

KINGS Artist Run acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate. We offer our respect to Elders both past and present and extend this offer to all First Nations people.

KINGS

Megan Tan

THE ARTIST IS
NOT ALLOWED

NOVEMBER
23.11.23-16.12.23

Artist Run

Established in 2003, KINGS Artist-Run provides a location for contemporary art practice, supporting distinctive experimental projects by artists at all stages of their careers.

Open 12-5pm Thursday,
Friday, Saturday
69 Capel Street,
West Melbourne VIC 3003

GALLERY ONE

Megan Tan

The artist is not allowed

With contributions from Jennifer Fong, Alex Liao, Dominic Yau, Tiffany Goh, Leon Truong and Madam Leong.

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Megan Tan, being monolingual with no knowledge of Chinese language, has decided to learn Cantonese—her mother’s first language.

Megan has tasked Madam Leong with answering some questions in Cantonese. The resulting exchange was recorded as an audio file.

Megan will not be attempting to interpret the Cantonese components of the recording until two years from now, when she speculatively will have sufficient grasp of the language.

Five Australian-born friends of the artist with Cantonese backgrounds have listened to the audio file and attempted to interpret it. These contributions have been compiled and printed by a third party. Their contents are open to all but must be kept secret from the artist.

Still-life paintings of objects, collected out of a tenuous sinophilic impulse, dress the reading room. Like the sound work, they too are conceived from a naive gaze that will change over time.

Megan Tan is a conceptual artist, painter and writer of Chinese descent based in Naarm.

Jennifer Fong, Alex Liao, Dominic Yau, Tiffany Goh and Leon Truong are beloved by the artist and based in Naarm.

Madam Leong is a polyglot and CPA. She relocated from Malaysia to Australia in 1990.

List of works

GALLERY ONE

Clockwise, left to right from door:

The anticipation of puncturing a vacuum-sealed container, 2023.

Oil on linen board, 36 x 46cm.

Cultural exchange in a vacuum, 2023.

Oil on linen, 46 x 35cm

Ancestral worship out of context, 2023.

Oil on linen board, 46 x 61cm.