

For Immediate Release

5 September – 3 October

Lee Mingwei *Quartet Project*

Albion is pleased to announce an exhibition of Lee Mingwei's **Quartet Project**.



The Quartet Project features a large, dark room filled with the strains of Antonín Dvorák's 'American', written during the Czech composer's 1893 visit to Iowa. When composing the piece, Dvorák mixed his new found love of African-American spiritual music and his own nostalgia for Czech music and created a work which is very much a mix of both cultures.

Softly glowing television screens illuminate partly concealed speakers placed along each of four walls, and visitors gradually discover that each speaker is playing just one instrument which falls abruptly silent as they are approached. Hearing the complete piece requires standing somewhere in the middle of the empty space, and poses the question of whether, in life or art, the nearest distance is really the best one for seeing the whole picture. It challenges viewers to replace their expected auditory experience with an audiovisual one.

Lee Mingwei moved to the United States from Taiwan when he was 13 and considers himself part of the '1.5 Generation', which refers to people who emigrate during their adolescent years and whose identity is shaped by both their old and new cultures.

Lee Mingwei's last exhibition at Albion was *Gernika in Sand* in 2006. He creates both participatory installations, where strangers explore issues of trust, intimacy and self-awareness on their own, and one-on-one events, where visitors explore these issues through interaction with the artist himself. Lee's artworks are often open-ended scenarios for everyday interaction, and take on different forms depending on the participants. He creates projects which test the limits of transformative experiences, and sensitively frames aspects of everyday life into experiences of discovery and renewal.

Opening times: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm
Saturday: 10am - 3pm

Media Contact

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