional. Furthering his interdisciplinary approach, incorporating painting, drawing, video, animation, installation and photography, The Fire Station residency has allowed him the opportunity to continue to treat the studio and exhibition space as a laboratory rather than a factory. Recent exhibitions include the Prospects Drawing Prize (London), Hide and Seek / Hidden Agendas (ACME, Los Angeles) and Spin Cycle (Spike Island, Bristol).

Jack Southern works in a range of media, including film/video, photography and web works, often incorporating site-specific installation. Projects focus on specific cultural circumstances and their relationship to broader global, political and social sensibilities. In 2005 Southern was awarded the Acme Studios Firestation residency in London where he is currently working on a body of work based on the changing identity of Bow, East London. Recent exhibitions include: 'Inverse', Newlyn Gallery, Cornwall, 'Monitor', Lot 6, Bristol, 'Famed', Slade School of Fine Art research centre, London and 'Culture bound', East wing collection at the Courtauld institute, London. Southern recently showed video from a new body of animation works at 'Hull International short film festival.'

For more information visit: www.firestation-artists.org.uk