

MSARC Online Lecture Series

Wed 24 Mar 2021 | 4pm – 5.30pm

Dr Jack Tan

Hub | Art & Performance

Chair | Dr Kai Syng Tan

Law as Art: exploring law, policy and rules as a creative medium for empathetic, decolonial and posthuman thinking and living

In this talk, Jack Tan will offer his practice as a starting point for a broader discussion on how law can be a creative medium through which we are able to rethink systems and structures in society. As a series of provocations, Jack will describe a few works to open up possible debates on colonialism, resistance, empathy, reworlding, and posthumanism:

- *How To Do Things With Rules* (2016) - a solo show of 5 works that examine and reframe personal, public, contractual and gallery rules (ICA Singapore).
- *Four Legs Good* (2018) - a revival of the medieval animal trials as a live 'Animal Justice Court' at Leeds Town Hall (Compass Festival/V&A).
- *Learning Nonhuman* (2021) - a gamified management tool for creating environmental policy and for noticing human-nonhuman conflicts in the city (FACT Liverpool).
- *Performing Governance Lab* (2021/22) - a 12 month performance programme where an organisation experiments with its own governance, through devising and enacting performance scores inspired by blacksmithing, bronze casting and ceramics (Scottish Sculpture Workshop).

The session will begin with a 30-40 min talk and before opening out for a discussion around law, art and social or political practice.

Biography:

Jack uses law and norms as a way of making art. He creates performances, installations and participatory projects that highlight the rules that guide human behaviour. Jack trained as a lawyer and worked in civil rights before going to art school. His PhD explored legal aesthetics and performance.

Jack's past projects include *Hearings*, an inaugural artist residency at the State Courts of Singapore and performance of legal graphic scores (Singapore Biennale 2016); *Karaoke Court*, a singing arbitration process (ICA Singapore/Yard Theatre); *Closure* a residency documenting the liquidation of a social work Quango (Dept for Health 2012). Jack has taught sculpture at Brighton University and the RCA, and politics at Goldsmiths.



Jack Tan. *Conference (Decision Pong)*. 2016. Ceramics, conference table, performance. Institute of Contemporary Art, Singapore. Photo: courtesy of the artist.

