

# Seecum Cheung *The Dutch Window*

Opening  
Friday 5 May 6–8pm

Exhibition continues until  
22 July 2017

LAUNCH OF EXHIBITION  
Friday 5 May, 6–8pm

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME DISCUSSIONS,  
19 May, 2 June, 16 June, 14 July, 1–2.30pm

MAPPING PROPAGANDA WORKSHOP  
LED BY KEITH DODDS  
Thursday 29 June, 6–8pm

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH  
SEECUM CHEUNG  
Friday 30 June, 1–2.30pm  
Free lunch provided

Exhibition open Wednesday to Saturday 12–5pm

## GRAND UNION

19 Minerva Works, Fazeley Street  
Birmingham B5 5RS

0121 643 9079  
info@grand-union.org.uk  
www.grand-union.org.uk



CBK R'DAM



# THE DUTCH WINDOW

a solo exhibition by  
**SEECUM CHEUNG**



5 May – 22 July 2017  
Grand Union



What does it mean to open the curtains, to expose the interior, as the Dutch are known to do? The interplay of relations through windows works in many directions, as a fragile border between the exterior and the interior, as a reflection of both 'us' and 'them', and as a device to exhibit a lifestyle (with nothing to hide).

What can politics learn from the architectural frame and its noteworthy weaknesses? What possibility is there of building a socio-political system that acknowledges its own weaknesses as valuable and meaningful parts of the construction? It is these very weaknesses that give us perspective and insight when we need them – the window uncovered or left open; the crack in the ceiling that signals the roof is about to cave.

Marianna Maruyama  
April 2017

Grand Union is very pleased to present *The Dutch Window*, the first solo presentation of work by Seecum Cheung in the UK. Grand Union will host a single channel video installation, with a focus upon the national elections of The Netherlands, which took place on 15 March 2017.

Cheung has been conducting interviews since August 2015, collaborating with media representatives to collect footage from Germany, Belgium, Sweden, The Netherlands, Hungary, Denmark, Bulgaria and the UK, to map out the differing frames surrounding the rising surge of nationalism within Europe.

*The Dutch Window* refers to the cultural tradition in The Netherlands of having open and un-curtained front windows, thus exposing one's interiors for all to see. This unique act has amassed theoretical speculation, centered on the Dutch ideal of *having nothing to hide*. The borders of the private become intimately blurred with the public, separating the outside from the inside, and uniting the two through reflection. Cheung uses the window as a metaphor for the ideology of liberal transparency and openness in Dutch politics.

At the heart of the film is a discussion around the Dutch voting system of Proportional Representation, focusing on the new fringe parties which ran in this year's electoral race. As noted by the Dutch political scientist Prof. Tom van der Meer, 'The Dutch system is highly proportional which is radical in its principle of when people vote. The consequence there is that if there is distrust in society, that distrust gets reflected in parliament quite directly, quite easily... so parliament has a chance to cleanse itself, to give people a voice, to canonise distrust in parliament. In the end that is better for democracy'. Since the Proportional Representation system was implemented in 1918, no party has ever approached the seats needed for an outright majority, therefore the Dutch parties have consistently worked together to form coalitions, in order to best represent the values for all Dutch people in all its liberal and illiberal shades.

Alongside the exhibition there will be a public programme responding to the work involving artists, writers, graphic designers and academics. We are also hosting free communal lunches every other Friday during the show, where everyone is welcome to discuss the themes within the exhibition. Please check our website for further details.