

NEW CURRENTS

Ghosts in the Lens

BY THE EDITORS

HONG KONG
Jo-ey Tang

Jo-ey Tang's two most recent series read as traces of enigmatic, almost obsessive acts conducted in private. In "Attempts at Resistance" (2011), Tang smears shoe polish of various tones back and forth over boards and panels, while in the "Sandpaper Drawings" (2011), the artist rubs sandpaper around his studio to create ghostly, sometimes semi-figurative forms. "There's a sense of something fugitive in all of these works," he tells *ArtAsiaPacific*, a few days after the opening of "S(I)umm(er)ing on Madison Avenue," a show he curated at his apartment in the Upper East Side of Manhattan in May. The first in a series entitled "The Notary Public," this show presented installations and sculptures made of everyday objects by artists such as Carol Bove and B. Wurtz.

The low-key, almost austere tone of the show typifies the Hong Kong-born artist's aesthetic and conceptual interests. Whether he is working with shoe polish or sandpaper, much of his work is the product of instructions he sets himself. At the UCLA New Wight Biennial in 2010, he exhibited sculptural objects on the floor, but returned to the exhibition the day after the opening to move them all five inches forward, out of the spotlights. "I wanted the possibility of repeat viewers to register this change at some level without knowing, and those who come for the opening and then later to experience two slightly different scenes—a setup that is not unlike how a stereoscopic image operates."

A number of projects are keeping Tang busy this year. In July, he is spending a month in Montauk, New York, as an Edward F. Albee Foundation fellow.

That month he will also hold a solo show at Exile gallery in Berlin. He explains that in January, he snuck into the construction site of Exile's new space and hid some objects underneath the floor, right before the cement was poured. "With this task (I don't call it performance), I was attempting to bracket the life span of the gallery space by installing a hidden and permanent work. These objects, which will be announced in the press release later on, act as perpetual shadows of the exhibition. Their exact location will never be revealed."



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JO-EY TANG
Sandpaper Drawings
2010
Sandpaper, 27.9 x 22.9 cm.
Courtesy the artist.