

For Immediate Release

## West Kowloon Cultural District Presents New Commission by Samson Young at the Manchester International Festival 2017

**Young's *One of Two Stories, or Both (Field Bagatelles)*, to premiere in UK at the Festival from now until 16 July, 2017**

(30 June 2017, Hong Kong) West Kowloon Cultural District is pleased to announce a new commission ***One of Two Stories, or Both (Field Bagatelles)*** by **Samson Young** that will have its world premiere at the **Manchester International Festival (MIF) 2017**. Co-commissioned by the West Kowloon Cultural District together with Manchester International Festival, the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art in Manchester, Edouard Malingue Gallery, and the University of Salford Art Collection, this work will be presented from 30 June until 16 July as part of the festival's programming.

Following the successful (and ongoing) showcase at the 57<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, where Young's solo exhibition represents Hong Kong with the Collateral Event *Songs for Disaster Relief*, he continues his quest in new media and sound art with this major new work. Inspired by the mythic tales of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Chinese travellers making their way to Europe on foot, *One of Two Stories, or Both (Field Bagatelles)* is a multi-layered piece, consisting of a five-part radio series and a sound installation exhibition that focuses on the nostalgia of journeys and retelling them.

"After the positive response received from Samson Young's exhibition in Venice, we are pleased to present this new work, not merely to showcase his growing repertoire and ongoing research into sound art and new media, but also the quality of talent within Hong Kong's cultural sector," said **Mr Kee Hong Low, Head of Theatre, Performing Arts at WKCD**. "As part of the District's ongoing mission to provide opportunities for artists, performers and cultural practitioners, we aim to continue to further endorse their skills and enhance their visibility on global stages and at such events as the Manchester International Festival."

"We are proud to present this new work by pioneering Hong Kong contemporary artist Samson Young and even prouder to do so on a global stage such as the Manchester International Festival", said **Mr Louis YU Kwok, Executive Director, Performing Arts WKCD**. "The West Kowloon Cultural District nurtures the growth and development of emerging and established artists in all areas of visual, sound and performing arts. We have witnessed the amazing growth of Samson Young in his career to date, M+ is currently supporting his exhibition representing Hong Kong at the Venice Biennale, and we all look forward to the continued growth of his work and our part in representing that to the world."

The radio series will be performed by a cast of actors, artists, and musicians, and broadcast live from Low Four in Old Granada Studios in Manchester. The performance will be available on a local radio channel, with each of its five episodes played from 30 June until 4 July. For those based elsewhere in the world, the *Field Bagatelles* radio series will be available online at [mif.co.uk/live](http://mif.co.uk/live). A limited number of tickets will also be available to experience the performance live at Old Granada Studios.

Following the performance and broadcast, a multi-channel sound and visual installation will be unveiled at the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art in Manchester, offering additional perspectives to the narrated travel stories. The exhibition will continue after MIF 2017, through to 29 October at the centre.

The commission of this piece was generously supported by Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London as part of its programme of events commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

### **General Information**

#### **Radio Drama:**

30 June – 4 July

6.30 pm (daily)

Low Four, Old Granada Studios, 2 Atherton Street, Manchester M3 3GS, United Kingdom

#### **Exhibition:**

7 July – 29 October

10.00 am – 5.00 pm (daily)

Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art, Market Buildings, Thomas St, Northern Quarter, Manchester, M4 1EU, United Kingdom

For further information, visit the website: <http://www.westkowloon.hk/en/oneoftwo>

###

### **For media enquiries**

West Kowloon Cultural District  
Authority:

International:

Louie Tong  
Manager, Communications and  
Public Affairs  
+852 2200-0716 / +852 6608-0909  
[louie.tong@wkcd.hk](mailto:louie.tong@wkcd.hk)

SUTTON  
Carmen Yam  
+852 2528-0792  
[wkcd@suttonpr.com](mailto:wkcd@suttonpr.com)

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **West Kowloon Cultural District**

Located on Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour, the West Kowloon Cultural District is one of the largest cultural projects in the world. Its vision is to create a vibrant new cultural quarter for Hong Kong. With a complex of theatres, performance spaces, and M+, the West Kowloon Cultural District will produce and host world-class exhibitions, performances, and cultural events, as well as provide 23 hectares of public open space, including a two-kilometre waterfront promenade.

#### **Samson Young**

Samson Young (b.1979) is an artist and composer based in Hong Kong. Young's diverse practice draws from the avant-garde compositional traditions of aleatoric music, musique concrète, and graphic notation. Behind each project is an extensive process of research, involving a mapping of the process through a series of 'sound sketches' and audio recordings. His drawing, radio broadcast, performance and composition touch upon the recurring topics of conflict, war, and political frontiers.

Young was the inaugural winner of the BMW Art Journey Award at the Art Basel Hong Kong 2015. His recent solo projects include Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan (2015); Team Gallery, New York (2015); Para Site, Hong Kong (2016); Experimentier, India (2016); and Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Germany (2016), 57<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale (2017).

As a practicing musician, Young is the member of multiple bands and has collaborated with ensembles and orchestras worldwide. He has participated in international music and performing art festivals including Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik, Darmstadt; Fusebox Festival, Austin; New York Electronic Art Festival, New York; Tonlagen Festival, Dresden; Transart Festival, Bolzano; and MONA FOMA Festival of Music and Art.

### **Manchester International Festival**

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events, staged every two years in Manchester, UK. MIF launched in 2007 as an artist-led festival presenting new works from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. MIF has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by artists including Björk, Steve McQueen, Robert Wilson, Wayne McGregor, Maxine Peake, The xx, Zaha Hadid Architects, Damon Albarn, Punchdrunk, Elbow and Marina Abramović.

MIF brings together world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds to create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work, staged in venues across Greater Manchester – from theatres, galleries and concert halls to railway depots, churches and car parks. MIF works closely with venues, festivals and other cultural organisations around the world, whose financial and creative input helps to make many of these projects possible. The Festival also works widely within communities around Manchester, originally with MIF Creative and now with a new initiative called My Festival.