

SFEIR-SEMLER GALLERY

Admiralitätstr 71. D-20459 Hamburg. Tel +49-40-37519940 - galerie@sfeir-semmler - www.sfeir-semmler.com

Biography

Sung Tieu's work contends with historiography and analyses the transnational movements of both people and objects. Her practice explores the vast and evolving protection and control industries, still rooted in the logic of the Cold War, used to restrict and mould subjects in subsequently globalized capitalism. Informed by her own experience of cultural collision and displacement, her work critically investigates the art-historical legacies of late Modernism.

Using diverse artistic mediums ranging from installation, sound, video, text, sculpture, photography, performance to public interventions, her practice navigates the diasporic experiences of temporal slippage and spatial uncertainty. Within her exhibitions, a sense of dislocation is evoked through a combination of sonic, visual, and textual elements; at the same time, her extensive research on sonic weaponry and sound as medium accentuates the work, demystifying and highlighting their material mechanics. Although based in research, her exhibitions deliberately resist any singular discursive rendering, and instead give rise to layered narrative readings.

Since 2016, Tieu has been engaged in a critical examination of psychological and bureaucratic warfare — their histories and effects — to uncover the socio-political and ideological mechanisms undergirding geo-political agendas. This interest resulted in video and sound installations such as *In Cold Print* (2020), *Song for Unattended Items* (2018) and *Remote Viewing* (2017). In these works, Tieu proposes that the legacy of a Cold War threat continues to propagate—that there is a persistent state of mitigated catastrophe dispersed within and contaminating our everyday realities, the alleviation of which is premised on differentiating signal from noise and the benign from the malignant. In installations such as *Zugzwang* (2020) and *What is your |x|?* (2020), and her series *Newspapers 1969 - ongoing* (2017 - ongoing), Tieu examines the culture of information and its institutionalised dynamics of transmission in our societies—whether through newspaper columns or astrological interpretations.

Apart from her solo practice, Tieu is part of several art collectives, engaging in collaborative, non-autonomous production; among them are TROI OI, East London Cable and Asia Art Activism.

Education:

2015–2018 Postgraduate Programme, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
2012–2013 BFA, Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK
2009–2013 BFA, Hochschule für Bildende Künste Hamburg, DE

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

2025 *Bleed*, Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Switzerland
1992, 2025, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany

2024 *Civic Floor*, Oakville Galleries, Ontario, Canada
The Benchmark, Sfeir-Semmler Gallery, Hamburg, Germany
One Thousand Times, Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Nürnberg, Germany
Without Full Disclosure, Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Siegen, Germany

2023 *One Thousand Times*, Kunst Museum Winterthur, Switzerland
Infra-Specter, Amant, New York, USA
Civic Floor, MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, USA

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Kunst Museum Winterthur, Winterthur, CH
No Jobs, No Country, n.b.k. Berlin, DE

- 2022 *Civic floor*, MUDAM, Luxembourg City, LUX
Everything or Nothing, Sfeir Semler, Hamburg, DE
- 2021 *AUSGEZEICHNET #5 Sung Tieu*, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, DE
Multiboy, Stiftung Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig, Leipzig, DE
- 2020 *What is your |x|?*, Emalin, London, UK
In Cold Print, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
Zugzwang, Haus der Kunst, Munich, DE
- 2019 *Park Piece*, Fragile, Berlin, DE
Formative Years on Dearth, Parrhesiades, The Yard & Flat Time House, London, UK
Loveless, Piper Keys, London, UK
- 2018 *Song for Unattended Items*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
- 2017 *Remote Viewing*, Nha San Collective, Hanoi, VN
Coral Sea as Rolling Thunder, Art Basel Statements, Basel, CH
Memory Dispute, Sfeir-Semler Galerie, Hamburg, DE
- 2015 *Emotion Refuge*, Micky Schubert, Berlin, DE
Alien Refuge, FIAC Art Fair, Paris, FR
Subnational Enterprise, Dong Xuan Center & Kinderhook & Caracas, Berlin, DE
- 2014 TROI OI, in various Vietnamese flower shops in Berlin's subway stations, Berlin, DE

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2025 *Whispers on the Horizon*, 14th Taipei Biennial, Taipei City, Taiwan
We haven't opened yet, but we are working on it and we are doing our best to meet your expectations...., Institut Funder Bakke, Silkeborg, Denmark
- 2024 *Made in Germany? Art and Identity in a Global Nation*, Busch-Reisinger Museum, Cambridge, USA
- 2023 *Guest Relations*, Jameel Arts Center, Dubai, UAE
The Assault of the Present on the Rest of Time, Schinkel Pavillon, Berlin, Germany
Assembly. Interventions in Public Space, Portikus, Frankfurt, Germany
Systemic Love, Capc – Musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, France
Cry Me A River, Simian, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2021 *Ars Viva Preis*, Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover, DE
Though It's Dark, I Still Sing, curated by Jacopo Crivelli Visconti, 34th Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, BR
Preis der Nationalgalerie, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin, DE
TECHNO, Museion, Bolzano, IT

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INFORMATION (Today), Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH
Atonal Festival, Berlin, DE (forthcoming)
Studio Berlin II, Berghain, Berlin, DE (forthcoming)
Pop Up: Artist Running #3 by soda, Void+eaves, JP
Last Year, Your Palm Trees, Antenna Space, Shanghai, CN
HI-STORYTELLING, Sfeir Semler, Hamburg, DE
For Refusal, Transmediale, Berlin, DE
Benefit of the Doubt, Deborah Schamoni, Munich, DE

2020
Listening: Resonant Worlds, Arts Maebashi, JP
Ars Viva 2021, Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, DE
In the Forest, Even the Air Breathes, GAMeC Museum, Bergamo, IT
Paranoia TV, steirischer herbst '20, Kleine Zeitung, Graz and Klagenfurt, AT
Magical Soup, Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum for Gegenwart, Berlin, DE
Touch, Peles Empire, Berlin, DE
Recession Grimace, Klosterruine, Berlin, DE
Come closer, curated by Tereza Stejskalová & Vít Havránek 1st Matter of Art Biennale, Prague, CZ
Nameless. echoes, spectres, hisses, A.I. Gallery, London, UK
REALITY, Tropez, Berlin, DE
Real Time, Seventeen, London, UK
Platform: London, David Zwirner Online, London, UK

2019
We shall survive in the memory of others, Barbara Weiss Gallery, Berlin, DE
The Season of Cartesian Weeping, with East London Cable, David Roberts Foundation, London, UK
back there, Kunstverein Tiergarten, Berlin, DE
The Ghost War, WTF Gallery, Bangkok, TH
Mercury, Tallinn Art Hall, Tallinn, EE
While I Kiss The Sky, curated by Goschka Gawlik and Arkadiusz Póltorak, Senn Galerie, Vienna, AT
Empty Vase, Vacancy Gallery, Shanghai, CN
Open Studios, Villa Romana, Florence, IT
HybrID, Kunsthau Hamburg, Hamburg, DE
Deep Sounding - History as multiple narratives, DAAD Galerie, Berlin, DE
S/F Photography, or a Monolith after 200 years, Kayoko Yuki Gallery, Tokyo, JP
Artists Use Photography, Praz Delavallade Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, US
Lifehacks, BQ Gallery, Berlin, DE
A Fear of Monsters, Asia Film Archive, Singapore, SG

2018
SKY PAINTING, with Cameron Irving, Unit 21, Penarth Centre, London, UK
The Culture Collider, Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology, Krakow, PL
Diaspora, Ma Homey, Space_31, Berlin, DE
UnAuthorised Medium, Framer Framed, Amsterdam, NL
No War, No Vietnam, Galerie Nord, Kunstverein Tiergarten, Berlin, DE
If you need guidance please ask you colleague, Mathias Güntner Gallery, Hamburg, DE
Objects in the mirror are closer than they appear, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
First I have to put my face on, Like A Little Disaster, Polignano a Mare, IT
DECREATION, 51zero Film Festival, Whitstable Biennial, Kent, UK
Domestic Detail, Play-Co, Studio Ed Fornieles, London, UK
Die Stelle des Schnitts, film programme, Kunstverein Nürnberg, DE

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- 2017 *DECREATION*, 51zero Film Festival, Rochester, UK
DISPLA(Y)CED, Kunstverein Alte Feuerwache Loschwitz and in public spaces, Dresden, DE
Original Fake, Maisterravalbuena, Madrid, ES
The Stillness Of A Departure, Polansky Gallery, Prague, CZ
Plazoleto, Skyline Plaza, Frankfurt am Main, DE
Gender, Identity and Material, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
Premiums, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
Neue Kunst In Hamburg, curated by Rhea Dall, Multiple Box, Hamburg, DE
- 2016 *Park View*, Frankfurt am Main, Berlin Project Space Festival, Berlin, DE
This Is Your Replacement, Sies + Höke, Düsseldorf, DE
- 2015 *W A R II*, curated by Adam Carr, Mostyn, Wales, UK
By Boat (Farewell), Gallery José Garcia, Mexico City, MX
DEEP SKIN, Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNOlab), Ontario, CA Group Show, Micky Schubert, Berlin, DE

Performances:

- 2019 *Inferiority Complex VI*, Kunsthau Hamburg, Hamburg, DE
- 2018 *Inferiority Complex III*, Framer Framed, Amsterdam, NL
Inferiority Complex II, An Viet Foundation, London, UK
- 2017 *Inferiority Complex I*, 47 Canal Gallery, New York, US
Trade Agreement II, Live Art Development Agency, London, UK
Trade Agreement I, Deptford Lounge, London, UK
Between your parted legs II, Sung Tieu & Christian Naujoks, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
- 2016 *Between your parted legs I*, Sung Tieu & Christian Naujoks, Kunstverein in Hamburg, DE
- 2014 *Atlas*, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, DE
- 2012 *Villa I: This House Is A Triadic Fascist And Made Of Industry Glass*, with Villa Design Group, George and Dragon, London, UK

Other:

- 2020 *ELC TV Dinner IV*, East London Cable
Formative Years on Dearth, Parrhesiades Volume 1, London, UK
- 2019 *ELC TV Dinner III*, East London Cable, Tate Modern, Starr Cinema, London, UK
ELC TV Dinner II, East London Cable, Raven Row, London, UK
- 2018 *ELC TV Dinner I*, East London Cable, Raven Row, London, UK
2016 *Five*, PFIEL #5, Spike Magazine, Berlin, DE

Awards:

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- 2021 Ars Viva Award for Visual Art, DE
- 2020 Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung, Essen, DE
Ausgezeichnet #5, Stiftung Kunstfonds & Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, DE
- 2019 The Arts Foundation Futures Award: Visual Arts, Brighton, UK (shortlist)
- 2018 Galileo Digital Art Price, Royal Academy of Arts, UK
Almacantar Studio Award, London, UK
- 2017 Landseer Prize, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
Neue Kunst in Hamburg Kunstpreis, Hamburg, DE
- 2013 Hamburg New Positions Kunstpreis, Hamburg, DE

Residencies:

- 2021 Fogo Island Arts Residency, New Foundland, CA (forthcoming)
- 2019 NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, SG
- 2018 Arts Maebashi, Maebashi, JP
Raven Row, London, UK
- 2017 MAP2: Communities, London, in collaboration with Something Human, London, UK
- 2015 New Space Arts Foundation, Hue, VN