



**Zihan Loo, the 2019-2020
EWJ Gateway Fellow
at International House, UC Berkeley**

I am pursuing my Ph.D. studies with the Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies department at UC Berkeley and am grateful to be receiving support from this Gateway Fellowship. I am an artist and academic from Singapore working at the intersections of critical theory, performance, and the moving-image. My work strives to reconcile the tension between the flesh of the “live” body with the bone of the archive. In other words, I am interested in the gap between the presence and the document, especially in terms of how performance is sustained in its remains and residue. I emphasized the malleability of memory and interrogate the duplicity of history through various representational strategies that includes performance re-enactments and essay films.

I received my MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, before returning to Singapore to teach art theory and practice while pursuing my practice on the side. In 2017, I made the decision to pursue my MA in Performance Studies at NYU with the desire to sustain and continue my research interest in greater depth and criticality.

My current research is focused on distended and pragmatic gestures of resistance under illiberal regimes. This is an extension of my artistic practice, which has been focused on archival research of the proscription of performance art by the Singaporean State from 1994 till 2003. As a queer-identifying person, it is my desire to locate ways of signaling insistent performative presence in a country where gay sex between men remains criminalized.

This Gateway Fellowship offsets the cost of living in the Bay Area for the initial phase of my Ph.D. I look forward to being a contributing member of the I-House community, and having conversations with the residents from diverse international backgrounds.



The EWJ Gateway Fellowship was established in 2004 by donor who prefers to remain anonymous. This Fellowship supports incoming or continuing doctoral students, from around the world, pursuing studies in any academic field of study for up to two consecutive years.



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