

NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL 30 OCTOBER

## *Wastescape* by Gayle Chong Kwan at Silo 6



*Image credit: Gayle Chong Kwan, Wastescape, Southbank Centre, London, 2012*

This March, a large-scale, immersive art installation using thousands of plastic milk bottles will be exposing New Zealand's dairy industry through transforming Wynyard Quarter's Silo 6 into a dream-like landscape with a political edge.

*Wastescape*, by British artist Gayle Chong Kwan, will explore New Zealand's relationship to food and waste.

She will combine thousands of used bottles collected from local schools and communities to create otherworldly landscapes. Her work seeks to kickstart conversations about our own role as consumers and the impact of what we buy on our environment. In the New Zealand context Gayle Chong Kwan's *Wastescape* explores the effects of the controversial growth of the intensive dairy industry on our water, land use, Co2 emissions and biodiversity.

"*Wastescape* considers questions and issues about the politics and realities of food production and consumption in the fascinating and complex context of New Zealand. I am excited to have the opportunity to develop this new work, commissioned by Te Tuhi and Invisible Dust for the Auckland Arts Festival." **Gayle Chong Kwan**

The work has been commissioned for the Auckland Arts Festival by Te Tuhi art gallery, in partnership with UK-based art and environmental organisation Invisible Dust. Te Tuhi art gallery will be working directly with school children, their families and local communities in Pakuranga on the mammoth task of collecting used milk bottles from October 2018 to February 2019.

Te Tuhi and Invisible Dust see this partnership as an ideal opportunity to bring Gayle Chong Kwan's visionary work which goes to the heart of what resources we prioritise to become sustainable nations to both New Zealand and UK audiences, and as a way to prompt vital discussions about the dairy industry and our future.

As part of 'Wastescape' Chong Kwan will develop a 'sensory walk' through the work and nearby harbour area in Auckland, which relates to and develops out of '*Microclimate*', commissioned by Invisible Dust in 2017 in which visitors were invited to taste, touch and feel as part of a banquet on food and sustainability at Normanby Hall in North Lincolnshire in the UK. Chong Kwan will develop the work from the New Zealand context and present a further Sensory Walk in the UK in 2019.

"In her recent address to the United Nations General Assembly, New Zealand PM Jacinda Arden stated that climate change is the single biggest threat to security in the Pacific," says Te Tuhi Artistic Director, Gabriela Salgado, "where rising sea levels and extreme weather are not academic, but a grinding reality.

"Plastic waste is reaching alarming proportions, with 8 million tons of it ending up in our oceans. *Wastescape* has the potential to educate the public through the power of enquiry and fascination that resides in visual art."

'Gayle Chong Kwan's work enables a very personal experience in this case of walking in a vast silo surrounded by plastic milk bottles to enable us to reflect on how we see food production, waste and how we relate to our finite resources. In the New Zealand context Chong Kwan also engages with the controversial problems of the New Zealand dairy industry. I hope it leads visitors to consider its problems for our environment which are well documented; its huge water use, pollution of fresh water supplies, use of palm oil kernels, large methane emissions, plastic waste and change of land use resulting in declines in biodiversity. Gayle Chong Kwan's work creates very striking and powerful encounters and Invisible Dust and Te Tuhi are excited about her idea for such a dramatic installation at the Auckland Art Festival that places the need to make New Zealand dairy farming sustainable centre stage internationally.' **Alice Sharp, Director and Curator, Invisible Dust.**

*Wastescape* was first exhibited at London's Southbank Art Centre in 2012. This will be the first time that the artist has shown work in New Zealand.

Alongside this installation, Chong Kwan will be producing a new body of photographic works which she will develop whilst in New Zealand.

London-based Chong Kwan is renowned internationally for her immersive installations, photography and performances that explore imagined futures and the sublime through constructed environments, imagined futures, ritual experiences and sensory registers.

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<b>Who</b>	Gayle Chong Kwan (UK)
<b>What</b>	<i>Wastescape</i> , an immersive exhibition using thousands of plastic milk bottles

**Where** Silo 6, Wynyard Quarter, Auckland  
**When** Sat 9 – Sun 24 March, 2019 during Auckland Arts Festival  
**Website** [tetuhi.org.nz](http://tetuhi.org.nz)  
**Social** @tetuhiart

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For all press enquiries please contact **Amy Weng**, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, Te Tuhi, at [amy@tetuhi.org.nz](mailto:amy@tetuhi.org.nz) or phone **09 577 0138**.



### **Gayle Chong Kwan**

Gayle Chong Kwan (UK) is a multidisciplinary artist whose photographs, sculptures, events, and installations are exhibited internationally, both in galleries and in the public realm. Chong Kwan explores simulacra and the sublime through constructed environments, imagined futures, ritual experiences, and sensory registers. She is currently undertaking a PhD in Fine Art at the Royal College of Art. Exhibitions and Awards include *The People's Forest*, William Morris Gallery (2018); *The Fairlop Oak*, Barbican; *Anthropo-scene*, Bloomberg Space (2015); *Wastescape*, Southbank Centre (2012); *The Obsidian Isle*, New Forest Pavilion, 54th Venice Biennale (2011); *Cockaigne*, Tales from the New World, 10th Havana Biennial, Cuba (2009).

### **Te Tuhi**

Te Tuhi is one of New Zealand's foremost contemporary art spaces and a leader in supporting experimental practice. Te Tuhi is committed to contemporary art that is locally engaged, regionally responsive and internationally ambitious. Te Tuhi's primary focus is on research and commissioning ambitious new works, acting as a catalyst for new ways of thinking and engaging with communities. Te Tuhi has a growing international reputation for its innovative programme, one characterised by risk-taking with a strong awareness of social, political and environmental issues. Te Tuhi presents exhibitions at its Pakuranga gallery and via its extensive offsite programme throughout Auckland and beyond. All Te Tuhi exhibitions are free, as are most of its public programme of events. | [www.tetuhi.org.nz](http://www.tetuhi.org.nz)

### **Invisible Dust**

Invisible Dust works with leading artists and scientists to produce ambitious contemporary artworks exploring our environment. Founded in 2009 in the UK by Director and Curator Alice Sharp, our mission is to create powerful art and engagement programmes that spark meaningful international conversations on pressing environmental issues. We have hosted a New Zealand residency in the UK with Ahilapalapa Rands and have commissioned celebrated artists and scientists including Jeremy Deller, Elizabeth Price, Martin Parr, author China Miéville. In June 2018 we presented 'Under Her Eye' an international summit and

festival with Margaret Atwood and Christiana Figueres on women and climate change. | [www.invisibledust.com](http://www.invisibledust.com)

**Humber Museums Partnership**

The Humber Museums Partnership (HMP) consists of the museum services of Hull, North Lincolnshire and the East Riding in the UK. The partnership holds extensive collections of art, archaeology, social history, rural history, maritime history and world cultures and works together to promote the heritage and museums of the Humber region. Gayle Kwan Chong's 'Wastescape' is part of 'Surroundings' programme of international artist residencies and exhibitions funded by the Wellcome Trust and Arts Council England. | [www.humbermuseums.com](http://www.humbermuseums.com)