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Edmond Gallery

## PRESS RELEASE

Vvzela KOOK

**ANY DIMENSION YOU LIKE**

18 Nov. 2017 – 13 Jan. 2018

Opening reception: Sat. 18 Nov. 2017, 4 – 8 pm / Artist performance: 6 pm

Curator: TSAO Yidi

Edmond Gallery is pleased to present ***Any Dimension You Like***, the first solo exhibition of new media artist **Vvzela Kook** in Europe. The exhibition features three of her most distinctive and representative series of works from 2012 till today. In these works, Kook touches upon subjects of multiverse, artificial intelligence, space exploration, psychology and human future. She offers the audience a more accessible and intuitive way to contemplate on these subjects of science and technology through the interpretation in her artistic language. The exhibition title *Any Dimension You Like* is a sanguine enticement from the artist to the viewers to step into her multidimensional and capacious imagination land, be it in time or space.

In the age when interplanetary travel is no long a future in fantasy but a promise to happen in 5 years, it is time to consider how to maintain our well-being when living in the space. Cosmic ray, sensory deprivation, isolation and other conditions that are not so common to us beings on the earth might create psychological and behavioural effects on our physical body. Kook's ongoing series of watercolour drawings ***And if your head explodes with the dark forebodings to, I'll see you on the dark side of the moon*** (2016-2017) expresses the artist's concern on this. In the four drawings on show, she meticulously portrayed the spaceships and positioned them against a backdrop of azure space, and dotted tiny figures in spacesuit among them. The fragility of these human figures is amplified by the vastness of space and the complexity of machinery. Through her drawings, the artist poses a question of urgency: the human race might have accumulated sufficient knowledge to send ourselves to the Moon and beyond, yet, is our human body and mind ready to embark on this expedition yet?

During the four years living and working in Hong Kong, Kook has infused in her works the unique aesthetics of the Asian hub that one can find nowhere else: a mixture of spectacular Chinese tradition and highly functional fast-pace consumerism; glamorous skyscrapers and rowdy street markets; a proliferation of digital life and idyllic fishermen's villages in one frame. No wonder the city has inspired many cyberpunk movies since the 80s, including *Blade Runner* and *Ghost in the Shell*. However, Kowloon Walled City, the area that bore the most "Hong Kong" elements, that grew organically to a overcrowded and ungoverned slum in the heart of Hong Kong, was demolished in the 90s due to the government's urban redevelopment plan. The artist looks into this period of Hong Kong's history and creates an alternative timeline for its residents in her ongoing multimedia series ***Confidential Record*** (2016-2017). In her narrative, the Walled City was relocated to underground instead of its doomed demolition, and even became the last shelter for human when the world being taken over by artificial intelligence in 2047. In Kook's supple visualisation, this underground world rekindles its pulsation in its own dimension.

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Audio-visual work ***Parallel*** (2012) was created based on Kook's interest in Multiverse theory. Starting out with a spiderweb-like structure and a misty sound, the work immerse the audience into a narrow realm of the unknown. As the sequence gradually clears up, the colour all of a sudden reverses and leaves the audience wondering whether they have been transitioned into a parallel universe than the one they come from. The work is representative of Kook's practice in blending dramatic and immersive experience through visuals and sounds. It was first shown at Frischzelle Festival in Cologne with live sound performance by artist Sven Hahne.

Vvzela Kook was born in 1990 in Dalian, a major city and seaport in Northeast China and gained her BFA at China Academy of Art. She then moved to Hong Kong in 2013 and completed her MFA at School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong. Kook mainly engages herself in audio-visual format, including theatre, performance and digital videos. Drawing is also another important medium that she works with frequently. A versatile artist as she is, Kook embraces digital technologies into her artistic practice without restraint, to represent and convert modern urban life and contemporary human condition into a sensory experience imbued with intellectual challenges. Kook has participated and shown her works at Mana Contemporary Chicago (2017), Push International Performing Art Festival (Vancouver, 2017), MILL6 Foundation (Hong Kong, 2017), Microwave International Media Festival (Hong Kong, 2016), chi K11 art museum (Shanghai, 2016), Hong Kong Arts Festival (2015), Sound Art China Exhibition (2013), Frischzelle Festival and Düsseldorf Festival (Germany, 2012), and "89+" program (Germany, 2012) co-curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Simon Castets.

***Any Dimension You Like*** is curated by **Tsao Yidi**, a curator based in Berlin and Hong Kong.

For further information and/or appointments for interview, please contact:  
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**Opening Performance:** 18 Nov 2017, 6pm  
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**Gallery Hours:** Thu-Sat, 1pm-6pm and by appointment