

There is a Criminal Touch to Art.

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Invisible stolen artworks by famous artists are auctioned in Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, local non-profit artist-run spaces can count only on themselves to increase awareness and be visible. During the most prestigious ArtBaselHK art week, they are even more overlooked, as the biggest names steal the spotlight. That's why a small artist-run theatre in Kowloon, Thy Lab 吳堂, decided to steal it back during this year's Art Basel.

Through the integrated campaign "Thieves - An Auction of Stolen Art" Thy Lab promotes its fundraising gala dinner to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the space. This immersive performance presents invisible artworks by famous artists that were stolen from all over the world to be auctioned on March 31st, 2024. The artists are big names from the history of conceptual arts such as: Andy Warhol, Yves Klein, Maurizio Cattelan, James Lee Byars, Tom Friedman, Ruben Gutierrez, Salvatore Garau, Ying Bo.

The stolen invisible artworks are presented as the government unveils a newly approved legislation that will make all artistic productions more easily censored, effectively turning them into non-visible cultural outputs. In times of uncertainty, invisibility is the ultimate secure strategy. Concurrently to the big art week, we want to highlight the crucial role of invisible local initiatives in invisible locations. Taking advantage of the attention gathered by the commodity fairs, in a difficult year when local artists flee, we dare to stay: small players confident that real art is participation and provocation, rather than status-climbing and self exile. The art that can be seen is not eternal art. The origin of all artistic inspiration is no visible. Stealing from rich artists, channeling resources to poor ones means to stand up for the common folks in the face of tyranny. When simple worker Vincenzo Perruggia stole the Monalisa from the Louvre in 1911, French Police accused Picasso and Apollinaire, as they could not imagine a regular folk would conjure such bravado for beauty: he seemed too far from it. That is why he could take it to Florence undisturbed. Our action reclaims this right to beauty. Imagination creates beauty not only in love but in the world itself. As a modern Don Quixote, Thy gently reminds you to steal beauty in life every day, resisting a harsh reality through the lightness of imagination. Let us abandon impractical battles with over-inflated enemies, departing towards a newly-born aesthetic.

They tell you authenticity costs. But authenticity can not be bought. You are more authentic the more you resemble what you've dreamed of being.

That is why, for each stolen artwork purchased by a bidding collector, the thief-artist will give himself up to the authorities. Silent auction starts today.

Auction Preview Dates: 20.03 - 31.03.2024 | Gala Live Auction: 31.03.2024 | Location: Thy Lab, Sham Shui Po

Thy+Gala decennial dinner and auction performance is THY's celebration of our first ten years of activities, and an attempt to fundraise for the eleventh. THY LAB is an independent theatre in an occupied Hong Kong rooftop slum and an art museum in a re-appropriated back alley. Through an artistic use of irony and the Shanzhai method, it has operated for 10 years, subverting consolidated hierarchies within the art industry. It has questioned the authority of other big art players in town. It has performed the ridge between art and ritual. It represents the mild wisdom of Hong Kong's older generation and the ancient world.

The integrated pr campaign 'THIEVES. An Auction of Stolen Art' promotes the 2024 Thy+Gala performance by artist A Gerosa (albertogerosa@gmail.com), with senior creative directors M Salati (msalati@michelesalati.it) and C Tonnarelli (cristiano.tonnarelli@gmail.com), and images by N Shchukin IG: [@kitofsky](https://www.instagram.com/kitofsky) and A Gerosa IG: [@thy_lab](https://www.instagram.com/thy_lab)

We look forward to your support. Proceeds from Thy+Gala will contribute to Thy’s mission of subverting art practices in Hong Kong. Prices below are converted into credit for the fundraising auction, and include a limited edition of THY 2014-2024 decennial publication.

RSVP here	Regular Price
THY SPONSOR 1 prominent Table of 12 seats; name placement throughout 2024: (THY ____)	HK\$280,000
PLATINUM SPONSOR 1 prominent Table of 12 seats; name placement on Gala promotional material	HK\$140,000
GOLD SPONSOR 1 Table of 12 seats; name placement on Gala promotional material	HK\$80,000
SILVER SPONSOR 1 Table of 6 seats	HK\$28,000
STUDENT SPONSOR 6 seats	HK\$14,000
One seat (THY Membership included)	HK\$2,800
Gala Merchandise (Membership Not-Included)	HK\$280

Additional contributions are welcome.

[RSVP here](#)

Ethereal Menu

Entries

Carpaccio of timid octopus

Quantum sliced Octopus served with marinated garlic scent

Or

Post-material consommé

Bisque soup with dishonesty

Mains

Air Hint of Elegance in Tonnarelli

Whispering quail eggs with micro-filling, dusted with a hint of air-paprika

Or

Vanishing Act Filet Mignon

A perfectly imagined filet essence, wrapped in an invisible bacon blanket, served with mysterious herb butter

Or

Mysterious Seafood Medley

A selection of transparent seafood delights such as lobster color, scallops shapes, swimming in a lemon scent

Sides

Enigmatic vegetable tower

A captivating tower of grilled acrobatic vegetables, stacked to perfection, with a chameleonic balsamic reduction

Or

Ethereal fruit salad

Anarchic seasonal fruits, topped with a magical dressing of de-tox yogurt

Desserts

Conjuring Chocolate Mousse

A rich chocolate mousse that disappears on the palate leaving a theory of cocoa.

Or

Mirage of Volcano cake

A molten volcano cake that magically disappears as soon as it eases down on the plate.

Ruben Gutierrez	"This Sculpture Makes Me Cry (A Spell)" Relevant Authority: Consulate of Mexico in HK	2022	An immaterial, invisible sculpture atop a small white pedestal, displayed as part of a bigger exhibit. It is said to represent what the artist cannot see, but which affects him emotionally, making him feel invisible and insignificant.
Salvatore Garau	"Buddha in Contemplazione" (<i>Buddha in Contemplation</i>)	2021	An invisible, intangible sculpture.
Tom Friedman	"Untitled (A Curse)"	1992	Similar to Warhol's sculpture, but a witch was reportedly hired to curse the space immediately above the pedestal.
Andy Warhol	"Invisible Sculpture"	1985	Consists of an invisible, intangible sculpture atop a white pedestal .
James Lee Byars	"The Ghost of James Lee Byars"	1969	The artwork itself is the emptiness and darkness of a pitch-black room.
Yves Klein	"Zone de Sensibilité Picturale Immatérielle" (<i>Zone of Immaterial Pictorial Sensibility</i>)	1959	Consists of the sale of documentation of ownership of empty space; the piece could be completed in a ritual in which the buyer would burn said documentation.
Maurizio Cattelan	Untitled	1997	The artist denounced the theft of an "invisible" artwork at local Police station Forlì city, reporting its loss.
Ying Bo	Thy+Gala	2024	A Gala dinner where participants bid for invisible artworks, while being served invisible food.