

Shu Lea Cheang
Shareen Lightfoot

September 11, 2024 – January 31, 2025
Opening Wednesday, September 11th, 5–7PM

Shareen Lightfoot, 2024, is a commissioned installation by cyberfeminist media pioneer Shu Lea Cheang at Washington Square Windows coinciding with the 30th anniversary of her groundbreaking hacktivist film, *Fresh Kill*, 1994.

This project is part of *Legacies: Asian American Art Movements in New York City (1969-2001)*, an upcoming survey exhibition focusing on artists of Asian descent who were based in New York City on view at 80WSE Gallery.

The new street level installation Shareen Lightfoot spotlights an iconic neon sign from the film that alternates between the words "Kiss Kiss" and "Kill Kill" and a sprawling assemblage of televisions showing static noise. The image of film character Shareen Lightfoot (played by Sarita Choudhury) leaping over a techno junkyard wreckage looms in the background.

The experimental film *Fresh Kill* speculates a post-apocalyptic New York City in which main character lesbian protagonists navigate existential eco horror, consumer society, urban class drama, and technological dystopia. Described as an "eco cybernoia" and "avant-anarcho ecosatire", the film features a screenplay by Jessica Hagedorn, music by Vernon Reid, and director of photography by Arthur Jafa in addition to cameos by Jimmie Duhram, Karen Finley, Nicky Paraiso, among others.

Organized by Howie Chen
Gini Yu Pei Lee, Curatorial Assistant. Produced by Jon Huron, 80WSE.

The exhibition's presentation is made possible by Teiger Foundation. Special thanks for the support of the Asian/Pacific/American Institute at NYU, CHENZO.STUDIO, and Fales Library and Special Collections.

Equipment provided in part by Lower East Side Ecology Center

About Shu Lea Cheang

Shu Lea Cheang is an American-Taiwanese-French artist and filmmaker. She is celebrated as a Net art pioneer with *Brandon* (1998–99), the first web art commissioned by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. Cheang represented Taiwan with *3x3x6*, a mixed-media installation at 2019 Venice Biennale: *May You Live In Interesting Times*. Her feature-length films have been shown at LAS Art Foundation, Berlin; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Institute for Contemporary Art, London; among many other venues. She has exhibited at many experimental and established institutions, including Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona; Tai Kwun, Hong Kong; Museion Bolzano, Italy; Singapore Art Museum; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens; Museo Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; FACT Center, Liverpool. She has participated in international shows such as the Whitney Biennial for American Art (1993, 1995); Johannesburg Biennial (1997); Documenta 14 (2017); Gwangju Biennial (2018); Taipei Biennial (2018); Performa Biennial (2019); and Venice Biennale (2003, 2019, 2024). Her work is in the collections of Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; NTT InterCommunication Center, Tokyo; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; KADIST Foundation; Foundation Museion; Centre Pompidou, Paris; and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

In 2024, she received the LG Guggenheim Art and Technology Award. She is currently at work for two major shows in 2025 - *HAGAY DREAMING*, a theatre performance for Tate Modern and a survey show at Haus der Kunst in Munich.

About *Fresh Kill* (1994)

Fresh Kill (80:00, 35mm, color, 1994) is an independent feature film directed and produced by Shu Lea Cheang with co-producers Jennifer Fong and John Woo, associate producer Shari Frlot, scriptwriter Jessica Hagedorn and cinematographer Jane Castle. The film gathers a cast including Sharita Choudhury, Erin McMurtry, Abraham Lim, Jose Zuniga, Will Kempe, Nelini Stamp and with special appearances of noted New York downtown performers including Kate Valk, Nicky Paraiso, Alva Rogers, Karen Finley, George C. Wolfe, Jessica Hagedorn, Robbie Mccauley, Laurie Carlo, Ron Vawter, Pedro Pietri and Jimmy Durham.

Thirty years after the film's release, *Fresh Kill* is remastered by the Fales Library & Special Collections of New York University with a National Film Preservation Fund under technical supervisions of BB Optics in New York City. The 2024 release of *FRESH KILL* was premiered at the [Reclaim] International Film Festival Rotterdam (showing 4K DCP) in January 2024 and at BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) (showing 35mm print) on April 9, 2024.

This Fall, producer/director Shu Lea Cheang is traveling with two young filmmakers, Jean-Paul Jones (Los Angeles based) and Jazz Franklin (New Orleans based) on a roadtrip across USA with the remastered *Fresh Kill* 35mm film print in 5 reels and 2 film cans. Aiming to (1) explore the spirits of striving independent art house cinemas where 35mm projection is kept (2) engage with local communities on topics such as environmental racism, corporate greenwashing, tactics of resistance, the road trip has been organized as a self-distribution tour starting September 13 and ends on October 15, 2024.

80WSE Gallery

Founded in 1974, 80 Washington Square East (80WSE), NYU is a not-for-profit gallery presenting contemporary and historical exhibitions. The gallery exhibits in two further locations, at Broadway Windows at Broadway and East 10th Street, and Washington Square Windows.

Curator Howie Chen and Gallery Manager Jon Huron.

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