



Likenesses: Speaking with the Selves **LI-MING HU & CHARMAINE POH**

Exhibition: Sept. 24 – Dec. 4, 2025
at Goethe-Institut New York

Performances: Sept. 29th, 2025
at Center for Performance Research

EXHIBITION OPENING
September 24th, 2025
at Goethe-Institut New York

GALLERY HOURS
Monday-Thursday
10am-6pm

PRESS INQUIRIES
and appointment viewings:
program-newyork@goethe.de

The Goethe-Institut New York is pleased to present ***Likenesses: Speaking with the Selves***, a two-artist exhibition featuring **LI-MING HU** (b. 1987 in New Zealand, lives in New York City) and **CHARMAINE POH** (b. 1990 in Singapore, lives in Berlin). This exhibition is the first pairing of their works.

Central to this exhibition is a biographical experience shared by both artists—television fame at a young age. In the 2000's, Hu received a breakout role on New Zealand's popular soap-opera, *Shortland Street*, and was later cast as the silver operator on *Power Rangers RPM*, among other roles. Similarly, Poh starred as the character E-Ching in a hit Singaporean children's detective show, *We are R.E.M.*, around the same time. Coinciding with the unmoderated internet of Web 1.0, both artists experienced a great deal of prejudice and hate alongside their fame, ranging from racial typecasting to sexual harassment and cyberbullying, sometimes breaking the fourth wall of the screen and spilling over into real life.

Hu's and Poh's works on display in this exhibition respond to this time in their lives. Revisiting their former roles, the artists now use performance, installation, and video to re-create and manipulate the context in which their likenesses were used. Hu utilizes humor and absurdity to examine the performance of identity and the particular demands made of minoritized subjects, often remarking on behind-the-scenes activities and metacognitive reflections. Poh, on the other hand, often situates her experience in Eastern and Western philosophical terms, and employs emergent technologies, such as the deepfake and chatbot, to give voice to her younger self and say now what she could not then.

Likenesses: Speaking with the Selves foregrounds not only the parasocial relationship that viewers have with television characters, but also the (dis)connection that actors have with their past roles. Chatrooms and social media have given an unprecedented sense of intimacy between the viewer and the subject, further blurring the boundary between character and actor in their eyes. What, then, can the actor do when the image rights to television shows and commercial reels lie within the purview of faceless corporations? How, then, can one take back control of one's image? While Hu and Poh diverge in their strategies to answer these questions, they remain steadfast in their efforts to reclaim and maintain agency over their likenesses—both past and present.

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Curated by Zachary B. Feldman

ARTIST BIOS

LI-MING HU is a multidisciplinary artist working with installation, video, and performance. Drawing on her experience in the entertainment industry, Hu explores the relationships between cultural production and the construction of subjectivities, engaging with the imperatives of our high-performance culture. She holds an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, has attended residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the International Studio and Curatorial Program, Flux Factory, the Wassail Project and Enjoy Contemporary Art Space (NZ). She has exhibited and performed widely throughout New Zealand, Chicago and NYC.

CHARMAINE POH 傅秀璇 is an artist working across film, photography, media and performance to peel apart, re-examine, and hold ideas of agency, repair, and the body across worlds. She aligns herself with strategies of visibility, opacity, deviance, and futurity. Based between Berlin and Singapore, she is a co-founder of the magazine Jom and a member of the Asian Feminist Studio for Art and Research (AFSAR). She was a participating artist in the 60th Venice Biennale: Foreigners Everywhere and was awarded Deutsche Bank's 2025 Artist of the Year and the 2026 Villa Romana Prize.

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