

MEDIA RELEASE



1 Art Gallery Way
Mosman NSW 2088 AUSTRALIA
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9 September 2019

Tianli Zu: A Conversation with SHADOWS

Mosman Art Gallery is pleased to present the work of Chinese-Australian multi-media artist Tianli Zu from **11 September – 17 November 2019**. The exhibition titled *A Conversation with SHADOWS* will be exhibited in The Cube, the Gallery's dedicated space for video and experimental art.

Transforming The Cube to give viewers an immersive experience, *A Conversation with SHADOWS* is a site-specific installation of animation projections and hand-cut works, with music by composer Andrew Zhou. The work continues Tianli Zu's investigations into the shadow and its intangibility, its ephemerality and the shadow as a metaphor for both transcendence and the duality of existence.

In her creative processes Tianli Zu draws on her personal history including her childhood in China where she was taught the popular art form of paper cutting, her ancestry and its cultural traditions, as well as her experiences as a woman. These experiences are expressed, transforming the paper cut into contemporary, immersive and ethereal art installations where intricately cut acetate scrolls are animated by light and video projections. The artist works directly, building up the scroll surface with layers of paint before cutting it directly by hand without sketches, notes or preparatory drawings, in actions that are both performative and cathartic.

With a Master of Fine Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy from University of Sydney, Tianli Zu is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Western Sydney University with over 30 years' experience as a practicing artist. She has been involved in many public art projects, including Vivid 2019 and has exhibited broadly, nationally and throughout Asia, with her work selected for many art prizes. Zu has lectured and led many workshops in museums and universities, both nationally and internationally.

The exhibition is accompanied by a short documentary on Tianli Zu's artistic processes by film-maker Maximilian Homaei.

A Conversation with SHADOWS will officially open, along with the 2019 Mosman Art Prize exhibition at an opening night event on Tuesday 11 September, 6.30pm.

Public Program: Shadow Says Paper-cutting Workshop for Teens Friday 4 October, 2.00-4.00pm

This workshop aims to spark the creativity of participants aged 12-15 years old where they will learn novel and unfamiliar methods of paper-cutting. Using a pair of scissors to transform paper into a world of shadows, the workshop invites and evokes ideas, imagination and inspiration. \$30 per student. To book: www.trybooking.com/537253

Tianli Zu: A Conversation with SHADOWS

Where: Mosman Art Gallery, 1 Art Gallery Way, Mosman NSW 2088
On view: Wednesday 11 September – Sunday 17 November 2019
Open: 7 days, 10am – 5pm (Wednesday 10am-5pm). Closed public holidays.
Tel: 02 9978 4178
Information: www.mosmanartgallery.org.au



Media contact

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