

SCHOENI PROJECTS

presents

Door to Door

Szelit Cheung and Olga Grotova



20 October–5 November 2023

Press Preview: **19 October 2023, 4–5pm *PRESS EXCLUSIVE**

Exhibition Preview: **19 October 2023, 5–8pm**

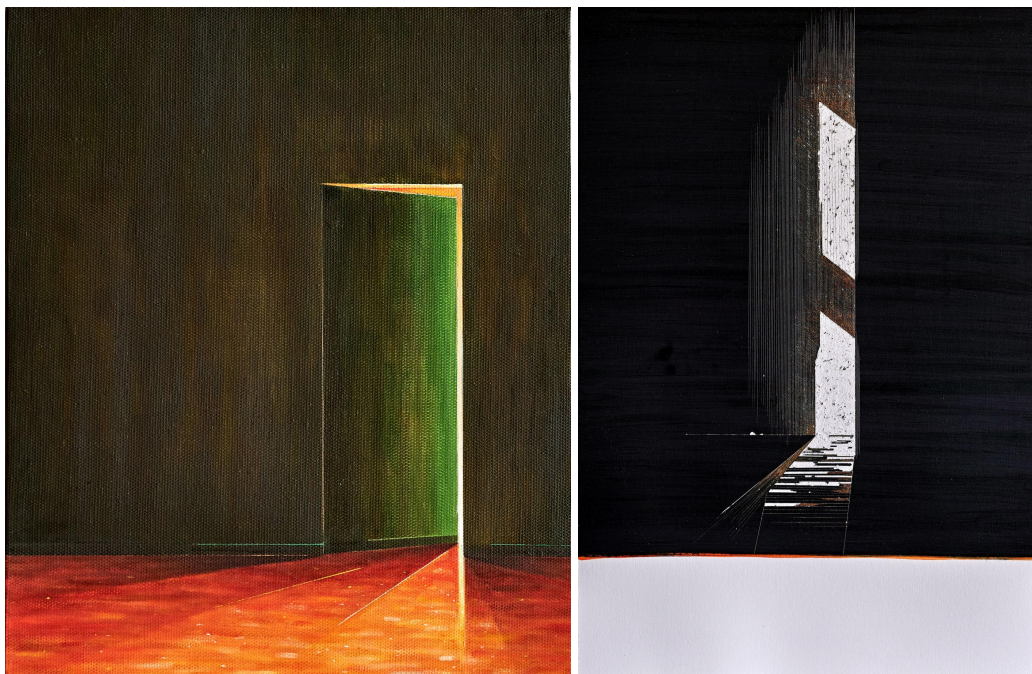
Wing Gallery  **Cromwell Place**

LONDON - Schoeni Projects is pleased to co-present with THE SHOPHOUSE, 'Door to Door', a summer residency programme located in Hong Kong and London. The dual residency involves an exchange of artistic ideas, creating dialogue between participating artists Szelit Cheung and Olga Grotova, and their audience. We are pleased to present an exhibition of new and unique works created by the artists during their artists-in-residence at MLS Artist Residency (MLSAR) in London at Cromwell Place.



Szelit Cheung and Olga Grotova at Schoeni Projects MLSAR venue in southwest London

'Door to Door' represents the artists' interpretation of the convergence of their practice and cultural exchange across Hong Kong and London. Door implies the act of transition - from here to there, from past to today and today to the future - signifying a passage between the known reality and the unknown. A door and a work of art are two things that may seem unrelated, but both symbolise an entryway to a building or a journey into the mind of an artist. From one location to another, the artists shaped their experience by exploring the connection between their established practice and opportunities emerging during the residency. Drawing on the architectural features and their experience in a new cultural environment, they created unique works inviting audiences to unfold the opportunities for dialogue, spanning the mystery behind each door.



Left: Szelit Cheung, *Door VIII*, Oil on linen, 30 x 25.3 cm, 2023 Right: Szelit Cheung, *House VIII*, Oil on paper, 50 x 34 cm, 2023
Artworks © The Artist. Courtesy of Schoeni Projects and THE SHOPHOUSE. Photos by Nick Smith.

Szelit Cheung's works engage with the architectural compositions of MLSAR which is housed in an 1850s Victorian townhouse in London. With his delicate and meticulous observation of variations in light across structural compositions and space, he created the respective Door series and House series. Cheung's practice involves using contrast in colours and minimal forms to portray the fleeting

moment of light and shadow within an ethereal space, exploring the transitional period of happenings in the parallel of presence and emptiness.

Szelit Cheung explained, *'The residency is named 'Door To Door', and 'Door' is an interesting theme that is full of imagination. When standing in front of the door, you may choose to open it to exit or enter a new space, or even stay in the current state. At MLSAR, I was attracted to the light and atmosphere of the building. I often gaze at the light on the floor or on the walls to experience the atmosphere at different times. I try to express my interpretation in my work.'*



Left: Olga Grotova, *Rot*, Pigments and photograms on linen, 100 x 80 cm, 2023

Right: Olga Grotova, *Worm Nest*, Cyanotype on hand-made silk, 25.5 x 20.5 cm, 2023

Artworks © The Artist. Courtesy of Schoeni Projects and THE SHOPHOUSE. Photos by Arcalis Studio.

London-based Russian artist Olga Grotova is known for her unique approach using light-sensitive objects found in nature and earth pigments as a medium of drawing. For the 'Door to Door' residency programme, her works employ the materials associated with her respective cultural inheritances and encounters in Hong Kong and London. Using the process of cyanotype, typhoon-torn tree debris, plants, crushed shells, mineral pigments and soil gradually evolve in her creations through exposure time and the transitive nature of light. The entire process unfolds traces of interwoven materials in layers. The transparency and texture within the work invoke the feeling of untraceable memories from the past, inviting individuals to embark on a personal journey to explore these lost fragments. Grotova's artistic practice is a testament to her ability to capture the ephemeral and elusive nature of memory and history.

Olga Grotova said, *'In Hong Kong, I experimented with sunlight - a 'material' that is in abundance in June and July and created cyanotypes on various hand-made papers and textiles. I was gifted precious cuts of hand-made silk and mud-dyed silk that have a profound connection with female bodies. The mud-dyed silk was used to make dresses and over extensive wear the mud would crack and resemble the surface of the earth. I thought of a beautiful interweaving of geological time and the lifetimes of women whose bodies came in physical contact with the earth through their clothing.'*

Olga Grotova will be present at the **press preview and exhibition preview on 19 October 2023 (Thursday) from 4–8pm.**

An artist talk *Door to Door: Szelit Cheung and Olga Grotova in Conversation* will be held at the Wing Gallery, Cromwell Place on **21 October 2023 (Saturday) from 11am–12:30pm.**

NOTES FOR EDITORS

SCHOENI PROJECTS Founded by Nicole Schoeni, Schoeni Projects is a contemporary art platform headquartered in London, with offices in Hong Kong. The foundations and beating heart of Schoeni Projects is about promoting talent and celebrating cross-cultural exchange rooted in heritage, in unique and creative environments. The organisation is built on the belief that art and the platforms on which it is shared, should be fluid and flexible allowing artists and art practitioners to connect, collaborate and engage in dialogue with ease. The team is committed to offering infrastructure and support to develop the careers of emerging and established international artists and collaborators.

Door to Door: Szelit Cheung and Olga Grotova

Press Preview	19 October 2023 (Thurs) 4–5pm ↘ Book a press tour / arrange an artist interview
Exhibition Preview	19 October 2023 (Thurs) 5–8pm ↘ RSVP Essential
Artist Talk	21 October 2023 (Sat) 11am–12:30pm ↘ Get your free ticket
Exhibition Duration	20 October–5 November 2023 Mon–Sat: 11am–7pm Sun: 11am–4pm Free Admission
Address	All events will take place at: Wing Gallery, 📍 Cromwell Place , London SW7 2JE

Journalists can subscribe to [Schoeni Projects Mailings](#) and our social media channels to receive information and the latest updates: [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)

For social media posts, please mention:
#DOORTODOOR
@szelit_cheung
@olgagrotova
@schoeniprojects
@theshophousehongkong

For more information, images or any other press and sales enquiries, please contact angel@schoeniprojects.com

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Szelit Cheung (b. 1988 in Weidong, China) is a Hong Kong-based artist who engages in a cross-disciplinary practice including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and installation. His current practice resembles the essence of void and explores the connection between presence and emptiness by utilising simple forms, light and colours as a means to echo and amplify the intangible yet powerful feelings and expressions.

After graduating from The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (RMIT) in 2012, he works solely as an artist and continues pursuing his passion for art. His work has been widely exhibited in different places, including America, France, Japan, Taiwan, China, and Hong Kong. He has held solo exhibitions in Touch Gallery (Hong Kong, 2022), Rossi & Rossi Gallery, (Hong Kong, 2021) and Galerie Ora-Ora (Hong Kong, 2020). Group exhibitions include Wind H Art Center (798 Art Zone, Beijing, China, 2023), Tokyo Gallery + BTAP (Tokyo, Japan, 2021), One Thousand Museum (Miami, 2019), Pearl Lam Galleries Hong Kong SOHO (Hong Kong, 2017) and Crane Gallery (Taiwan, 2015).

Olga Grotova (b. 1986 in Chelyabinsk, Russia) is an artist and poet living and working in London. Her practice involves collecting and mapping stories of Soviet and Eastern European women that have been erased from established historical narratives. Grotova undertakes research journeys to discover the lost histories of communities and families from former Soviet states to dispel male-dominated and power-centric 'official' narratives. Her practice is a feminist interruption of the Russian political narrative plagued by extraction, patriarchy, and imperialism. The erased female narratives create fractures and inconsistencies in the official history and undermine the regime built on terror, misogyny and militarisation. By discovering erased or misunderstood female histories and questioning the homogenised state-backed narrative she opens up the potential for larger explorations of resistance to global ecological catastrophe, colonisation and totalitarianism.

Grotova graduated from the Royal College of Art MA in Painting (2016) and participated in residency programmes with Schoeni Projects and THE SHOPHOUSE (2023), Studio Voltaire (2023), CAD+SR (2022, facilitated by Rirkrit Tiravanija and Pelin Tan), Atelier 17 Paris (2022), Wysing Syllabus VI (2020-2021) and Praksis (2019) amongst others. Selected exhibitions and performances include Studio Voltaire (London, 2023), KADIST (Paris, 2023), Les Rencontres d'Arles (Arles, 2022), Garage Museum of Contemporary Art (Moscow, 2021), Centrala (Birmingham, 2019), Oslo Kunstforening (Oslo, 2019), Mimosa House (London, 2018), Guest Projects (London, 2012) and Hayward Gallery (London, 2012).

'Door to Door' is co-presented with:



And is supported by:

