

Sim Chi Yin

b.1978, Singapore

Lives and works in Berlin

EDUCATION

2018-25 PhD in War Studies (art practice-based), King's College London, University of London

2022-23 Whitney Museum Independent Study Programme, New York. Artist fellow

2001 MSc in History of International Relations (distinction), London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London

2000 BA in History (first class honours), London School of Economics and Political Science

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 归舟: Longings, Returns, Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York, USA

2025 Chronotopia; in collaboration with curatorial consultant, Sam I-shan and exhibition designer Benjamin Bannan; Roslyn Smorgon Gallery, Footscray Community Arts, Australia

2024 The Mountain That Hid, curated by Matthew Lawson Garrett, Datsuijo, Tokyo, Japan

2021 One Day We'll Understand, curated by Lotte Laub, Zilberman, Berlin, Germany

One Day We'll Understand, Interventions, Les Rencontres d'Arles, France

Most People Were Silent, Le Space Gallery, Melbourne Australia

2020 Shifting Sands & Most People Were Silent, Jimei X Arles International Photo Festival, Xiamen, China

One Day We'll Understand, Landskrona Konsthall, Sweden

2019 One Day We'll Understand, Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong

2018 Most People Were Silent, Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore

Fallout, Cortona On The Move Photo Festival, Italy

2017 Fallout, Nobel Peace Centre, Oslo, Norway

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Second Nature: Photography in the Age of the Anthropocene, curated by Jessica May and Marshall N. Price, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, USA

After the Monsoon: Art & War in Southeast Asia, National Gallery Singapore, Singapore

Stay Connected: Supplying the Globe, curated by Pi Li and Ying Kwok, Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong

Disobedience Archive (Canopy for Broken Time), curated by Marco Scotini, Migros Museum Zurich, Switzerland

2025 Talking Objects, curated by Ong Puay Khim, Singapore Art Museum (SAM), Singapore

I Still Dream of Lost Vocabularies, curated by Bindi Vora, Autograph, London, UK

Visual Kinship, curated by Alisa Swindell, Dr. Kimberly Juanita Brown, Dr. Thy Phu, Dr. Iyko Day, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth, New Hampshire, USA

Invisible Race, curated by Päiviö Maurice Omwami, The Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland

Disobedience Archive, curated by Marco Scotini, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark

A Silence So Loud, co-curated by Tao Leigh Goffe and Cecile Chong, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, New York, USA

2024 Swaying the Current, curated by Ece Ateş, Lotte Laub, Lusin Reinsch, Zilberman Berlin, Germany

One Way Ashore, a Thousand Channels, curated by Tan Yue, the Times Museum, Guangzhou, China

Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Fondation Fimenco, Paris, France

Forgive Us Our Trespasses / Vergib uns unsere Schuld—Of (Un)Real Frontiers, Of (Im)Moralities, and Other Transcendences, curated by Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, Haus der Kulturen der Welt | HKW, Berlin, Germany

See/Change - Art Collection Deutsche Börse, curated by Ami Beckmann and Renée Mussai, Somerset House, London, UK

Disobedience Archive, 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia: Foreigners Everywhere, kurator: Adriano Pedrosa, Venice, Italy

Nomadic, curated by Dr Vennes Cheng, Jim Thompson Art Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

At the Edge of Land, curated by Lucas Morin, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE

Chronic Compulsions: Selected Works from Art Addicts Anonymous, curated by Low Sze Wee, Michelle and Michael Lee, The Private Museum Singapore

- 2023 Double Exposure, curated by Anna Voswinckel, Camera Austria, Graz, Austria
 RE/SISTERS: A Lens on Gender and Ecology, Barbican Centre, London, UK
 Sand: Resource, life, desire, Museum Sinclair Haus, Germany
 No Necessary Correspondence - the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA
 War is over! Peace has not yet begun, curated by Fondazione Imago Mundi, Gallerie delle Prigioni, Treviso, Italy
 Transit, curated by Lotte Laub & Susanne Weiß, Zilberman, Berlin, Germany
 Indigo Waves, curated by Natasha Ginwala & Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung, Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany
- 2022 17. İstanbul Biennial, curated by: Ute Meta Bauer, Amar Kanwar, David Teh, Istanbul, Turkey
 To A Faraway Friend: Beyond Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities, ASEAN Culture House, Busan, south Korea
- 2022 That Pause of Space, curated by Lotte Laub, Zilberman Selected, Istanbul, Turkey
 Cast But One Shadow: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities, Jorge B. Vargas Museum, the Philippines
- 2021 Devour the Land, Harvard Art Museums, United States
 Rediscovery, MAB Modern Studio, Shanghai
 The Lie Of The Land, FOST Gallery, Singapore
 What Happened Here?, Appetite, Singapore
 Butterflies Frolicking on the Mud: Engendering Sensible Capital, Thailand Biennale, Korat, Thailand
 Guangzhou Image Triennial, kūratorler: Gerardo Mosquera, Hyperimage Group (Dong Bingfeng, Xiang Zairong, and Teng Yuning) and Yang Beichen, Çin
- 2020 Correspondences - 70 years: Magnum and Picto 1950 - 2020, Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York
- 2019 Most People Were Silent, Aesthetica Art Prize, York Art Gallery
- 2018 One Day We'll Understand, Framer Framed, Amsterdam
 One Day We'll Understand, Jendela gallery, Esplanade, Singapore
- 2017 The Rat Tribe, Istanbul Biennale
 The Rat Tribe, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Seoul
- 2016 Dying To Breathe, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, North Carolina
 Dying To Breathe, Objectifs, Singapore
 The Rat Tribe, Arko Art Center, Seoul
- 2015 Burmese Spring, Annenberg Space for Photography, Los Angeles
- 2012 The Rat Tribe, PhotoVille, New York
 Burmese Spring, Nobel Peace Center, Oslo
- 2008 The Workers From Samsui, The Necessary Stage Fringe Festival, Singapore

PUBLISHED BOOKS

- 2021 She Never Rode That Trishaw Again
 2021 One Day We'll Understand, exhibition catalogue

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 "To Singapore and Malaysia With Love: Artistic Legacies of the Malayan Emergency", chapter in Andrew Ng, Jonathan Driskell, Marek W. Rutkowski (eds.), The Malayan Emergency in Film, Literature and Art: Cultural Memory as Historical Other, Bloomsbury Academic.
- 2025 "Letter to Granddad: Tracing the Life of a Leftist During the Malayan Emergency, 1948-1960", chapter in Unlearning Cold War Narratives: On-the-ground Experiences in Asia, University of North Carolina Press.
- 2023 "Methods of Memory: Time Travels in the Archives", journal article in Trans Asia Photography, Duke University Press.

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Since 2021 Trans Asia Photography, Duke University Press,.

SELECTED PERFORMANCE

- 2025 One Day We'll Understand, Asia-Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts, Melbourne, Australia premiere
- 2024 One Day We'll Understand, Esplanade Singapore, world premiere

SELECTED PERFORMANCE LECTURES

- 2024 One Day We'll Understand, K21 Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf Photo+ Biennale for Visual and Sonic Media
- 2022 One Day We'll Understand, Asia Art Archive in America, New York, USA
- 2019 One Day We'll Understand, Singapore International Festival of the Arts
One Day We'll Understand, Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, Brighton
- 2018 One Day We'll Understand, The New School, New York

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2024 Sovereign Art Prize, shortlist, Hong Kong
- 2020 Discovery Award, Jimei X Arles International Photo Festival, Xiamen, China
Nominee, Jane Lombard Prize for Art and Social Justice, Vera List Center, The New School, New York
Finalist, Tim Hetherington Visionary award
- 2019 Aesthetica Art Prize, shortlist
- 2018 Chris Hondros Award
- 2017 Asia 21 Young Leader
- 2016 Prix Pictet, nominated
- 2015 CINE Golden Eagle Awards, short documentary
Prix Pictet, nominated
- 2014 Her World "Young Woman Achiever of the Year"
British Journal of Photography, "Ones to Watch"
- 2013 W. Eugene Smith Grant for Humanistic Photography, finalist
ICON de Martell Cordon Bleu Awards, Discernment Award and People's Choice award
Photo District News, PDN 30
- 2011 Santa Fe Prize, nominated

COMMISSIONS

- 2025 Hood Museum, Dartmouth, Visual Kinship
- 2022 Autograph London and Bagri Foundation, Critical Times: Dialogues in Contemporary Photography
Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21) video commission for St_age
- 2018 Land Transport Authority Singapore, Art in Transit public art commission
- 2017 Nobel Peace Prize exhibition commission, Oslo

SELECTED RESIDENCIES, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, LECTURESHIPS

- 2022-3 Whitney Independent Study programme (studio track)
- 2021 Zilberman Artist-in-Residence programme
- 2020 Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore residency
- 2018 Associate lecturer, University of the Arts London, London College Of Communication, teaching on MA
Photography and the "Contemporary Documentary" unit on the BA programme
Practice-based doctoral research scholarship, King's College London
- 2017 Docking Station residency, Amsterdam
- 2010 Magnum Foundation Human Rights and Photography fellowship, New York University

SELECTED WORKSHOPS

- 2025 A Silence That Sits, Immigration Museum Melbourne, Asia Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts, workshop
lead artist
- 2019 Ethics and Images, Tate Britain, workshop leader

SELECTED TALKS

- 2024 Ah Ma, on family memory and trauma, Zilberman Gallery Berlin, with Tash Aw
Time-lapse: In Conversation with Ming Wong and Sim Chi Yin, The Esplanade Singapore
Mis-alignments, Camera Austria, with art historian Gabrielle Moser
- 2023 Indigo Waves and Other Stories, Gropius Bau, Berlin
Time Travelers: When artists remix the past to reframe the present, curated by Stephanie Bailey, moderated by Ho Tzu Nyen, Art Basel Hong Kong
- 2022 Memory and Materiality in the photo book, International Center for Photography, New York
- 2019 Shifting Sands, Barbican Centre / Magnum Photos, London
Ethics and Contemporary Image-making, Tate Britain, study day lead, London
- 2018 Fallout, Magnum Foundation, New York
Fallout, New York University Shanghai
- 2015 Facebook Asia-Pacific, Women's Leadership Day, closing speaker

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Brooklyn Museum
Harvard Art Museums
The J. Paul Getty Museum
Deutsche Borse Photography Foundation
M+ Museum, Hong Kong
Singapore Art Museum
National Museum Singapore
Open Society Foundations
Private collections