

# Owen Leong

## Artist Statement and Biography

---

### Artist Statement

Owen Leong explores the body as a physical site of exchange for social, cultural and political forces in relation to his Asian-Australia identity. His video portraits subvert our relationship to the corporeal by evoking an abject response to the work. Often employing liquids in his practice such as blood, milk, and honey, he attempts to disrupt body language and break behavioral codes, exploring the passage between perceptual and physical thresholds of the body. *Infinite Love* shows the artist with his mouth kept forcibly open with a dental retractor, as a heart made of frozen milk melts and drips whiteness into his open mouth. Visceral, ambiguous and poetic, the transformation of his body through fictional selves opens up a space for new identities to come into being.

## Artist Biography

### Owen Leong Australia

b. 1979, Sydney. Lives and works in Sydney, Australia

### Education

- 2013 PhD candidate. Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney
- 2005 Master of Fine Arts. COFA University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2002 Bachelor of Fine Arts (First Class Honours). COFA University of New South Wales, Sydney

### Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 Bloodmilk. Dianne Tanzer Gallery+ Projects, Melbourne (forthcoming)  
Bloodmilk. Arterial Gallery, Sydney (forthcoming)
- 2012 Tidal Skin. LaTrobe University Visual Arts Centre, Bendigo  
Infiltrator. Dianne Tanzer Gallery+ Projects, Melbourne  
Tidal Skin. Nellie Castan Gallery, Melbourne
- 2011 Infiltrator. Grantpirrie Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 Birthmark. Anna Pappas Gallery, Melbourne
- 2007 Owen Leong. Ryan Renshaw, Brisbane  
Owen Leong. Mori Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 Ghost Heart. Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester
- 2005 Autofiction. Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 2004 White Amnesia. Sherman Galleries, Sydney

### Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2014 Fables of Change (curated by Alasdair Foster). ROSIZO Gallery, Moscow  
New Contemporaries (curated by Nicholas Tsoutas). Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney  
Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award. Gold Coast City Gallery

- 2013 Fables of Change (curated by Alasdair Foster). Krasnodar Institute of Contemporary Art, Russia  
Phantom Limb (curated by Speculum Projects). UTS Gallery, Sydney  
MAKE UP: painted faces in contemporary photography. Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne  
Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery; Adelaide Festival Centre; Ararat Regional Gallery; Kickarts. Contemporary Arts Cairns; Grafton Regional Gallery; QVMAG Launceston Blake Prize. Galleries UNSW, Sydney  
Fisher's Ghost Art Award, Campbelltown Arts Centre
- 2012 Instinct. Greenaway Art Gallery, Adelaide  
Made In China, Australia (curated by Greg Leong). Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart  
John Fries Memorial Prize. Galla Gallery, Sydney  
Chinese Australia (curated by Venita Poblocki). Australia China Art Foundation, Melbourne
- 2011 Magic Spaces (curated by Binghui Huangfu), Today Art Museum, Beijing  
The Rest is Silence. Death Be Kind, Melbourne  
Night Vision. 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art at Grasshopper Bar, Sydney
- 2010 Melbourne Art Fair (with Anna Pappas Gallery), Melbourne  
Group Show, Anna Pappas Gallery at The Depot Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize. Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne  
Surveying the Field. Counihan Gallery, Melbourne
- 2008 Bridge Art Fair (with City Art Rooms), Berlin  
Reflecting Skin. City Art Rooms, Auckland  
Leading Lights. Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 2007 Soft Power. Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai  
Asian Attitude: Transit Forces. National Museum of Poznan, Poland  
I'll Be Your Mirror. Gallery Primo Alonso, London  
Synthetic / Aesthetic. Asia-Australia Arts Centre, Sydney
- 2006 I'll Be Your Mirror. Liverpool Biennial Independents, Liverpool  
Video Easy. The Hart Center For Arts, Beijing  
Liquid Aesthetics. 2006 Midsumma Festival. BlackBox Arts Centre, Melbourne  
Helen Lempriere Traveling Art Scholarship Exhibition. Artspace, Sydney
- 2005 Asian Traffic. Esplanade Jendela Visual Art Space, Singapore; Today Art Museum, Beijing; Zendai  
Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai; OCTA Museum of Contemporary Art, Shenzhen; Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong

Contemporary Collection Benefactors Art Auction. Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Text Me: an exploration of body language. Sherman Galleries, Sydney

- 2004 Asian Traffic (curated by Binghui Huangfu). Asia-Australia Arts Centre, Sydney (Official Parallel Event of the Biennale of Sydney)  
Res Artis (with Song Dong and Shen Shaomin). Artspace, Sydney  
CCAS Contemporary Art Award, Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra  
Nightvision video projects. Asia-Australia Arts Centre, Sydney

### **Awards**

- 2014 Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award, Finalist
- 2013 Australia Council New Work Grant
- 2012 LaTrobe University Visual Arts Centre Facade Project
- 2009 Asialink Visual Arts Residency  
Art & Australia Contemporary Art Award, Highly Commended  
Bowness Photography Prize, Winner People's Choice Award
- 2008 Australia Council New Work Grant  
Art Gallery of NSW Maya Dyring Studio  
ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant
- 2007 Churchie National Emerging Art Prize, Winner Works on Paper  
Art & Australia Contemporary Art Award, Highly Commended
- 2005 Australia Council New Work Grant
- 2003 Australian Postgraduate Award
- 1998 College of Fine Arts Undergraduate Scholarship