



## **ART IN RESIDENCY WITH LOLA FLASH**

CULS5401: Contemporary Arts and Cultural Interactivity

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## 1. About Lola Flash

Lola Flash (born 1959) is an American photographer whose work has often focused on social, LGBT and feminist issues. An active participant in ACT UP during the time of the AIDS epidemic in New York City, Flash was notably featured in the 1989 "Kissing Doesn't Kill" poster.

Flash's art, which is rooted in community advocacy, is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Brooklyn Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Flash born and raised in Montclair, New Jersey, is the daughter of two school teachers. She is of African American and Native American backgrounds. After studying at the Maryland Institute College of Art, Flash moved to New York City in the 1980s. In the 1990s, Flash moved to London, and began a decades-long creative practice centered on challenging invisibility and preconceptions about identity. Now she lives and works in New York City. In addition to photography, Flash teaches visual arts and English Language Arts at a high school in Brooklyn.



Working at the forefront of genderqueer visual politics for more than four decades, photographer Lola Flash's work challenges stereotypes and gender, sexual, and racial preconceptions. An active member of ACT UP during the time of the AIDS epidemic in New York City, Flash was notably featured in the 1989 "Kissing Doesn't Kill" poster. Their art and activism are profoundly connected, fueling a life-long commitment to visibility and preserving the legacy of LGBTQIA+ and communities of color worldwide. Flash has work included in important collections such as the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, MoMA, the Whitney, the Museum of the African American of History and

Culture and the Brooklyn Museum. They are currently a proud member of the Kamoinge Collective, and on the Board of Queer Art.

Flash received their bachelor's degree from Maryland Institute and Masters' from London College of Printing, in the UK. Flash works primarily in portraiture, engaging those who are often deemed invisible. Flash's practice is firmly rooted in social justice advocacy around sexual, racial, and cultural difference.

## **2. Why Lola Flash**

### **Relevance for the LGBTQIA+ POC community**

- **Representation & Visibility:** Hong Kong's LGBTQ+ POC community often grapples with underrepresentation and marginalization in mainstream narratives. By bringing Lola Flash's work to Hong Kong, the community gains visibility and representation in the arts scene. Seeing their identities and struggles reflected in Flash's photography can instill a sense of validation and empowerment, affirming their place in the cultural landscape.
- **Intersectional Dialogue:** Lola Flash's art explores the intersectionality of race, gender, and sexuality, which resonates deeply with the experiences of LGBTQ+ POC in Hong Kong. Her work provides a platform for dialogue and reflection on the unique challenges faced by individuals navigating multiple layers of identity. Through exhibitions, workshops, and discussions, Flash's presence facilitates meaningful conversations about the complexities of intersectional identities within the local LGBTQ+ community.
- **Cultural Exchange & Solidarity:** Inviting Lola Flash to Hong Kong promotes cultural exchange and solidarity between the LGBTQ+ POC community in the city and broader global movements for social justice. Flash's activism during the AIDS crisis and her advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights reflect universal struggles shared by marginalized communities worldwide. Her visit serves as a catalyst for building bridges, fostering solidarity, and amplifying the voices of LGBTQ+ POC in Hong Kong within broader global conversations on equality and justice.
- **Inspiration & Empowerment:** Lola Flash's journey as a Black American artist and activist inspires LGBTQ+ POC in Hong Kong to embrace their identities, express themselves authentically, and advocate for their rights. Her commitment to visibility and social change serves as a beacon of hope and empowerment, encouraging individuals to find strength in their shared experiences and mobilize for greater representation and inclusion in society.
- **Representation of Filipino diaspora in HK:** The Filipino community in Hong Kong, which comprises a significant portion of the domestic worker population, often faces challenges related to discrimination, social exclusion, and lack of access to resources and support systems. By showcasing Lola Flash's art and providing a platform for her to engage with the Filipino LGBTQ+ community in Hong Kong, we can create opportunities for visibility, representation, and empowerment. Lola's work amplifies the voices and experiences of marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ people of color. Her art serves as a form of validation and affirmation for individuals whose identities are often overlooked or erased.

### **Cancellation of the Pride Parade**

The cancellation of the Pride Parade in Hong Kong underscores the challenges and setbacks faced by the LGBTQ+ community in advocating for their rights and visibility. Inviting Lola Flash to Hong Kong provides an opportunity to celebrate resilience and resistance in the face of adversity. Her work, rooted in activism and visibility, serves as a powerful testament to the

strength and perseverance of LGBTQ+ individuals worldwide, offering hope and inspiration to those in Hong Kong. While the cancellation of the Pride Parade may limit opportunities for public displays of LGBTQ+ pride, hosting Lola Flash's photography exhibition ensures that visibility and representation remain central to the community's agenda. Through her powerful portraits and narratives, Flash's art maintains a visible presence in the city, asserting the existence and significance of LGBTQ+ identities and experiences despite obstacles to public expression.

### 3. Place: JCCAC (Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre)

**Address:** 30 Pak Tin Street, Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon, Hong Kong

**Tel:** (852) 2353 1311

**Website:** [www.jccac.org.hk](http://www.jccac.org.hk)



**Artistic Community:** JCCAC is home to a diverse community of artists, designers, and creative professionals, fostering a supportive and collaborative environment. Lola Flash's work, with its focus on activism and social justice, would resonate with the ethos of JCCAC and engage with the artistic community in meaningful ways.

**Community Engagement:** JCCAC is known for its community-focused approach, regularly organizing exhibitions, workshops, and cultural events that encourage public participation and dialogue. By hosting Lola Flash's exhibitions, JCCAC could facilitate meaningful interactions between the artist, local LGBTQ+ communities, and the wider public, promoting awareness and understanding of social issues.



**Accessible Location:** Situated in Shek Kip Mei, JCCAC is easily accessible by public transportation, making it convenient for visitors from across Hong Kong to attend Lola Flash's exhibitions. The accessible location ensures that her work reaches a diverse audience and contributes to fostering a more inclusive and engaged society.

**Creative Freedom:** JCCAC values artistic freedom and experimentation, providing artists with the flexibility to explore unconventional ideas and approaches. Lola Flash would have the opportunity to showcase her work in an environment that celebrates creativity and diversity, encouraging bold expressions and new perspectives.

#### 4. Activities

DAY 1-DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4-DAY 7	DAY 8	DAY 9-DAY 10
	Art Tram		Workshop	
Exhibition, Photo Booth, Documentation				

##### a. Photo booth: Unspoken Desire

Cross Color Work is a selection that reflect the late 80s and early 90s, a time when AIDS crisis was at its highest in New York City. Lola use negative film ensuring great sensory impact and anonymity for queers not willing to come out documented queer community at that time. We would like to bring it to Hong Kong as self-service Photo booth.

People can use the photo booth to take pictures themselves and my friend Faye, who is a great photographer can cross process the film to create the effect.



Cross processing usually involves one of the two following methods. Processing positive color reversal film in C-41 chemicals, resulting in a negative image on a colorless base. Processing negative color print film in E-6 chemicals, resulting in a positive image but with the orange base of a normally processed color negative.



A photo booth will be placed next to the exhibition of works in the venue for the public to take self-service photos and prints.

##### b. Art Tram: Queer Diasporas

Utilizing Hong Kong's iconic trams as mobile art spaces, the community could engage with

Flash and local queer artists through queer art. The tram can symbolize continuity and connectivity in capturing the essence of queer narratives. There is an opportunity to unveil the unique experiences of Hong Kong's queer population and explore the connections between their identities and the urban landscape they inhabit.

In this part we want to discuss intersectionality and the fluidity of queer identity when individuals, ideologies, and media move across literal and figurative boundaries.



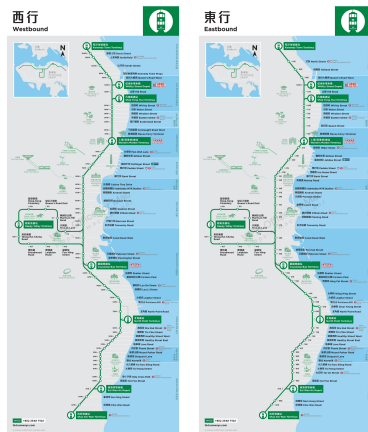
On the tram, we will decorate the external tram with Lola Flash's work, inspired by her early work *Kissing Doesn't Kill*, which put posters on public bus. And we will have a photographing flash mob with Lola Flash. In recent years, she has become passionate about the relationship between queer people and the city, as seen in her work *syzygy*, *the vision* and *[sur]passing*. In this flash mob, Lola will be travelling on the tram to take photographs of passengers getting off at the station. Station stops are important markers in the lives of these passengers. This photography can be a way to make her art a link between the queer people of Hong Kong and the city of Hong Kong. After this flash mob, Flash can choose to do photography on other spots in Hong Kong.

Later, we will invite Hong Kong artist Yau Ching's films (*Diasporama: Dead Air*, *Ho Yuk*) and her video message for playing on three old-fashioned televisions. And there will be an after-talk host by Sonia WONG. Deeply influenced by waves of migration, she understands the relationship between human mobility in the city and the mobility of identity. Hopefully, we can deepen the main theme in the screening of this body of work, that is, Queer Diasporas.

Born in Hong Kong, Yau Ching is known as a scholar, poet, and film/video artist. While managing her multiple identities, she has been making socially engaged work for more than three decades. She has also been actively involved in community organizing including co-founding an educational organization for sexual minorities in Hong Kong, co-founding a Sex Workers' Film Festival and a Women's Theatre Festival in Hong Kong, and the Asian Lesbian Film Festival in Taiwan, among others. It's also an exploration of themes central to Yau Ching's work: gender & sexuality, difference & belonging, and history.

Time	8:00-10:30	10:30-12:30	12:30-16:00
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Activity	Decorating the external tram with Lola Flash's work and setting displays inside of the tram	Photographing flash mob with Lola Flash	Playing video messages from Yau Ching (4min) and her films (176min); After-talk host by Sonia WONG (30min)
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### Private Charter

- The charter is under individual name and the nature of the charter is only for private parties / gatherings.
- Hiring is subject to a first-come-first-served basis.
- Advanced reservations will be accepted 2 months prior to the hiring date. New reservations will open on the 1st of each month online.
- Full payment shall be settled at least 7 working days prior to the hiring date.
- The 'Real-time Reservation' is confirmed only when online payment is successful.
- All tram tours shall depart from and end at the Whitty Street Tram Depot. Two additional boarding and alighting points during the tour are allowed respectively subject to prior approval from Hong Kong Tramways. (Request should be made at least 2 working days prior to the hiring date.)

### c. Workshop on Queer Activism: Furure Visage

Lola's wealth of experience in the queer movement could be shared through workshops with Hong Kong queer activists, creating a platform for sharing memories, knowledge, and insights for community empowerment and solidarity. We will invite Joanne Leung Wing-yan, the first openly transgender politician in Hong Kong, to join the seminar.

Assigned male at birth, Joanne underwent sex-reassignment surgery in 2009 to become legally recognized as a woman. She was the chairperson of Pink Alliance until 2017 and is the founder and chairperson of Transgender Resource Center (TGR), two active non-governmental organizations that aim to service the LGBT community and promote LGBT equality.

## 5. Budget

Item	Description	Cost (HKD)	Total (HKD)
Air travel	Flights to and from HK	15,000/person	15,000
Accommodation	Duration 10 days	1000/night	10,000



Artist Fee	Lola Flash and other local artists		17,000
Venue Fee			
Art Tram	Renting	16000/8 hours	16,000
Gallery	Exhibition and workshop	35000/10 days	55,000
Artist materials			
Photograph exhibits	Printing and framing		10,000
Photo Booth	Renting and developing photo		20,000
Old-fashioned televisions	Renting	2000/day	2000
Film negatives	1000 for photo booth	1/sheet	1,000
Documentation Fee	Camera, editing...		4,000
TOTAL			150,000

## 6. Artist CV

**Born:** 1959 (age 64–65)

Montclair, New Jersey U.S.

**Education:** Maryland Institute College of Art, London College of Printing

**Known for:** Photography, Portraiture

**Website:** [lolaflash.com](http://lolaflash.com)

### Solo shows

2018

[Lola Flash: 1986 - Present, Pen + Brush](#)

### Group shows

2024

[Hit Me With Your Best Shot, Pen + Brush](#)

2022

100 Years of Harlem: Resonating Around the World, [Irwin House Gallery](#)

2021

[Multi](#), [Pen + Brush](#)

[This Is Who We Are](#), [Pen + Brush](#)

2020

[Isolation to Revolution / Rebirth to Dissent](#), [Pen + Brush](#)

[Us curated by Savannah Spirit](#), [Undercurrent Projects](#)

2017

King Woman, Pen + Brush

### **Fair booths**

2024

[Jenkins Johnson Gallery at FOG Design+Art 2024](#), [Jenkins Johnson Gallery](#)

2023

[Jenkins Johnson Gallery at Art Basel in Miami Beach 2023](#), [Jenkins Johnson Gallery](#)

[Jenkins Johnson Gallery at The Photography Show presented by AIPAD 2023](#), [Jenkins Johnson Gallery](#)

[Jenkins Johnson Gallery at Frieze LA 2023](#), [Jenkins Johnson Gallery](#)

2022

Jenkins Johnson Gallery at The Photography Show presented by AIPAD 2022, [Jenkins Johnson Gallery](#)

2020

[PRIZM 2020 at PRIZM Art Fair 2020](#), [PRIZM Selections](#)