

# Loo Zihan

## Artist Statement and Biography

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### Artist Statement

*Artists' General Assembly – The Langenbach Archive* is an installation of Dr. Ray Langenbach's archive of Artists' General Assembly and its peripheral events. Dr. Ray Langenbach is an artist and an educator who was based in Singapore and Malaysia from the early 90s to 2011. The materials in *Artists' General Assembly – The Langenbach Archive* consists of a selection of approximately 150 documents from his larger visual and text based archive of the arts scene in Southeast Asia from the late 1980s to the present.

Artists' General Assembly was a weeklong multi-disciplinary arts event that took place from 26 December 1993 (Sunday) till 1 January 1994 (Saturday) at 5<sup>th</sup> Passage Contemporary Art Space in Parkway Parade Shopping Centre, Marine Parade, Singapore. The event was co-organized by 5th Passage Artists Ltd and The Artists Village. Artist Josef Ng performed *Brother Cane* at this event on 31 December 1993, which triggered off a chain of events that led to a ten-year restriction on the licensing and funding of performance art in Singapore.

The installation/archive evolved over the three-month duration of the exhibition from October to December 2013 as the artist/archivist alters connections between documents via a network of colour-coded threads. All the names, organizations, dates and locations were highlighted in a different colour for each category. Coloured threads were used to link and weave the documents to each other, providing a dense and physicalized visual web of information. Viewers were invited to participate by leaving corrections, comments or opinions about the archive on post-it notes and adding them to the installation with critical consideration. These notes were collected, documented and archived at the end of the exhibition.

Dr. Ray Langenbach collected approximately eight hours of video documentation of the event that were also included as part of the archive. These were exhibited on five video monitors, each monitor displayed documentation from a different evening of the event.

There were five videos displayed on 20-inch CRT video monitors in the space. The video monitors were placed on AV carts and a grey plastic chair was placed in front of each monitor. This format of display references how videos in the video festival component of the Artists' General Assembly were exhibited. Each video monitor displayed edited documentation on loop from each day of the Artists' General Assembly. These footages were collected by Dr. Ray Langenbach over the duration of the event. The assembly and organization of the videos was done by Loo Zihan. This exhibition is the first time these videos are displayed in public.

## Artist Biography

### Loo Zihan Singapore

Moving-Image Artist, Performer and Educator

Loo Zihan is a performance and moving-image artist and educator based in Singapore. He is interested in the affective transference and transmutation of shame in his work. His recent body of work strives to expose the tension between the flesh of the body with the bone of the archive.

Zihan graduated with his Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2011. He was given a merit scholarship upon admission to the programme and was awarded with a graduate fellowship upon graduation.

He was part of the pioneer batch of students to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University. He was named valedictorian and represented his cohort in their convocation ceremony, delivering a passionate speech on censorship and artistic compromises.

Zihan's moving-image works have been selected and screened at various international film festivals such as the Pusan International Film Festival (South Korea). His co-directorial debut feature *Solos* has also been selected for competition in AFI Festival (Los Angeles) and Deauville Asian Film Festival (France). Most notably, *Solos* was awarded the 'Nuovo Sguardi' award at the 23rd Turin GLBT Film Festival (Italy).

Beyond his moving-image works, Zihan's solo performances have also been presented at various performance events such as the Macau International Performance Art Festival and Rapid Pulse International Performance Art Festival (Chicago).

In 2012 he presented his solo performance *Cane* at the M 1 Singapore Fringe Festival. *Cane* was part of a two-year research into the 1993 performance of *Brother Cane* by artist Josef Ng Sing Char. Materials from his research were consolidated into his debut solo exhibition *Archiving Cane*, presented at The Substation Gallery in December 2012.

## Education

2011 Master of Fine Arts, Studio Practice (Film, Video, New Media and Animation),  
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2009 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Digital Filmmaking (with a minor in Drama and Performance)  
School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

## Exhibition and Performance Record

- 2014 *Names, Texts & Trouble: Education & Emancipation*, Joint exhibition, part of the Associate Artist Research Programme at The Substation, The Substation Gallery, Singapore
- 2013 *Artists' General Assembly- The Langenbach Archive*  
Durational performance installation part of *Ghost: The Body At The Turn Of The Century* group exhibition, a parallel event of *Singapore Biennale 2013*, Sculpture Square, Singapore  
*No Approval*, Group exhibition, part of *Indignation 2013*, Grey Projects, Singapore
- 2012 *Cane*, Solo performance, Fringe Highlight, *M1 Singapore Fringe Festival*, Singapore  
*Archiving Cane*, Solo exhibition, The Substation Gallery, Singapore  
*Marking Cane*, Solo performance, part of *Rapid Pulse International Performance Art Festival*  
Defibrillator Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*Singapore Survey: New Strange Faces*, Group exhibition, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Singapore  
*Still Building: Contemporary Art From Singapore*, Group exhibition, S.S.A.S, Bandung, Indonesia  
*Landing Places*, Group exhibition, part of *Indignation 2012*, Objectifs, Singapore
- 2011 *Mong Ha: Looking at Tall Buildings*, Solo performance, part of *Currents: From Singapore, in Macau* group  
Showcase, *Macau International Performance Art Festival*, Macau  
*Performing Josef. .. It's Not Safe*, Solo performance, part of *R.I. T.E.S (Rooted In The Ephemeral Speak) #6*  
Goodman Arts Center, Singapore  
*Manhood: Masculinity, Male Identity and Culture*, Group exhibition, Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, VT  
*Abject Systems: Artists Who Love The Unlovable*, Group exhibition, Studio Bibliotheque, Singapore  
*Taman Negara*, Performance installation, part of *Singapore Survey: Imagine Malaysia*, Valentine Willie Fine Art, Singapore  
*Reading Carrie, Watching Yvonne*, Solo performance, part of *Shiftchanges*, Defibrillator Gallery, Chicago, IL and *Magnetic Affinities & Altered Relations*, Outer Space Studio, Chicago, IL  
*Legal Tender*, Performance collaboration, part of *Tender Exchange* group showcase, Next: Invitational Exhibition of Emerging Art, Art Chicago, IL  
*Brother Cane: 2011*, Performance re-enactment part of *Touch then push or pull and maybe nothing* group showcase, Defibrillator Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*The Dispensary*, Solo performance installation, part of Sexier group exhibition, Zhou BArt Center, Chicago, IL  
*Coda*, Durational performance installation, part of *aWay* group exhibition, Boomerang Shopfront Space, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL

2010 *Annuit Creptis: For He Who Approves Of Our Undertakings*, Solo durational performance, part of *Stories of Relativity* group exhibition, Sullivan Galleries, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL