

Chia-Wei Hsu: Black and White – Malayan Tapir

A history of the Malayan tapir and its relationship to colonial power and zoos in Southeast Asia.

October 30, 2018–January 25, 2019

Opening Reception:
Tuesday, October 30,
6–8pm

The International Studio & Curatorial Program announces *Chia-Wei Hsu: Black and White – Malayan Tapir*, a solo exhibition by Hsu that focuses on a specific non-human animal—the Malayan tapir.

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday–Friday,
12–6pm

Through evocative storytelling, Hsu cuts across time and geography to narrate the history of the Malayan tapir and its relationship to colonial power and zoos in Southeast Asia. According to the artist, his intention with *Black and White – Malayan Tapir* is to use an encyclopedic narrative style to deal with issues of equality between people and non-humans, man and nature, and to explore changes in the way modern people view images.

The exhibition is composed of a synchronized four-channel LED-screen installation. The scenes in the video switch between the National Gallery Singapore, the National History Museum, and the Singapore Zoo, to search engines and multiple computer screen windows. Across the screens, a zoo tour guide recounts the initial recording of the black and white Malayan tapir by a Chinese painter, who mapped it in the early nineteenth century at the request of William Farquhar, a commander of the British East India Company. This was likely the first documentation of the species, an endeavor that was ultimately contested by Farquhar's boss Stamford Raffles, who also purported to be the first to discover the animal. Due to the rapid development of the natural sciences during the colonial era, the naming and documentation of animals and plants became a competitive field, and accordingly, conflict is entwined with the history and legend of the Malayan tapir, now an endangered species.



Chia-Wei Hsu, *Black and White – Malayan Tapir* (video still), 2018, four-channel video installation, 6:55 min. Courtesy of the artist.

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This exhibition is co-organized by ISCP and the Taipei Cultural Center in New York.

About Taipei Cultural Center in New York:

Established in 1991, Taipei Cultural Center in New York is Taiwan's chief cultural mission in North American. It shoulders the responsibility for strengthening bilateral cooperation in arts and culture between Taiwan and North America, as well as for enhancing Taiwanese artists' international visibility.

About ISCP:

ISCP supports the creative development of artists and curators, and promotes exchange through residencies and public programs. Housed in a former factory in Brooklyn, with 35 light-filled work studios and two galleries, ISCP is New York's most comprehensive international visual arts residency program and fourth largest in the world, founded in 1994. ISCP organizes exhibitions, events and offsite projects, which are free and open to all, sustaining a vibrant community of contemporary art practitioners and diverse audiences.

Major support for this exhibition is provided by the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan and Taipei Cultural Center in New York. This program is also supported, in part, by Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, New York City Council District 34, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

