CLAYLABORATION
CONTEMPORARY
CERAMIC ART
EXHIBITION

Nick Poon
Bodies drift on the stage, swaying limply with the glimmering lights. Before they know it, they have already missed their footing. Just as the heavy bodies are about to fall, they return — in the blink of an eye — to being frozen in mid-air.

Such a hair-raising scene is played out on the carefully designed stage set up by the ceramic artist Nick Poon and his two creative partners. In this strange and mysterious world of darkness, darkness is scores of ceramic sculptures, bodies twisting like dancers, moving and swaying like phantoms in the glimmering light and shadows. Every scene seems to look the same, but it is a continuous performance that never repeats itself. The closer you get to it, the more you are sucked in and mesmerized by it.

Finding beauty in imperfection

Once fired, these plain white ceramic sculptures sit on the stage in silence, waiting to fulfill their purpose. It is only after some jarring of ideas and a series of repeated technical tests that Nick and his two creative partners — lighting designer Lee Chi-wai and set designer Jason Wong — finally infuse the work with life. The collaboration is a leap of faith for the three of them. Like the alchemists of the Middle Ages, they want to fuse ceramics and light into one, using light and shadows to tell a moving story.

Stepping into a dark room filled with various lighting effects, the audience would find themselves entering a dream-like stage. Since porcelain is a translucent material, it allows the light to cast various shadow over the ceramic sculptures, highlighting their shapes and textures. As light shimmers over them, bouncing off every twist and curve, the original static figures are suddenly infused with souls and begin to dance amidst the light and shadows. They seem to share a mysterious intimacy relationship with each other, as though each piece is a living individual breathing in rhythm, trying their best to perform the most elegant dance. As the audience's position is not fixed, their perspectives change as they move around the exhibition gallery, allowing them to experience the different effects of light and shadows. Through this novel way of expression, the artists attempt to break through the traditional connotations of ceramic art, with the hopes of inspiring their audience to find new ways to understand and interpret this art form.
Falling of Torso

We all grow old...
The moment the heart gives way under the onus, have you ever felt like gravitating?

With eyes closed, I stay at the windowsill for a long time.
The sun is shining through my skin, turning my blood translucent, while time slips away one frame at a time.

When I mould this clay torso, my imagination tells me it may collapse anytime, but when the body is about to be melted by the high heat, it solidifies with the sudden drop in temperature, pausing forever at that very instant.