



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 12, 2018

#blackandwhitemalayantapir

## 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

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 12-6pm

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.

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 Farguhar, a commander of the British East India Company. This was likely the first documentation of the species, an



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

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 (born 1983, lives and works in Taipei) is interested in the untold histories of different periods in time, and frequently focuses on the Cold War in Asia. His works, often in the form of films and installations, weave together reality and myth, the past and the present. Hsu's work has been presented in many museums, including the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; and Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid. A Hugo Boss Asia Art Award finalist in 2012 and the Grand Prize winner of the prestigious 2017 Taishin Arts Award, Hsu has also been included in many biennials and festivals, including the 39th International Film Festival Rotterdam, the 2012 Liverpool Biennial, the 2018 Sydney Biennale and the 2018 Gwangju Biennale. He will also participate in upcoming biennales in Bangkok and Shanghai.

For further information. contact Houda Lazrak

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.

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## 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.

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