



75th Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Berlinale Shorts
Competition

Lloyd Wong, Unfinished

A film by Lloyd Wong X Lesley Loksi Chan. Made in community with John Greyson, Sarah Flicker, Richard Fung, Mikiki, Christian Hui, Esery Mondesir, Zachery Cameron Longboy, Samuel Kwakwitchin Ernesto Lopez, Andrew Zealley. Supported by Luo Li, Phaniel Antwi. Made possible by Viral Interventions, SSHRC Insight, Trinity Square Video, York University CMA, Toronto Queer Film Festival, bb house:::::::::::::2024



Image from *Lloyd Wong, Unfinished* (2024). Directed by Lloyd Wong x Lesley Loksi Chan. Video, 28 minutes. Courtesy of the artist.

Lloyd Wong, Unfinished

Canada, 2024, Video, 28 min, color

LOGLINE :::

Finding the footage of an artist lost to AIDS.

SYNOPSIS :::

In the early 1990s, Lloyd Wong began to make a work based on his experiences living with AIDS in Toronto, but he died from AIDS-related illnesses before completing it. For three decades, his work-in-progress was considered "long-lost" until it resurfaced at The ArQuives. In this experimental documentary, Lesley Loksi Chan combines Lloyd Wong's footage with fragments of her research notes to reflect on what it means to inherit images from queer communities and to attempt to understand someone through multiple takes. Rough and unprocessed, this film explores the meaning of incompleteness.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:::

by Lesley Loksi Chan

Late Beginnings

In the fall of 2020, I received an email from artist/activist John Greyson saying they had “discovered some of the original autobio 'lost' footage that Lloyd Wong was shooting for his episode of *Toronto Living With AIDS...*” John was one of the co-producers of TLWA, along with Michael Balser, a groundbreaking community-driven video series about HIV/AIDS for public-access cable television in Toronto that ran from 1990 to 1991. The second season of the show was canceled due to censorship.

For over thirty years, Lloyd Wong's footage was stored in artist/activist Richard Fung's home until it was brought into Toronto's queer archives. John asked if I would be interested in working on a restoration of it. I did not know who Lloyd Wong was, but I was curious. After working on this film for about four years now, I am even more curious. I'm grateful to John and Richard for generously sharing Lloyd Wong's footage and for their energetic mentorship throughout the process.

A major part of this film was made during my time with *Viral Interventions* (2021-2022), a residency for artists and communities to make new work about living with HIV/AIDS. This film was made in community with my fellow cohort artists, Andrew Zealley, Christian Hui, Esery Mondesir, Mikiki, Samuel Kwakwetchin Ernesto Lopez, and Zachery Cameron Longboy. Our time together was intense, generative, and continue to shape this project.

I still don't know much about Lloyd Wong, but everything I do know comes from conversations with a small circle of his friends and colleagues, from watching the videos he made, and from combing aimlessly through the footage that forms the foundation of this film, *Lloyd Wong, Unfinished*.



Image from *Lloyd Wong, Unfinished* (2024). Directed by Lloyd Wong x Lesley Loksi Chan. Video, 28 minutes. Courtesy of the artist.

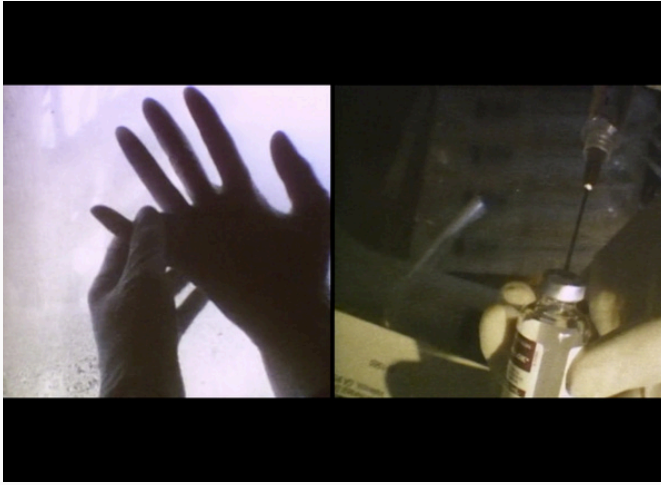


Image from *Lloyd Wong, Unfinished* (2024). Directed by Lloyd Wong x Lesley Loksi Chan. Video, 28 minutes. Courtesy of the artist.

Incompletion and the Archive

Lloyd Wong, Unfinished, reflects on the footage from his uncompleted work and its broader cultural implications. It underscores the power of self-representation and the tragedy of silenced voices, voices erased by systemic marginalization and the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Though it was never aired on television, Lloyd Wong's work is part of a lineage of queer Asian-Canadian media-making and is in dialogue with films such as Richard Fung's film *Orientations* (1984), in which Lloyd himself appears, and Midi Onodera's *Ten Cents a Dance* (1985), works that complicate what gay and lesbian identities meant at that particular historical moment. By delving into Wong's unfinished project, I explore incompleteness not as a failure or absence, but as a space for difficult questions, nuanced truths, and ongoing dialogue about collective memory and self-representation.

This project treats the tapes as a queer inheritance and a contribution to the counter-archives that honour and remember the stories and lives lost to AIDS. When I spoke with archivist Lucie Girard-Hanley from The ArQuives, she told me it's always important to ask: *Who and what gets archived, and why?*

Note

according to Lucie (archivist)
Richard (filmmaker) donated
box of tapes to the archives:
his own work,
other int'l films,
some erotica,
Lloyd Wong's footage

Image from *Lloyd Wong, Unfinished* (2024). Directed by Lloyd Wong x Lesley Loksi Chan. Video, 28 minutes. Courtesy of the artist.

Green Screen/Blue Screen/Split Screen

In Lloyd Wong's footage, he used green screen or perhaps blue screen technology to place himself in/out of various contexts: while teaching viewers how to prepare an IV treatment, we see *Marcia Adams Amish Cooking from Quilt Country* TV show behind him with commercials like a NordicFlex Gold workout equipment; and while speaking about the politics of daily life as a Chinese-Canadian person living with AIDS, we see a pool hall behind him and a game ensues. Lloyd Wong created juxtapositions that were humorous, odd, and poignant.

Inspired by his foreground/background strategy, I used green as the backdrop for the research "Notes" in film, meditating on his life story as a series of evolving contexts. Each conversation I had about Lloyd Wong changed my understanding of him. Every person gave me a different background to make sense of the footage and his life. In response to the aesthetic of background/foreground, I decided to use split screen to place Lloyd Wong's footage of himself side-by-side with himself.

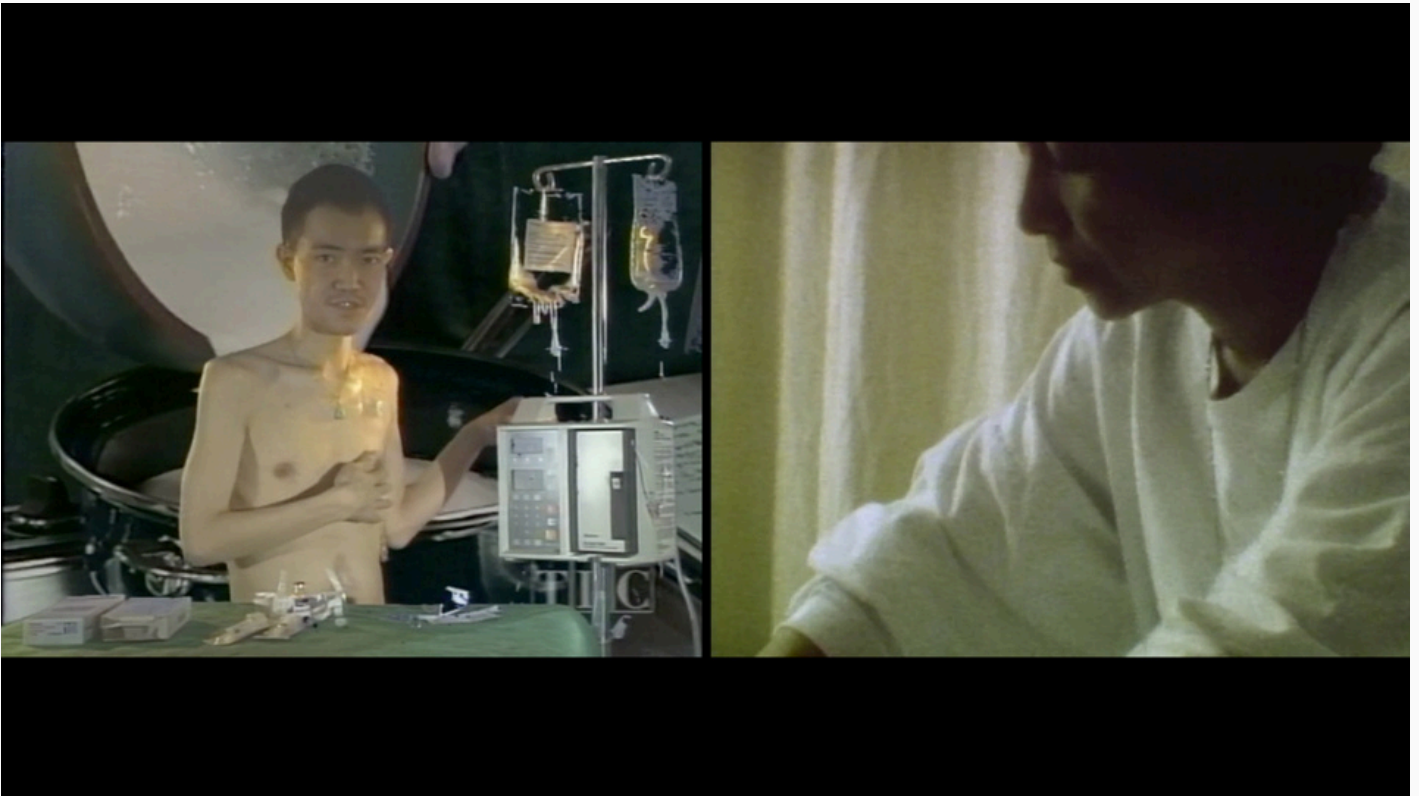


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Filmmaker as Haunted Caretaker

Lloyd Wong Unfinished asks us to bear witness to the specificities of Lloyd Wong's experience as a Chinese person living with AIDS in Toronto of the 80s/90s, to listen to the details of the everyday.

This project of remembering Lloyd Wong remains ongoing and unfinished. John Greyson once described my connection to this project as being "haunted." I think that's accurate. To be haunted is to engage with the unknowable.

I have come to realize that this film is not an attempt to complete Lloyd's work, but to dwell in its incompleteness, to learn from its roughness, and to tune into its resonances for our contemporary moment. *Lloyd Wong, Unfinished* has made me think about filmmaking as a form of caretaking.

– Lesley Loksi Chan, January 2025

About the Director

Lesley Loksi Chan is an artist and filmmaker. Her practice is concerned with questions of invisibility, believability and resistibility. Shaped by the histories of anthropology and cinema, her work asks how material culture and image culture affect the particular ways we think, remember, and live together. Through experimental, handmade and process-based filmmaking, she creates moving-images as mementos. Chan is a daughter of Chinese-Canadian settler immigrants from British Hong Kong and was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada which is situated upon the traditional territories of the Eerie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. Alongside her art practice, she is an independent curator with a focus on experimental and collaborative approaches in contemporary art. lesleyloksichan.com



Lesley Loksi Chan. Photo credit: La Chunk

PRESSCONTACT :::

bb house, bbhouse.ok@gmail.com

FULL CREDITS :::

Director: Lesley Loksi Chan

Director of Original Footage: Lloyd Wong

Producers: Lesley Loksi Chan, Luo Li, Phaniel Antwi

Project Mentors: Richard Fung, John Greyson

Cinematographer of Original Footage: To be confirmed

Editor of Original Footage: To be confirmed

Text, Editing, Sound: Lesley Loksi Chan

Research: Piper Chan, Grace Neill Huerta

Performances/Appearances in the film: Lloyd Wong, Suy Woo Wong

Made with the support of: Terry Guerriero (Executor of Lloyd Wong)

Made in community with: Andrew Zealley, Christian Hui, Mikiki, Esery Mondesir, Samuel Kwakwitchin Ernesto Lopez, Zachary Cameron Longboy

Contributors: Stephen Andrews, Ryan Conrad, Richard Fung, Kwoi Gin, John Greyson, Terry Guerriero, Paul Lee, Ian Rashid, Lucie Handley-Girard, Monika Kin Gagnon

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