

viewpoint

STAINED: THE ECLIPSED PATTERN

UMA-G is currently exhibiting the works of two artists exploring internal forces through the external environment. Established local artist Choi Yan-chi examines the way Hong Kong society adapts to invasions by other cultures. Ivy Ma dives into her internal world by situating herself in the darkest of places – the winter of Finland – and aims to filter out an internal poison through experimental photography.

Choi's installation "Multiple Formation of Familiar Images" is a 26-foot traditional Chinese scroll, joined at both ends to form a continuous banner. The scroll is made up of reproduced Hawaiian prints; Japanese pop images; the famed red, white and blue bag; and even the ubiquitous Burberry print. Each pattern merges with the next, allowing the viewer to follow the scroll continuously, highlighting the impermanency of each fad as they fade into each other and disappear. It leaves you pondering where traditions might still dwell throughout the invasions of other cultures into the tiny space that is Hong Kong.

Choi's series of paintings investigates her intuitive side and are highly personal. There is a sense of loneliness to this piece, coinciding with the isolation of Ma's work.

Ma's series of photographs, "Perception of Phenomenal Soundlessness," was produced during several dark months in midwinter Finland. At first glance, the work is literal and icy: images of snow-covered streets and cemeteries and a naked woman cradled in an old suitcase (pictured). The concept and process is interesting, however; the colors and tone of the photographs resemble a travel magazine – trivializing the experience of depression.

The artists' concepts are very different. At first glance it is difficult to recognize any relationship between them. However, Choi explains that she invited Ma to join the exhibition because of her appreciation for Ma's meditative and pensive articulation of her depression. That said, what we end up with are two very different exhibitions in one very small space – UMA G has some room for improvement before its next show. – Candice Lau

Through Mar 23, UMA G, 12 St. Francis St., Wan Chai, 2528-3669.

