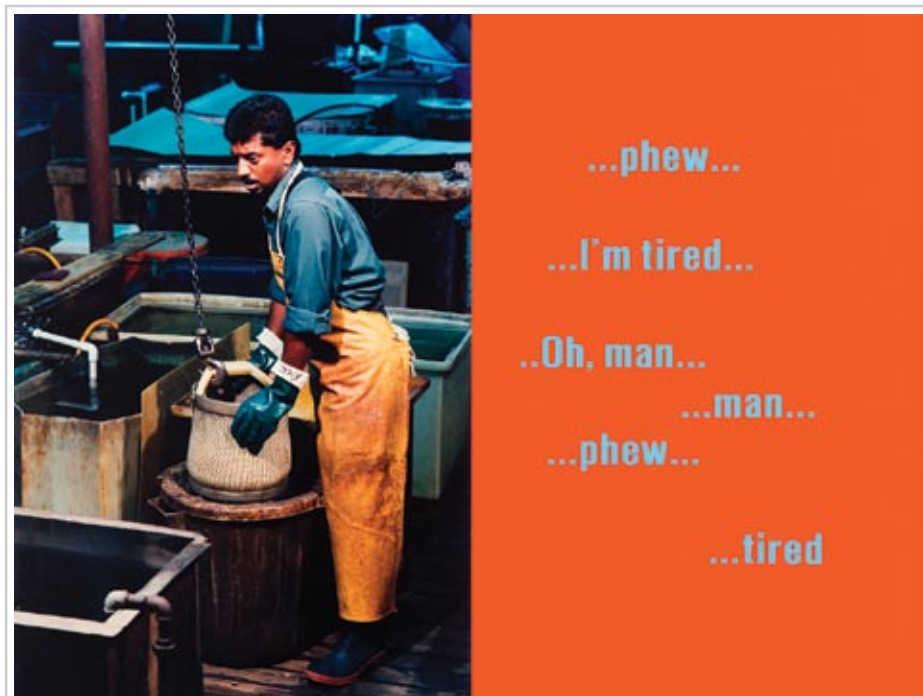


Ken Lum

Phew, I'm Tired, 1994

chromogenic print and laquer
enamel on aluminum
182.9 cm x 243.8 cm x 5.1 cm

Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund
VAG 99.35



Ken Lum

Phew, I'm Tired, 1994



Image source:
www.finearts.ubc.ca/.../faculty_photos/lum.jpg

Artist's Biography

Nationality: Canadian
Born: 1956, Vancouver

Ken Lum received an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University in 1980. During his time at SFU, he took an art history course with Jeff Wall and decided to change careers. After doing research towards a Master of Arts degree at the Department of Fine Arts, Education, New York University, in the early 1980s Lum returned to Canada and was director of the OR Gallery in Vancouver from 1983 to 1984. He received an M.F.A. in 1985 from UBC and has taught in the Department of Fine Arts at UBC since 1989. He has twice been a visiting professor at L'École des Beaux Arts in Paris. Over the past fifteen years Lum has exhibited his work throughout Canada, the US and Europe. A major solo exhibition of Lum's work, which was hosted by the VAG, was organized by the Witte de With, Rotterdam, and the Winnipeg Art Gallery in 1990. Recently his work has been included in exhibitions at the Walter Phillips Gallery in Banff; Art Institute of Chicago; Aix-en-Provence, France; and Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, Staten Island, New York. Ken Lum is represented by the Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, and Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver.

While Lum has employed sculpture and painting in his practice it is his photo-text works that have gained the artist international attention in recent years. Using the portrait as his working model, Lum comments on various elements of contemporary life and art by juxtaposing text, whether it be a person's name or a fragment of a thought or dialogue, with photographs of stereotypes of people in ordinary (but staged) situations and environments. The friction that is created between the text and the image, while usually ironic, is more often unsettling and always ambiguous. In works that deal with issues such as race and class in a multicultural society and the influence of corporate power and mass media there is a critical edge that in some ways appears to make an intimate crisis or situation very exposed but this critique is less about the social type portrayed by Lum than about the inadequate social landscape that engenders such disfunction. In the end the viewer often feels some kind of kinship and sympathy for the characters in Lum's dramas.

Source: Acquisitions Justification

Artistic Context

Nationality: Canadian

Training: New York University; University of British Columbia

Peers: Roy Arden; Howard Ursuliak

Group: Photoconceptualism; Vancouver School; 20th century; 21st century

Provenance: purchased from Bob Rennie

Subject: portrait; race; class;

Ken Lum

Phew, I'm Tired, 1994

Other Works in the Vancouver Art Gallery Collection

Ken Lum
Steve, 1986
photographic c-print on photo paper — resin coated, acrylic sheet
Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund
VAG 86.66

Ken Lum
Untitled Language Painting, 1988
acrylic on vinyl
Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund
VAG 89.4

Ken Lum
Study for Language Painting (Ransom note lettering), 1988
pencil on graph paper
Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund
VAG 90.25

Ken Lum
Untitled (Red Circle), 1986
Fabric
Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund
VAG 91.29 a-l

Ken Lum
Untitled Language Painting (Huruut Bebax), 1987
enamel on plywood
Vancouver Art Gallery Acquisition Fund
VAG 90.46 a-b

Ken Lum
Drawing for Untitled Language Painting (Huruut Bebax), 1987
graphite on graph paper
Anonymous Gift
VAG 90.80

Ken Lum
Red Painting with 3 Cushions, 1990
acrylic and cushions on canvas
Gift of the Artist
VAG 91.67

Ken Lum
Melly Shum Hates Her Job, 1989
photograph on photo paper - fibre base
Gift of Dr. Doug Foster
VAG 97.62.3

Ken Lum
Pamela Gloggins is Candi Sweet, 1989
photograph on photo paper - fibre base
Gift of Dr. Doug Foster
VAG 97.62.2

Ken Lum
Alex Gonzalez Loves His Mother and Father, 1989
photograph on photo paper - fibre base
Gift of Dr. Doug Foster
VAG 97.62.1

Ken Lum

Phew, I'm Tired, 1994

Ken Lum

Hum Hum Hummm, 1994

chromogenic print, lacquer, enamel on photo paper - resin coated, aluminum

Gift of Bob Rennie

VAG 99.34

Ken Lum

Don't Be Silly, You're Not Ugly, 1993

chromogenic print, lacquer, enamel on photo paper - resin coated, aluminum

Gift of Maryon and Jack Adelaar

VAG 99.51.2

Ken Lum

Four Boats Stranded: Red and Yellow, Black and White, 2000

polyurethane steel, fiberglass, paint

Vancouver Art Gallery Major Purchase Fund, the Canada Millennium Partnership

Program of the Millennium Bureau of Canada and the British Columbia 2000

Community Spirit Fund

VAG 2000.25 a-d

Ken Lum

Girl in Pacific Centre Mall, 1992

acrylic on canvas

Gift of Maryon and Jack Adelaar

VAG 2003.24.4

Further Reading

Blanchette, Manon. *Ken Lum*. Montreal: Musée d'Art Contemporain, 1988.

Folland, Tom. *The Discursive Field of Recent Photography*. Toronto: Artculture Resource Centre, 1988.

Ken Lum. Winnipeg: Winnipeg Art Gallery, 1990.

Ken Lum. Vancouver: Contemporary Art Gallery, 2001.

Ken Lum: Centre Culturel Canadien, Paris. Paris: Services Culturels de l'Ambassade du Canada, 2002.

Ken Lum: Recent Work. Oakville: Oakville Galleries, 1994.

Ken Lum: Works with Photography. Ottawa: Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography, 2002.

Notion of Conflict: A Selection of Contemporary Canadian Art. Amsterdam: Stedelijk Museum, 1995.

Ken Lum

Phew, I'm Tired, 1994

Exhibition History

Exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery

The Shadow of Production: Work from the Collection. October 30, 2004 - June 16, 2005.

75 Years of Collecting: Portrait of a Citizen. September 23, 2006 - January 1, 2007.



Archival History

Installation Instructions

Miscellaneous History

[transcription]

KEN LUM INSTALLING HANGING BLOCKS
PHEW I'M TIRED AND HUM HUM HUMMM
THE WORKS ARE 95 3/4" LONG
BLOCKS—44 TO 51" BETWEEN—BLOCK
88" TO FLOOR



Acquisitions Justification

Acquisition Record
1999

[transcription]

Ken Lum
b. 1956, Vancouver

Hum Hum Hummm 1994

laminated colour print on sintra, lacquer, enamel, aluminum
182.9 x 243.8 x 5.1 cm

Donor: Bob Rennie
Appraised Value: tdb (PADAC)
Provenance:
Exhibited:

Phew, I'm Tired 1994

laminated colour print on sintra, lacquer, enamel, aluminum
182.9 x 243.8 x 5.1 cm

Vendor: Bob Rennie

Ken Lum

Phew, I'm Tired, 1994



Provenance: Exhibited:

Ken Lum received an undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University in 1980. During his time at SFU, he took an art history course with Jeff Wall and decided to change careers. After doing research towards a Master of Arts degree at the Department of Fine Arts, Education, New York University in the early 1980s Lum returned to Canada and was director of the OR Gallery in Vancouver from 1983 to 1984. He received an M.F.A. in 1985 from UBC and has taught in the Department of Fine Arts at UBC since 1989. He has twice been a visiting professor at L'École des Beaux Arts in Paris. Over the past fifteen years Lum has exhibited his work throughout Canada, the US and Europe. A major solo exhibition of Lum's work, which was hosted by the VAG, was organized by the Witte de With, Rotterdam, and the Winnipeg Art Gallery in 1990. Recently his work has been included in exhibitions at the Walter Phillips Gallery in Banff; Art Institute of Chicago; Aix-en-Provence, France; and Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, Staten Island, New York. Ken Lum is represented by the Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York, and Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver.

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Hum Hum Hummm is part of a series that Lum produced in 1994 which were presented on large

Hum Hum Hummm is part of a series that Lum produced in 1994 which were presented on large aluminum panels and described as "hybrid objects, not just photographs, paintings, sculptures or text works, [but] all of these." (Watson) In this work Lum pairs up photographs with various texts that appear to be the thoughts or fragments of dialogue of the characters portrayed. In some cases the text takes on a tone of anger, fear or anxiety. In *Hum Hum Hummm* a small child is seen lying down along the lower end of an outside staircase. There are a number of possible interpretations to this photograph — the child could be waiting for someone, daydreaming, skipping school, running away or be hurt and unable to move. The text paired with this image — "Hum hum hummm, hum hummm" etc. — suggests an optimistic reading. According to Scott Watson, in this work "the moment of utopian possibility is taken further. A child rests on a school step. Her thoughts are focused on nothing but being. She embodies the utopian type, freed from conflict and thoughts of necessity. As a child she represents a new generation and the hope for the future. It is the one work in Lum's new series where the difficulty and conflict have been removed and the problem of identity is at rest."

There are 10 works by Lum in the Gallery's collection representing a range of the artist's activities including an installation, paintings, working drawings and photo-text works all dating from the mid to late 1980s. There are no recent works by Lum in the collection and the addition of these works will give us excellent

Ken Lum

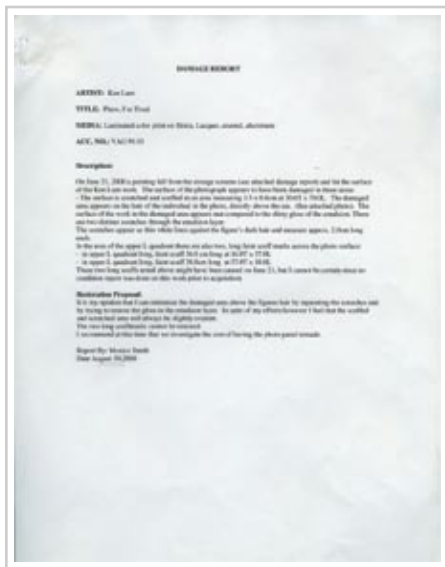
Phew, I'm Tired, 1994

examples of this important body of work. This acquisition will enhance the Gallery's holdings of this internationally known artist and be the most recent work in the collection. Lum's work relates to a range of photo-based work and portraiture from the collection by artists like Ian Wallace, Thomas Ruff, Jin-me Yoon, Cindy Sherman and Jochen Gerz among others.

Recommend acceptance.

Bruce Grenville
Senior Curator

Research: Linda Sawchyn
Assistant Curator



Damage Report
Conservation
2000-09-30

[transcription]

DAMAGE RERORT [sic]

ARTIST: Ken Lum

TITLE: Phew, I'm Tired

MEDIA: Laminated color print on Sintra, Lacquer, enamel, aluminum

ACC. NO.: VAG 99.35

Description:

On June 21, 2000 a painting fell from the storage screens (see attached damage report) and hit the surface of the Ken Lum work. The surface of the photograph appears to have been damaged in three areas:

- The surface is scratched and scuffed in an area measuring 3.5 x 0.8cm at 30.6T x 70.0L. The damaged area appears on the hair of the individual in the photo, directly above the ear. (See attached photo). The surface of the work in the damaged area appears mat compared to the shiny gloss of the emulsion. There are two distinct scratches through the emulsion layer.

The scratches appear as thin white lines against the figure's dark hair and measure approx. 2.0cm long each.

In the area of the upper L quadrant there are also two, long faint scuff marks across the photo surface:

- in upper L quadrant long, faint scuff 36.0 cm long at 16.0T x 37.0L
- in upper L quadrant long, faint scuff 38.0cm long at 57.0T x 18.0L

These two long scuffs noted above might have been caused on June 21, but I cannot be certain since no condition report was done on this work prior to acquisition.

Restoration Proposal:

It is my opinion that I can minimize the damaged area above the figure's hair by inpainting the scratches and by trying to restore the gloss to the emulsion layer. In spite of my efforts however I feel that the scuffed and scratched area will

Ken Lum

Phew, I'm Tired, 1994

always be slightly evident.

The two long scuffmarks cannot be restored.

I recommend at this time that we investigate the cost of having the photo panel remade.

Report By: Monica Smith

Date August 30,2000

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