

## *How to Make Space*

temporary architecture of Migrant Domestic Workers in public space

Organized by:

**Rear View (Projects)**  
**(Jennifer Davis and Su-Ying Lee)**

Opening reception: **Sunday, June 26**

On view: **June 25 - July 23, 2016**

**The Central Oasis Gallery**  
**Central Market Public Passage 2/F**  
**80 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong**

Featuring work by:

Stephanie Comilang

Devora Neumark in collaboration with

Open Door and Rowena Yin-Fan Chan  
Tings Chak



*How to Make Space* takes the tactics of Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs) in Hong Kong as its point of departure. Motivated by the availability of employment, over 300,000 women have migrated to Hong Kong, predominantly from South Asian countries, to be employed as domestic workers. In their navigation of the densely-populated city and restrictive labor and immigration laws, the women have effectively reshaped public space and created multiple networks to support their needs. This social production of space is most tangibly visible on Sundays, the MDWs' only day off. The women can be seen congregating across the public spaces of the city, within temporary structures of cardboard, string, and tarp that are sites for communal activities including meals, socializing, worship, grooming, performances, advocacy, and organization. These adaptations of place and home arise due to the regulation that MDWs must reside with their employers. Surplus space is scarce in the concentrated city and private space is unlikely. The artists in the exhibition have each produced new artworks with the involvement and participation from MDWs in Hong Kong and organizations that work with them. Each work engages with aspects of the spatial realities of a dense urban environment, the conflation of work and life, and concepts of home. Given the widespread expectation that women should yield space, rather than occupy it (physically, verbally, and intellectually), the exhibition *How to Make Space* positions the temporary architectures of Hong Kong's MDWs as a tactical and spatial manifestation of female agency and self-determination.

*How to Make Space* is a 2015-16 apexart Franchise Program winning exhibition along with *Apricots from Damascus* (Istanbul, Turkey) and *In Vitro (Studies On Entropy)* (Copenhagen, Denmark).