

# Entanglement: the Ambivalence of Identity

14 September – 19 November 2011

Press view

13 September 2011, 10am-12 noon, talk at 11am

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) presents an inter-generational exhibition at Rivington Place with some of the most interesting young artists working today alongside established figures. Artists Simon Fujiwara, Anthony Key, Dave Lewis, Nina Mangalanayagam and Navin Rawanchaikul reflect on the complexities of living with more than one culture. They explore their own identities, and bring past debates into the context of today's globalised society.

Cultural identity, belonging and affiliation are discussed with a mixture of seriousness, humour and irony. This poignant and original selection of sculpture, film, installation and photography shows a fascination with how the artists see themselves and how others see them, reminding us that our identities are continuously shifting as we negotiate society.

Simon Fujiwara's work is a constant process of scripting his own biography through fiction writing, performance and set-installations, symbolic props and absent characters become protagonists in his circular histories. In the video and installation *Artist's Book Club: Hakuruberi Fuin no Monogatari* he performs a role in a spoof TV arts programme, discussing the language used in Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* in an analysis of cross-cultural confusion and fetishisation.

Anthony Key's sculptures use food to playfully unpick certain 'Chinese' stereotypes. A new installation for the window incorporates 8,000 chopsticks drawing attention to the restaurants and take-aways around the UK. Dave Lewis combines photography with ethnographic research as a premise for his richly textured installations. He invites the viewer to consider their own sense of place, belonging and identity through classifications based on family, race, religion and the State.

Nina Mangalanayagam, a recent graduate from the RCA, explores the fluidity of identities looking at family relationships and national identity. In the video piece *Lacuna* the artist attempts the 'Indian Head Nod' which is used heavily in South Asia; the photographic series *Homeland* comments on traditional absurdities and the struggle to fit in. Navin Rawanchaikul's work focuses on local identity and its shifting dynamics within globalised culture. In the installation *Hong Rub Khaek (Khaek Welcome)* he interviews Indian migrants living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, about their experiences of making a home in a new culture.



Left to right: Simon Fujiwara, *Artist's Book Club: Hakuruberri Fuin No Monogatari*, 2010; Nina Mangalanayagam, from the *Homeland* series, 2008; Anthony Key, *Trespassing*, 2000; Dave Lewis, *Contact Sheet: 45's Singles Collection*, 2009

### Editors' notes

Simon Fujiwara lives and works in Berlin. He studied fine art in Frankfurt and architecture at Cambridge University. In 2010 he won the Baloise Prize, Art Basel 41 and the Cartier Award where he presented a special project at Frieze Art Fair in 2010. Recent solo exhibitions include Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg (2011), The Powerplant, Toronto with a forthcoming solo exhibition at Tate St Ives (2012). Selected group exhibitions include 29<sup>th</sup> Sao Paulo Biennale (2010), 11 Rooms, Manchester International Festival (2011), *The Collectors*, Nordic Pavilion, 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice (2009). Simon Fujiwara is British-Japanese.

Anthony Key lives and works in the UK, he gained a PhD from Winchester School of Art and a MA in Fine Art from Brighton University. Recent exhibitions include *Pot Luck*, PM Gallery, London, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Wales and The New Art Gallery, Walsall (2009); *English Lounge*, Tang Contemporary, Beijing (2009); *Boutique*, Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester (2007). Anthony Key's parents are Chinese and he grew up in South Africa.  
[www.anthonykey.net](http://www.anthonykey.net)

Dave Lewis is a photographer and filmmaker who gained a BA Hons in Film and Photographic Arts from the Polytechnic of Central London (now University of Westminster). Recent exhibitions and screenings include: *Once Removed*, Venice Biennale (2011); *Field Work*, ArtSway Gallery (2010); *Photo-ID*, Norwich Forum (2009); *AfterShock*, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts (2007). Dave Lewis has Grenadian heritage.  
[www.vidaimage.co.uk](http://www.vidaimage.co.uk)

Nina Mangalanayagam recently graduated with an MA in Photography from the Royal College of Art. Group exhibitions include *International Departure - Gate 10*, Fondazione Fotografia, Modena, Italy (2010), *Festival of Video Art*, Camaguey, Cuba, *Figures of Speech* part of Film and Video Umbrella's Free to Air Festival, *Simply Screen* at The Bhavan, London (2009). She won the Jerwood Photography Award in 2005. Nina Mangalanayagam was born and grew up in Sweden with a Danish mother and a Tamil father.  
[www.ninamanga.com](http://www.ninamanga.com)

Navin Rawanchaikul lives and works in Chiang Mai, Thailand and Fukuoka, Japan. He is exhibiting in the Thai Pavilion at the 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, 2011. Recent solo exhibitions include *NAVINSCOPE: DIM SUM RIDER*, Tang Contemporary Art, Hong Kong, *Navinland Cinema*, Sakshi Gallery, Mumbai, India, 2008, *Navins of Bollywood*, Tang Contemporary Art Bangkok, Thailand, (2007). Selected group exhibitions: *Festival de Cannes*, Villa UGC, Cannes, France, (2008), *Tomorrow*, Kumho Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea, (2007)  
[www.navinproduction.com](http://www.navinproduction.com)

### Exhibition listings Information

Exhibition: Entanglement: Ambivalence of Identity  
Dates: 14 September – 19 November 2011  
Venue: Rivington Place, London, EC2A 3BA  
Rivington Place public opening hours:  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 11am – 6pm  
Late Thursdays: 11am – 9pm (last admission 8.30pm)  
Saturday: 12noon – 6pm  
Admission: free  
[info@rivingtonplace.org](mailto:info@rivingtonplace.org)  
[www.rivingtonplace.org/www.iniva.org](http://www.rivingtonplace.org/www.iniva.org)

Tubes: Old Street/Liverpool Street/Shoreditch High St  
Rivington Place is fully accessible, for parking & wheelchair facilities call +44 (0)20 7749 1240

Iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) engages with new ideas and emerging debates in the contemporary visual arts, reflecting in particular the diversity of contemporary society. We work with artists, curators, creative producers, writers and the public to explore the vitality of visual culture.  
([www.iniva.org](http://www.iniva.org)) Iniva is supported by Arts Council England.

Opened in 2007, Rivington Place is home to Iniva and Autograph ABP. Designed by architect David Adjaye OBE, this award winning building is dedicated to the display, debate and reflection of global diversity issues in the contemporary visual arts. An ongoing programme of exhibitions and events is presented in the 2 project spaces and Education Space. It is also home to the Stuart Hall Library.  
[www.rivingtonplace.org](http://www.rivingtonplace.org)

### Further information

For high resolution images please visit [www.iniva.org/press](http://www.iniva.org/press) or contact: Clare Roebuck, [croebuck@iniva.org](mailto:croebuck@iniva.org) or tel 020 7749 1247 or Sheena Balkwill, [sbalkwill@iniva.org](mailto:sbalkwill@iniva.org) or tel 020 7749 1246