

disCONNECT HK

Artist Takeover Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Presented by Schoeni Projects
In collaboration with HKwalls
Event Partner: Lee Gardens Association

An Urban Art 'Takeover' from an 1850s London Victorian Townhouse
to a 1950s Hong Kong Historic Tenement Building

Exhibition Vernissage: 10 October 2020
Exhibition Dates: 11 October – 29 November 2020
Virtual Exhibition Launches: 24 October 2020



Portugal based artist Vhils, Installation view,
disCONNECT LDN at Schoeni Projects, London
(2020), photo: Nick Smith, courtesy the artist and
Schoeni Projects



Original Hong Kong Historic Tenement Building
Lift Door
disCONNECT HK exhibition site

HKwalls is pleased to be collaborating with Schoeni Projects to present *disCONNECT HK*, an expanded adaptation of *disCONNECT LDN* – an inaugural exhibition at Schoeni Projects LDN, an 1850s Victorian townhouse in South West London. *disCONNECT LDN* presented site-specific works from 10 artists working across seven countries, and received enthusiastic acclaim from both press and public. *disCONNECT HK* presents an array of artworks from the London exhibition and continues the *disCONNECT* journey, promoting and celebrating cross-cultural exchange with the addition of four Hong Kong artists, and by taking over a restored 1950s Hong Kong historic tenement building and presenting highlights at Hysan's Urban Sky space. *disCONNECT HK* runs in-person from 11 October through 29 November 2020 and virtually from 24 October.

Full list of participating artists:

Adam Neate (UK); Aida Wilde (Iran); Alex Fakso (Italy); Mr. Cenz (UK); David Bray (UK); Go Hung (Hong Kong); Jaffa Lam (Hong Kong); Kacey Wong (Hong Kong); Herakut (Germany); Icy and Sot (Iran); Isaac Cordal (Spain); Wong Ting Fung (Hong Kong); Vhils (Portugal); Zoer (Italy).



UK based artists Mr. Cenz and Aida Wilde, Installation view, *disCONNECT LDN* at Schoeni Projects, London (2020), photo: Nick Smith, courtesy the artists and Schoeni Projects

disCONNECT is an exhibition that responds to the pandemic and explores themes of connection, belonging, isolation and reliance on technology at the time of COVID19. From the rigorous pre-exhibition planning to exhibition realisation, the practice corresponds with worldwide lockdown, quarantine and restrictions throughout the entire period.



Berlin based artist duo Herakut, Installation view, *Silent Battle*, *disCONNECT LDN* at Schoeni Projects, London (2020), photo: Ian Cox, courtesy the artists and Schoeni Projects

Opening during the COVID-19 pandemic, *disCONNECT* not only adapts to adhere to restrictions imposed by the pandemic, rethinking creative and physical constraints due to the current global crisis, but also prompts reflection on the psychological reactions toward the pandemic as well as the role of technology. In addition to the pandemic itself, the curation of *disCONNECT LDN* took inspiration from its location, the Victorian home, reimagining the space with site specific works, some of which repurposed its discarded contents. Only four of the *disCONNECT LDN* artists live in the United Kingdom and were able to personally install their work on site. Lock-down and travel restrictions posed unique challenges for the normal practise of art creation and installation for the other six overseas artists in

particular, compelling curator Nicole Schoeni and HKwalls' Jason Dembski and Maria Wong to find creative ways to stay faithful to the artists' vision, whilst working on the project remotely from Hong Kong themselves.



Hong Kong Artist Go Hung
I So Late #01, Carved Soap, 2020
courtesy the artist and Schoeni Projects



Hong Kong Artist Jaffa Lam
Walking in Mini Zen Garden, Rock from Quarantined
Camp area, Thread, Luminous Paint, 2020
courtesy the artist and Schoeni Project

With *disCONNECT LDN* now closed, the exhibition is travelling to Hong Kong and invites four local artists to continue the conversation about art during a pandemic to foster cross-cultural exchanges. Go Hung, Jaffa Lam, Kacey Wong and Wong Ting Fung will create new site-specific artworks including video installation, live painting, mixed-media installation and sculptures for *disCONNECT HK* responding to the pandemic and *disCONNECT LDN*.



Hong Kong Artist Kacey Wong
The Quarantine, Video Installation, 2020
courtesy the artist and Schoeni Projects



Hong Kong Artist Wong Ting Fung
Bullshit, Acrylic On Wood,
40 x 40 x 5cm, 2020
courtesy the artist and Schoeni Projects

To accompany the Hong Kong exhibition, and further engage with audiences locally and internationally, Schoeni Projects and HKwalls continue with a series of free programmes and digital initiatives, including:

- Live Painting by *disCONNECT HK* artist Wong Ting Fung,
- Workshop by *disCONNECT HK* artist Go Hung,
- Live *disCONNECT HK* Artist Interview Series on Instagram IGTV,

- *disCONNECT HK Dialogue*; a conversation between gallerist Angela Li, Hong Kong artist Jaffa Lam, Director of Lee Gardens Association Mark Tung, Founder of Schoeni Projects Nicole Schoeni and HKwalls Maria Wong, and
- 3D Virtual Tour of *disCONNECT LDN* at Hysan Urban Sky led by Nicole Schoeni.

Press Preview

Thursday, 8 October 2020 (11 am – 7 pm)

Friday, 9 October 2020 (11 am – 7 pm)

Preview will include a 3D Virtual Tour of *disCONNECT LDN* led by Nicole Schoeni.

Hourly slots with a maximum of 2 people per slot, please contact schoeniprojects@gmail.com to book.

Notes to editors

Title: *disCONNECT HK*

Locations and Duration: **disCONNECT HK Exhibition:**
Tenement Building 2-4/F 14 Pak Sha Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
11 October – 29 November 2020 (Wednesday – Sunday, Noon - 8pm)

Highlights of disCONNECT HK and Virtual Tour of disCONNECT LDN:
Hysan Place 9/F Urban Sky, 500 Hennessy Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong
11 – 30 October 2020 (Wednesday – Sunday, Noon - 8pm)

Times subject to change. Please check schoeniprojects.com for the latest updates.

Tickets: To respect physical distancing regulations, appointments must be made in advance for the Tenement Building Location:
schoeniprojects.com/tickets
Hourly time slots starting from Noon to 7 pm, with limited capacity.

Programme details: Please check schoeniprojects.com/programmes for details of registration.

3D Virtual Tour: To access the *disCONNECT LDN* exhibition through Matterport Virtual Reality platform, please visit schoeniprojects.com/vr or try it with a 3D Headset at Hysan Place 9/F Urban Sky.

Websites: www.schoeniprojects.com www.hkwalls.org www.leegardens.hk

Instagram: [@schoeniprojects](https://www.instagram.com/schoeniprojects) [@hkwalls](https://www.instagram.com/hkwalls) [@leegardensassociation](https://www.instagram.com/leegardensassociation)

Hashtags: #disCONNECT #disCONNECThk #artduringapandemic

Artists' Instagram Accounts: Adam Neate ([@adam_neate](https://www.instagram.com/adam_neate)); Aida Wilde ([@aida_wilde](https://www.instagram.com/aida_wilde)); Alex Fakso ([@alexfakso](https://www.instagram.com/alexfakso)); Mr. Cenz ([@mrcenzzone](https://www.instagram.com/mrcenzzone)); Go Hung ([@g.o.h.u.n.g](https://www.instagram.com/g.o.h.u.n.g)); Jaffa Lam ([@jaffalam](https://www.instagram.com/jaffalam)); Kacey Wong ([@kaceywong](https://www.instagram.com/kaceywong)); David Bray ([@david_bray](https://www.instagram.com/david_bray)); Herakut ([@herakut](https://www.instagram.com/herakut)); Icy and Sot ([@icyandsot](https://www.instagram.com/icyandsot)); Isaac Cordal ([@isaaccordal](https://www.instagram.com/isaaccordal)); Wong Ting Fung ([@wong_ting_fung](https://www.instagram.com/wong_ting_fung)); VHILS ([@vhils](https://www.instagram.com/vhils)); Zoer ([@zoerism](https://www.instagram.com/zoerism)).