

For immediate release

## ***Angela Su: Arise, Hong Kong in Venice,* Collateral Event of the 59th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia**

(14 March 2022, Hong Kong) M+, Hong Kong's global museum of contemporary visual culture in the West Kowloon Cultural District, and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) are proud to announce the exhibition *Angela Su: Arise, Hong Kong in Venice*, Collateral Event at the 59th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia. This is the fifth collaboration between M+ and the HKADC at one of the world's most prestigious international art platforms.

**Freya Chou**, an independent curator based in Hong Kong, guest curated the exhibition with consulting curator **Ying Kwok**, senior curator at Tai Kwun in Hong Kong and guest curator of Hong Kong's Collateral Event at Biennale Arte 2017.

In her presentation, Su conveys a speculative narrative through interlocking fictional perspectives. The act of levitation serves as an organising metaphor that reappears throughout Su's drawings, moving image works, embroideries, and installations. The artist assumes the guise of a fictional alter-ego to explore the myriad cultural and political valence of rising in the air.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a new video work, *The Magnificent Levitation Act of Lauren O*. This pseudo-documentary tells the story of Lauren O, a fictional character who believes she can levitate, and her involvement with Laden Raven, an activist group catalysed by the US anti-war movement of the 1960s. Su's video comprises found footage and clips of a new performance by the artist. Weaving together fact and fiction, the work suggests an alternative space for action and disruption.

Traces of Lauren O and Laden Raven are embedded in the constellation of artwork in the exhibition. The works on view invite the audience to take a journey in this fictional world built by Su. A circus ring and a swing, both exaggerated in scale and proportion, are situated in the courtyard outside the main exhibition. Su's renowned drawings and hair embroideries are also featured in the presentation, conveying the physical and psychological experiences of living in precarious times.

The world Su creates in *Arise* is an assemblage of various contemporary expressions of how an individual can confront a changed and changing world. Fiction allows us to create this hybrid world, a space where we can explore ideas that cannot be confronted directly. As was the case with the four previous collaborations between M+ and HKADC for the International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Hong Kong audiences will have the opportunity to see Angela Su's work following the close of the Venice presentation. A return exhibition will be on view in 2023 at M+ in Hong Kong.

**Suhanya Raffel, Museum Director, M+**, underscores the importance of the ongoing collaboration between M+ and HKADC for fostering recognition of Hong Kong artists and curators on an international stage: 'The opening of Angela Su's presentation in Venice marks the fifth fruitful collaboration between M+ and the HKADC, in which we present the best of Hong Kong contemporary art and curatorship to a wide international audience in Venice. We are pleased to present another female artist and are extremely proud to see curators from Hong Kong taking on a more significant role in the project. For M+, this edition of the Biennale Arte 2022 is especially significant as our museum is now open. We trust that our permanent home will allow us to continue to promote and nourish the development of Hong Kong art in new and inspiring ways. We look forward to receiving an international audience in Venice.'

**Wilfred Wong, Chairman of HKADC**, says, 'Our participation as Collateral Event in the Venice Biennale has been one of the flagship projects of HKADC since 2001. Over the years, we have presented outstanding Hong Kong visual artists and their works to the world through this international arts platform. We are glad to continue our partnership with M+ this year to present respected artist Angela Su's works to a global audience in Venice. We believe that the exhibition will promote and profile Hong Kong arts and culture, as well as encourage new perspectives which enlighten the world.'

**Doryun Chong, Deputy Director, Curatorial and Chief Curator of M+**, who served as Co-Curator of the 2015 edition and as Consulting Curator for the 2017 and 2019 editions, emphasises the relevance of Angela Su's Venice presentation: 'Angela Su's presentation features the artist's celebrated, extremely meticulous drawings and embroidery inspired by anatomical illustrations, as well as montaged moving image narratives composed of a wide range of found footage. Traversing disciplines of arts and sciences, and cultures and times, Su's work demonstrates not only the complex breadth of the artist's practice, but also the depth of talent and discourse in contemporary art in Hong Kong.'

**Freya Chou, Guest Curator**, elaborates on the artist's practice for this edition: 'It is a great honour to be working on Hong Kong's Collateral Event at the Biennale Arte 2022 with Angela Su. For this immensely important exhibition Angela has taken on the challenge by embracing new mediums. We are extremely excited to see the project come to life despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, and we hope it will resonate with both international and local audiences.'

Artist **Angela Su** expresses her delight with the opportunity to represent Hong Kong as a Collateral Event in Venice: 'I am very grateful for the generous support I have received from M+ and the HKADC to develop this new body of work and to be able to represent Hong Kong as a Collateral Event of the 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, a leading international platform to exchange innovation and ideas around contemporary art. I am thrilled to represent my hometown, and a place that has shaped my artistic practice over the years. It is particularly meaningful for me to show in Venice, and to connect with a global audience through my participation in a Collateral Event at the Biennale Arte 2022.'

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#### **Notes to editors**

**Collateral Event details:** *Angela Su: Arise, Hong Kong in Venice* is co-presented and co-promoted by M+, Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture in the West Kowloon Cultural District, and the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. It is Curated by Freya Chou, Guest Curator; with Ying Kwok, Consulting Curator; assisted by Jenny Tam, Assistant Manager, Exhibitions and with coordination in Venice by PDG Arte Communications.

**Location:** Campo della Tana, Castello 2126, 30122, Venice, Italy (in front of Arsenale entrance)

**Dates and times:** 23 April–27 November 2022. From 23 April to 25 September 2022, 11am–7 pm. From 27 September to 27 November 2022, 10am–6pm. Closed on Mondays (except Monday 25 April, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, 15 August, 5 September, 19 September, 31 October, 21 November).

**Exhibition website:** [2022.vbexhibitions.hk](http://2022.vbexhibitions.hk)

### About Angela Su

Angela Su's works investigate the perception and imagery of the body, through metamorphosis, hybridity and transformation. Her research-based projects materialise in drawing, video, hair embroidery, performative and installation works, which explore the interrelations between our state of being and the advancement of technology. Central to these projects are video essays and texts that weave together fiction and facts, reality and fantasy. With focus on the history of medical science, her works question the dominant biomedical discourse, and contemplate the impact of technology on the past, present and future.

In 2019, Su was commissioned by Wellcome Trust to present a new project in *Contagious Cities: Far Away, Too Close* curated by Ying Kwok at Tai Kwun, Hong Kong. She has also participated in exhibitions in museums and institutions internationally, including *So long, thanks again for the fish* (Levyhalli, Suomenlinna, Helsinki, 2021); *Sala10* (Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico, 2020); *100 Drawings from Now* (The Drawing Center, New York, 2020); *Meditations in an Emergency* (Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, 2020); *Woven* (Focus at Frieze London, 2019); *Artists' Film International* (Whitechapel Gallery, London, 2019); *Pro(s)thesis* (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Austria, 2017); The 2nd CAFAM Biennale: *The Invisible Hand* (CAFA Art Museum, China, 2014); and the 17th Biennale of Sydney (Museum of Contemporary Art, Australia, 2010). In 2013, she published an artist novel *Berty*, and, in 2017, a science fiction anthology *Dark Fluid*, where she uses science fiction as a tool for social justice.