

Samson Young (b.1979)



Gameboy Haiku (2008), hacked nintendo gameboys



RPG Triptych (2009), interactive video installation

With formal training in classical music and a keen eye for visuals, installations and technologies, Young has been known to combine his diverse interests into uniquely intermedia experiences that manifest both in exhibitions or performative situations. Young's creative output spans the widest possible range: from composition for symphony orchestra and toys, to Nintendo gameboy-turned-sound-objects, to amusement ride-turned-interactive video installations. Described by contemporary music portal Sequenza 21 as "epic, dark, and fun", Samson Young's creative output juxtaposes elements of game and play with violently political gestures, to create experiences of rich darkness and perverted fun.

In 2007, Samson Young became the first Hong Kong artist to receive the Bloomberg Emerging Artist Award with his *Happiest Hour* – a collection of Nintendo gameboy-inspired audio-visual installations. In 2009, CNN's global portal CNNgo named him one of the "top 20 people to watch in Hong Kong."

Samson Young's compositions, installations and multimedia works have been presented in festivals such as the Sydney Springs International New Music Festival (Australia 2001), the Canberra International Music Festival (Australia 2008), and ISCM World Musid Days (Australia 2010); the Bowdoin International Music Festival (US 2004), Bang on a Can Music Summer Music Festival (US 2005), Perspectives International Festival of Media Art (US 2009), Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt (Germany 2006); Dark Music Days (Iceland 2008); Kuala Lumpur Contemporary Music Festival (Malaysia 2009); Microwave International New Media Arts Festival (HK 2004), October Contemporary (HK 2007 and 2009), Le French May (HK 2004 and 2009), and the Hong Kong Arts Festival (HK 2009 and 2010). His concert compositions received performances by Hong Kong Sinfonietta, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, London NASH Ensemble, City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, Bang on a Can, Network for New Music, New Millennium Ensemble, So Percussion, Sydney Song Company, and Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, among others.

Education

(2007 -) Ph.D candidate in Music, Princeton University
(2005 – 2007) M.F.A. in Music, Princeton University
(2003 – 2005) M.Phil in Music, University of Hong Kong
(1997 – 2002) B.A., in Music, Philosophy and Gender Studies, University of Sydney

Festival Presentations

The 11th Sydney Springs International Music Festival, Australia (2000)
Cattle Depot Arts Festival, Hong Kong (2003)
Le French May Arts Festival, Hong Kong (2004, 2009)
Bowdoin International Music Festival, Maine USA (2004)
Microwave International New Media Festival, Hong Kong (2004)
Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA, USA (2005)
Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt, Germany (2006)
October Contemporary, Hong Kong (2007, 2009)
Dark Music Days Contemporary Music Festival, Iceland (2008)
Canberra International Music Festival, Australia (2008)
Hong Kong Arts Festival, Hong Kong (2009, 2010)
International Society of Contemporary Music (ISCM) Festival, Australia (2010)

Artist Residency

Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) (2005)
Sydney Song Company and Australian Music Center, ModART05 (2005)
Atlantic Center for the Arts, Florida (2006)

Solo Exhibitions

2010 Last Intervention, Cube 37, Frankston Arts Centre, Melbourne, Australia
2009 Box of Revelation, McAulay Studio, Hong Kong Art Center
2007 The Happiest Hour, Sino Hong Kong Art Gallery, Hong Kong

Group Exhibitions

2010 Hong Kong Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture, Hong Kong
2009 Prospectives International Festival of Media Art, University of Nevada
2009 Re: Animating, City Fringe Festival, JCCAC, Hong Kong
2008 Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win: Emerging Artists from the Chinese

- Diaspora, Deutschebank, New York
- 2007 October Contemporary Hong Kong: Siren, Osage Art Foundation
Gallery, Kwun Tong, Hong Kong
- 2007 Shenzhen-Hong Kong Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture,
OCT, Shenzhen, China and Victoria Prison, Hong Kong
- 2007 14QKs, Para/site, Hong Kong
- 2005 Gong-Tormented Sea, Habitus, Hong Kong
- 2004 Microwave International Media Art Festival Exhibition, Hong Kong