With the sixth iteration of Queens International, the Queens Museum’s signature biennial evolves into yet another phase. Taiwan-based Meiya Cheng, the first non-New York-based curator to participate, joins the Museum’s Hitomi Iwasaki in an exhibition emphasizing site-specificity as a collaborative practice between the curators and artists and their surroundings. As one of the inaugural exhibitions in the Museum’s expanded space, Queens International 2013 echoes the institution’s own hyperawareness of its new environs.

Reaching out to active producers both in and out of the visual arts, Queens International 2013 is composed of a number of event- and performance-based projects, including many off-site programs charged with idiosyncratic and unexpected insights and approaches. 38 artists and 5 collaboratives stretch ideas and practices of cooperative creativity in surprising directions and degrees, between and among artists, Museum staff (beyond the curatorial team), outside organizations and other specialists. The results transgress the boundaries of disciplines beyond visual art practices – cinema, community engagement, music, open-forum discussion, guided touring, architecture, theatre, literature and food – mashing, matching and revitalizing all for wider accessibility and larger communication.

From community based experimental art-sharing programs to specialized investigations into obscure local vernaculars, to seemingly conventional photographs and sculptural objects and performances that challenge the new Museum spaces, Queens International 2013 teems with ambitious artistries that challenge boundaries of media, methods, and concepts in current creative productions and museum practices alike. With a guided fishing trip in search of the invasive snakehead, a Queens/Brooklyn border walk, a pickling workshop, a Bulgarian women’s a capella choir, a do-it-yourself/together movie soundtrack performance, a participatory DJ performance, a group drone-building workshop, paintings exhibited by way of video and live sound performance, an intercontinental duet concert via Skype, and a deconstructed theatrical play taking place simultaneously in multiple locations throughout the Museum spaces, the exhibition both energizes and escapes from the Museum’s new 105,000 square foot home.

Parameters are further blurred, crossed, and reconsidered by Cheng’s fresh perspective on the borough of Queens today. Together with Iwasaki, Cheng has intensely surveyed the local artistic environment, and infused Queens International 2013 with artistic and socio-cultural parallels and counterpoints from her native Taiwan to examine how these distant places – Queens and Taiwan – define themselves and are defined by each other. To further explore this dynamic, for the first time, Queens International includes non-Queens-based artists, in this case a cohort of nine artists from Taiwan’s contemporary art scene. This group investigates the possibility of a community as the collective imagination of “a place” beyond geographical boundaries, societal and cultural divisions, and global conflicts over labor and capital. Video pieces address the intertwined themes of border control, cultural identity, and the ambiguity of language and translation, all issues germane to ongoing discourse in both contemporary Queens and Taiwan. Additional commissioned performances and site-related projects find the artists interpreting the historical and social context of the Museum and the borough as a whole.
Saturday, November 9, 2013

11–2pm
Lynley Bernstein’s guided fishing trip, *Fishing for the Elusive Snakehead*

12:30–4:30pm
Video screenings of works by Taiwanese artists: Chang Chien-Chi, Chen Chieh-jen, Hsu Chia-Wei, Jun Yang and Yu Cheng-Ta

3–5pm
Multicultural Welcoming & Blessing Ceremonies including Vlada Tomova’s Bulgarian Women’s Choir *A! Capella! Blessing!*

4pm onward
Live music set *Meanwhile back in Queens…* by Juan Wauters with Carmelle Safdie at Matthew Volz’s stage installation

4–5pm
Joseph Heathcott’s *Brooklyn-Queens Borderlands Virtual Walking Tour on the Panorama*

6–6:30pm
Fujui Wang’s sound performance *Hyper Transmission New York*

6–9pm
Video screenings of works by Taiwanese artists: Chang Chien-Chi, Hsu Chia-Wei, Jun Yang and Yu Cheng-Ta

8–9pm
Joro-Boro’s DJ mix *Smuggle Party* created on-site from mp3 files donated by Museum visitors

Sunday, November 10, 2013

12–5pm
Video screenings and panel discussion (Speakers TBA) of works by Taiwanese artists: Chang Chien-Chi; Chen Chieh-jen; Hsu Chia-Wei; Jun Yang and Yu Cheng-Ta

1–4pm
Tushevs Aerials (Georgi and Nina Tushev) aerial video workshop and demonstration, *Build Your Own Drone*

2–5pm
Alex White Mazzarella’s participatory performance, *Citizens vs. Work: The Public Trials*

5:30–6pm
Fujui Wang’s sound performance, *Hyper Transmission New York*

Monday, November 11, 2013

12–6pm
Video screenings of works by local artists Tushevs Aerials (Georgi and Nina Tushev), Michelle Marie Charles, Deville Cohen, Anna K.E. and Nitin Mukul

1–3pm
Vlada Tomova’s *Pickling/Talking/Singing* workshop that combines storytelling, music, and pickle-making

3–5pm
Meglena Zapreva’s art making workshop, *Smuggle Tactics: Imaginary International Community Garden*
Saturday, November 16, 2013

11–2pm
Lynley Bernstein’s guided fishing trip, Fishing for the Elusive Snakehead

2–2:15pm
Milena Deleva’s book exchange event and performance, Smuggle Gobbledygook (Book Crossing and Literary Flash Mob)

3–4pm
Nitin Mukul’s video Crater (score and live performance by Leyna Marika Papach)

5–6pm
Richard Garet’s sound performance, Mnemonics: for Space Invaders

Sunday, November 17, 2013

5–6pm
Kevin Beasley’s sound performance, From Ashy to Classy Mix I (Valley of Ashes)

Saturday, December 7, 2013

1–3pm
Video screenings of works by local artists Tushevs Aerials (Georgi and Nina Tushev), Michelle Marie Charles, Deville Cohen, Anna K.E. and Nitin Mukul followed by Q&A

6–8pm
Queens World Film Festival’s (Don and Katha Cato) film screenings, Graphically Speaking: Welcome to nowhere (Bullet Hole Road) by William Cusick (2012); Way by Elizabeth Pasieczny (2007)

Saturday, December 14, 2013

7–9pm
Flux Factory’s (Douglas Paulson and Christina Vassallo) panel discussion, Flux Death Match: ‘Ennial Spectacle. Speakers: Ben Davis, Tom Finkelparl, Natalie Jereminjenko, and others TBA

Sunday, January 19, 2014

12:30–4pm
Queens World Film Festival’s (Don and Katha Cato) film screenings From/Around the World: Old Angel by Dony Chiang (Taiwan, 2012); 15 Summers Later by Pedro Collantes (Spain, 2011); My Green Pencil by Fayaz Bahram (Iran, 2012); Of Guilt and Grief by Tom van den Broek (Wales, 2012); Swing by Yen-ting Kuo (Taiwan, 2010); Curvas by David Galindo (Spain, 2012); Drat by Farzin Farzaneh (Canada, 2010); At the Formal by Andrew Kavanagh (Australia, 2011); Tits of an 18 Year Old by Luca Gennari (Italy, 2012); Pollicino by Cristiano Anania (Italy, 2012); From/Around the Corner: Wyldflower by Justin Staley (2010); Baby I love You by Faiyaz Jafri (2012); Charred by Michael Chmiel (2012); My Emily by Brandon Sanford (2011); The Love Permit by Christopher Ludgate (2010); Can’t Dance by Richard Ulig (2011); Emma by Anne Hue (2012); My Day by Paul Kelly (2013) Films followed by Q&A with film directors.

1–2pm
Ander Mikalson’s performance with Corona Youth Orchestra, Score for Two Dinosaurs

2–5pm
Theater 167/Ari Laura Kreith’s interactive site-specific performance featuring excerpts from The Jackson Heights Trilogy

4:30–5pm
Jane Benson’s intercontinental live duet performance, Extended Play: ToWhenuaCentroChapineroCorona

5–6pm
Joro-Boro’s DJ mix, Smuggle Party, created on-site from mp3 files donated by Museum visitors

5–6pm
Joseph Heathcott’s Brooklyn-Queens Borderlands Virtual Walking Tour on the Panorama
Queens International 2013
Participants Include

Nobutaka Aozaki
Art & The Commons
(David Andersson and Antonio Serna)
Kevin Beasley
Jane Benson
Lynley Bernstein
Alberto Borea
Chang Chien-Chi
Michelle Marie Charles
Chen Chieh-jen
Chou Yu-Cheng
Deville Cohen
Bulgarian Collaborative: Joro-Boro,
Milena Deleva, Daniela Kostova/
Mario Mohan, Vlada Tomova,
Tushevs Aerials (Georgi and
Nina Tushev), Meglena Zapreva
Jeff Feld
Flux Factory (Douglas Paulson
and Christina Vassallo)
Richard Garet

Wojciech Gilewicz
Joseph Heathcott
Hsu Chia-Wei
Zeynab Izadyar
Anna K.E.
Theatre 167/Ari Laura Kreith
Siobhan Landry
Cheon Pyo Lee
Liu Ho-Jang
Luo Jr-shin
Alex White Mazzarella
Florian Meisenberg
Ander Mikalson
Nitin Mukul
Arthur Ou
Queens World Film Festival
(Don and Katha Cato)
Aida Šehović
Matthew Volz (and Juan Wauters
with Carmelle Safdie)
Fujui Wang
Kristof Wickman
Jun Yang
Yu Cheng-Ta
Bryan Zanisnik

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Iwasaki, the Queens Museum’s Director
of Exhibitions.

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