

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Friday, April 12, 2019

## York Chang: The Signal and the Noise

April 13, 2019 – July 20, 2019



**(MONTEREY PARK, CA)** – The Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College is pleased to present *York Chang: The Signal and the Noise*, an ambitious solo exhibition by the Los Angeles-based artist. Chang makes conceptually driven work which considers the relationship between images and text, and how collective action is influenced by spectacle and new forms of propaganda. In this project, he employs mixed media strategies as interventions into information systems, appropriating newspapers, graphic displays, found images, and sculpture to create an immersive environment in the exhibition space.

Works in the exhibition take an uneasy, ambivalent position on this present moment, and on the question of whether aesthetics have any critical potential left to resist these conditions, rather than to contribute to it. As the boundaries between entertainment and political spheres collapse in our visual environment, aesthetics in political images can work to desensitize the viewer to the pain and suffering of others or it can overwhelm their sense of agency through distraction and spectacle. But aesthetics in politics can also bring attention to covert disasters, transmit the emotional weight of narratives of oppression, and clarify moral truths. The exhibition questions how we find our bearings, how do we find truth in poetry, prose, and reportage when they all exist on the same groundless plane, when we may all be descending together in freefall.

"This exhibition provides a timely opportunity for critical reflection on our collective relationship to mass media, truth, and fiction," said VPAM Director Pilar Tompkins Rivas. "York's practice offers an original take on the complexities of this tension through aesthetics."

### **EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS**

The sculpture *Freefall (2019)*, is a collapsed balcony, ripped from its architectural context, proposing a state of perpetual falling. The work references the loss of one's bearings, or the absence of a common belief in a collective social horizon line. In the present moment, where political, cultural, and entertainment spheres are often consumed and collapsed into the same digital plane, the work signals the lack of a basic societal consensus on what is up and what is down.

*Forensic IV (2019)* explores how groups of images can produce meaning in relationship to each other, and in ways that are similar to how words and language function. In the absence of an explanatory text, people often search for patterns and categories that can bridge the gap between the images to create narratives of their own. In this work, Chang presents an erased index of images which complicates the viewers' drive to construct such meanings. Here, the artist has taken obsolete Polaroid film, mechanical photographic devices solely designed for the production of instant, chemically produced images, and has reversed them. By flipping 285 Polaroid images, and actively denying access to them, he denies the immediacy of the image while paradoxically underscoring the necessity and power of the image itself. Viewers are left to sort through what remains in the gaps between and behind the images, and what they project onto that void.

Throughout the gallery space, *Factographic Fields (2019)* covers the floor in a dynamic installation. Factography is a concept coined by the Soviet avant-garde to describe the aesthetic practice of embedding facts within storytelling to create a greater collective truth. The term is applied here to describe the visual ordering of photojournalistic images. In this work, Chang grapples with finding himself in a new age of propaganda, a time when there are no coincidences, only anonymous algorithms driving systems and networks of diverse images into our consciousness in an immersive, perpetual visual campaign. These images cast auras on each other to the point of illegibility, functioning as a montage in space but without time or directional constraints. The artist's factographs, published at one of the last newspaper offset printing presses in Los Angeles, give a material, analog sense of the volume of images consumed every day in the digital world.

### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Trained as both a lawyer and an artist, York Chang's (b. 1973, St. Louis, MO) visual art practice employs strategies of collage, décollage, redaction and interlineation as interventions into information systems, often appropriating legal contracts, books, archives, documentary films, and newspapers for use as material in his projects. Chang's work is concurrently on view in a solo exhibition at the Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA), and he has exhibited his work at Commonwealth & Council, Greene Exhibitions, Samuel Freeman Gallery, Charlie James Gallery, 18th Street Arts Center, LACE, MAK Center for Art & Architecture, MassMOCA, and Edel Assanti in London. He is a 2014 California Community Foundation Fellowship Grantee, and a 2011 18th Street Arts Center Artist Fellowship Grantee.

## **RELATED PROGRAMS**

### **OPENING RECEPTION**

Saturday, April 13, 2019  
5:00 – 7:00 pm

### **THE SIGNAL AND THE NOISE: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN YORK CHANG AND CHARLES GAINES**

Thursday, June 13, 2019  
5:00 – 7:00 pm

Join artists York Chang and Charles Gaines as they discuss the intersections between poetics, politics, and semiotics in their respective art practices.

### **CLOSING WALKTHROUGH WITH YORK CHANG**

Saturday, July 20, 2019  
2:00 – 3:00 pm

Join artist York Chang in the galleries as he discusses his artistic practice and the works on display in the exhibition. This special walkthrough will be the final opportunity to view the exhibition.

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## **ABOUT THE VINCENT PRICE ART MUSEUM**

The mission of the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College is to serve as a unique educational resource for the diverse audiences of the college and the community through the exhibition, interpretation, collection, and preservation of works in all media of the visual arts. VPAM provides an environment to encounter a range of aesthetic expressions that illuminate the depth and diversity of artwork produced by people of the world, both contemporary and past. By presenting thoughtful, innovative and culturally diverse exhibitions and by organizing cross-disciplinary programs on issues of historical, social, and cultural relevance, VPAM seeks to promote knowledge, inspire creative thinking, and deepen an understanding of and appreciation for the visual arts.

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Vincent Price Art Museum is free. Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 12:00pm–4:00pm, with extended hours on Thursday until 7:00pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays and national holidays. Vincent Price Art Museum, East Los Angeles College, 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754–6099. Onsite parking \$2 in the structure located at Collegian Avenue and Floral Drive.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**WEBSITE**

vincentpriceartmuseum.org

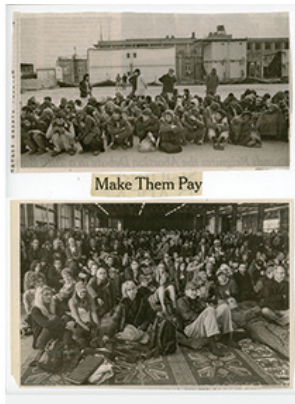
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**IMAGE CREDITS**

York Chang, *Shredded*, Epson Ultrachrome HDR on Japanese kozo paper, 2017. Courtesy of the artist.

### PUBLICITY IMAGES

Below is a selection of approved images for publication in conjunction with promotion of *York Chang: The Signal and the Noise*. Both artwork and gallery installation images are available for promotional usage. Image reproductions must include full caption information. Images may not be cropped or altered in any way or superimposed with any printing. High-resolution files of all approved images are available through the Vincent Price Art Museum's Google Drive account. To request access, please email [info@vincentpriceartmuseum.org](mailto:info@vincentpriceartmuseum.org).



### TOP ROW, ARTWORK IMAGE CREDITS

**LEFT:** York Chang, *Make Them Pay*, 2019, Offset Lithography on Newsprint. Courtesy of the artist.

**CENTER:** York Chang, *Spectator*, 2019, Offset Lithography on Newsprint. Courtesy of the artist.

**RIGHT:** York Chang, *Adrifts by Shifts*, 2019, Offset Lithography on Newsprint. Courtesy of the artist.

**BOTTOM ROW, GALLERY INSTALL IMAGE CREDITS:** Installation view, "York Chang: The Signal and the Noise" on view at the Vincent Price Art Museum, East Los Angeles College, April 13, 2019–July 20, 2019. Photo by Monica Orozco.