

Friends Indeed Gallery

Carl Cheng (b. 1942, San Francisco, CA) is one of the first Asian-American artists to establish themselves in Southern California in the post war period. His expanded art objects—"nature machines," "specimen viewers," and "art tools"—were made under the auspices of his corporate DBA John Doe Co., and are intended to "model nature, its processes and effects for a future environment that may be completely made by humans." Cheng's interactive objects—many of which were made in his outdoor "nature laboratory"—use viewer participation and systems art to question corporate responsibility, individual freedom, and the effects on the natural environment of a growing mass-consumer material culture. Throughout five plus decades of practice, Cheng has addressed environmental change, being a member of a generation who watched not only the rapid growth of Los Angeles, but also the rapid growth of Asian cities, where he traveled extensively.

Carl Cheng's work is currently the subject of an Art + Technology laboratory grant through the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. His work is in or has recently appeared in such exhibitions as "Specters of Disruption" (2018, De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA); "3D: Double Vision" (2018, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, (Los Angeles, CA); "Emerald City" (2018, K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong; and "Soil Erosion" (2017, curated by Shannon Ebner, Altman Siegel, San Francisco, CA). His work was featured in "The Photographic Object 1970" (2014, Hauser and Wirth, New York, NY); "The Photographic Object 1970" (2013, Le Consortium, Dijon, France); "Under the Big Black Sun: California Art 1974-1981" (2013, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA); "Proof: Los Angeles Art and the Photography 1960-1980" (1992, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA); "Photography into Sculpture" (1970, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY); and "Vision and Expression" (1969, George Eastman Museum, Rochester, NY). Solo exhibitions included LIST Visual Arts Center (Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Boston, MA); Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (Santa Barbara, CA); and ASG Foundation Gallery (Nagoya, Japan). Cheng lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Gallery address:
716 Sacramento St.
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213-369-0646
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Carl Cheng

Born: San Francisco
Lives and works in Santa Monica, CA

EDUCATION

- 1967 Master of Arts, Dickson Art Center, University of California, Los Angeles, CA
- 1964-5 Graduate Study: Folkwang School of Art, Essen, Germany
- 1963 Bachelor of Arts, Dickson Art Center, University of California, Los Angeles, CA
- 1962 University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

SELECETED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *Nature is Everything – Everything is Nature*, Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 *Human Rock*, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2000 *Nature Observed/Technical Assist*, Sculpture Center, New York City, NY
- 1+1+1=1, Leal Selado Art Gallery, Macao, China
- 1997 *Quality of Light*, St. Ives International Exhibition in collaboration with Tate St. Ives, Newlyn Art Gallery, Falmouth College of Arts and inIva, Cornwall, England
- 1991 *25 Year of John Doe Co*, Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA
- Solid Rain*, Rancho Santiago College, Santa Ana, CA
- 1989 *66 % Water*, Capp Street Projects, San Francisco, CA
- 1988 *Water Project*, ASG Gallery, Nagoya, Japan
- Impressions, Invisible Sculpture*, List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- 1985 *Sound Drop*, Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica, CA
- 1984 *Moving Appearance*, Polaris Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- Shifting Sand*, Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA
- Recent Work*, St. Polaris Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1983 *Black Lake & Water Mind Play*, Arco Center for Visual Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 1982 *Alternative TV*, Installation in various bookstore windows on Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, CA
- 1980 *12 to 5*, ASG Foundation Gallery, Nagoya, Japan
- 1979 *Natural Museum of Modern Art*, Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA
- 1977 *Water Projects*, Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
- 1976 *Black Lake*, Santa Monica, CA
- 1971 *Emergency Nature Supply*, Osaka, Japan
- 1970 Esther Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 *Paradise*, curated by Todd von Ammon, Westport Arts Center, Westport, CT
- Specters of Disruption*, De Young Museum, San Fransisco, CA
- 3D: Double Vision*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
- Emerald City*, K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong

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- 2017 *Soil Erosion*, Altman Siegel, San Francisco, CA
2014 *The Photographic Object, 1970*, Hauser & Wirth, New York, NY
2011 *Photography into Sculpture*, Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, CA
2009 *Installations: Armory Center for the Arts 20th Anniversary Exhibition*, Pasadena, CA
2001 *Infinity*, Armory Center for the Arts, Pasadena, CA
2000 *Millennium Show*, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, CA
1998 *Organic Laboratory Museum*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA
1997 *COLA: Individual Artist Grant Exhibition*, Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Turbulent Landscapes, Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
1996 *Investigations*, Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Park, Los Angeles, CA
1994 5th Biennale, Curated by L. Llanes-Godoy, Havana, Cuba
1993 3rd International Biennale in Nagoya - ARTEC'93, Nagoya Art Museum, Japan
The Nature of the Machine, Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
1992 *Chinese Artists from California*, Leal Selado Art Museum, Macao
Proof: Los Angeles Art Photograph 1960–1980, Laguna Art Museum,
Laguna Beach, CA
1990 *Art from the Exploratorium*, World Financial Center, New York, NY (traveling exhibition)
1989 *Forty Years of Assemblage*, curated by Ann Ayers, Frederick Wight Gallery,
University of California, Los Angeles, CA; traveling exhibition to San Jose Museum of
San Jose, CA; Fresno Art Museum, Fresno, CA; Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE (cata
1988 *Studio Artist Exhibition*, The CLOCKTOWER, New York, NY
1989 *Art in Motion*, Wake Forest Fine Art Gallery, Winston-Salem, NC
1984 *Celebrating Two Decades in Photography*, Grunwald Center, F. Wight Gallery,
University of California, Los Angeles, CA, (catalog)
1984 *Traditions Transformed*, Oakland Art Museum, Oakland, CA (catalog)
1981 *Photo-fusion*, Pratt Manhattan Center Gallery, New York, NY (catalog)
1976 *Photo/Synthesis*, Herbert Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
1975 *Sounds*, Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA
Erosions & Environmental Changes, Baxter Art Gallery, Caltech, Pasadena, CA
1970 *Photography into Sculpture*, curated by Peter Bunnell, Museum of Modern Art,
New York, NY
1969 *Vision and Expression*, George Eastman House of Photography, Rochester, NY
1968 *Technology Giveaway by John Doe Co.*, Art & Technology Festival, University of
Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
1966 *Photography*, Purdue University, Lafayette, IN

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2018 Salvesen, Britt. "3D: Double Vision," Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art/Delmonico Books-Prestel, 2018
2016 Vogel, Wendy. "Carl Cheng," *Art in America*, October 6, 2016. Shang, Danielle. "Critics' Picks Angeles," *Artforum*, June 2016. Online.
Wagley, Catherine. "5 Art Shows to See in L.A. this Week: Carl Cheng," *LA Weekly*, June 8, 201
Statzer, Mary, *The Photographic Object 1970*, Oakland: University of California Press, 2016. Pri

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- 2007 Harmon, K. *The Map as Art*, Princeton Architecture Press, pgs. 244-245, 2009. Web site: john
doecompany.com, 2007
- 2005 Heiferman, M. ed. *City Art*, New York % for Art Program (catalog), 2005.
- 2004 *Charlotte Area Transit System*, Catalog of Artists Proposals, pg. 18-19, 2004.
Public Art Review, Spring, Summer, Vol.15, No.2, pg.18-19, 2004.
- 2003 Whittaker, Richard, ed. *Works + Conversations Magazine*, No. 7, 2003.
- Cheng, Carl. "Public Art: More than a Pretty Distraction, Counterpunch," *Los Angeles Times*, J
31, 2003.
- 2002 Roots, Garrison. *Designing World's Best Public Art*, p. 126, 2002.
- 2000 Cotter, H. "Nature Observed", Weekend, *New York Times*, Nov.10, 2000.
1+1+1=1 (catalog), Macao, China, 2000.
- 1999 Johnstone, Mark. "Contemporary Art in Southern California", 1999.
- 1998 Wilson, W. "Public Works Exhibition," *Los Angeles Times*, Nov.18, 1998.
- 1996 Wilson, W. "Investigations," *Los Angeles Times*, June 4, 1996.
Frank, Peter. "Investigations Show," *L.A. Weekly*, June 7, 1996.
- 1993 Cassim, J. ARTEC, *Japan Times Sunday*, June 6, 1993.
- 1991 "Water Projects", *Esquire Magazine*, Asian edition, September 1991.
Clothier, Peter. "25 Year Survey," *Art News*, November 1991.
- 1990 Ahlgren, Calvin. "66% Water", *Art in America*, June 1990.
- 1989 List, Andrea. *40 years of California Assemblage*, 1989.
- 1988 Santa Monica Art Tool, *Los Angeles Times*, *LA Weekly*, *Wall Street Journal*, 1988.
- 1983 Pincus, R. "Moving Appearance", *Los Angeles Times*, December 8, 1983.
- 1984 "Recent Work," *Los Angeles Times*, 1984.
- 1982 Cheng, Carl. "Dream and Art," *DreamWorks*, Spring, Vol.2, No.3, 1982.
- 1978 O'Neill, B. "Carl Cheng's Museum," *Artweek*. October 28, 1978.
- 1976 Wortz, M. "Review of Sounds," *Artnews*, February 1976.
- 1969 Bunnell, P. "Photography as Sculpture and Print," *Art in America*, September-October 1969.
Danieli, F. "Some New Los Angeles Artists," *Artforum* 1966.

PUBLIC COMMISSIONS

- 2011 *Ghost Fish 107*, Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, CA
- 2010 *Aerial Plaza*, The Promenade, Long Beach, CA
- 2005 *Underwater Cafe*, Santa Monica Library, CA
- 2004 20 year Master Art Plan, Port of Los Angeles, CA
- 2002 *Centennial Square*, Pasadena, CA
- 2001 *Community Island Pond*, Pier 11, New York, NY
- 2000 *Everglades Trespass*, Pembroke Pines Library Project, Broward County, FL
Friendship Acrobatic Troupe, Sony Exploration Museum, Beijing, China
in conjunction with Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
- 1996 *Museum of Space Information*, Metro Rail Station, MTA, Los Angeles, CA
Tilted Landscape, Tempe Library and Arts Center, Tempe, AZ
- 1994 Sheriff's Facility; San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco, CA
- 1991 *Water Lens Tower*, Kaiser-Permanente Hospital, Los Angeles, CA
- 1988 *Santa Monica Art Tool*, Santa Monica, CA
- 1980 *Seattle Underwater*, Seattle, WA

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AWARDS / GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS / RESIDENCIES

- 2017 LACMA Art + Technology Lab Grant, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 Flintridge Foundation Grant, Pasadena, CA
- 2001 Pollock/Krasner Artist Grant, New York, NY
- 2000 Artistic Achievement Award, Broward County Cultural Affairs Council, FL
- 1997 *Quality of Light*, St. Ives International Exhibition, Cornwall, England
- 1996 Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department Grant
- 1996 Los Angeles Business Council Beautification Award for MTA Station
- 1993 Invited to participate in ARTEC Biennale, Japan
- 1990 Getty Visual Arts Fellowship, Los Angeles, CA
- 1987 National Studio Artist Program, The CLOCKTOWER, NYC
- 1986 National Endowment for the Arts, Visual Artists Grant, Washington, D.C.
- 1982 Faculty Research Grant, UCLA Los Angeles, CA
National Endowment for the Arts, Visual Artists Grant, Washington, D.C.
- 1978 Artist-in-Resident Grant, Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 1977 Artist-in-Resident project at Exploratorium, San Francisco, CA
- 1969 Sculpture Award, Municipal Arts Department, City of Los Angeles, CA
- 1964 Scholarship for Foreign Study, Henry Dreyfus Fund, New York, NY
- 1964 Award: New York Parks and Playground Design Competition

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