

HAYWARD GALLERY

Press Release

Date: Monday 6 October 2025

For all press enquiries, please contact:

Yasmin Ozkan, Press Manager (Visual Arts), yasmin.ozkan@southbankcentre.co.uk

Megan Edwards, Press Officer (Visual Arts), megan.edwards@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images are available to download [here](#)

This press release is available in a variety of accessible formats. Please email press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Val Lee *The Presence of Solitude* 7 October 2025 - 11 January 2026



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

The Hayward Gallery, in partnership with the RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.), presents **Val Lee: *The Presence of Solitude***. This is the first solo exhibition in the UK by Taiwanese artist Val Lee and the fourth exhibition in the RC Foundation Project Space Exhibition Series, which showcases the next generation of emerging international artists.

Val Lee: The Presence of Solitude takes place in the HENI Project Space in the Southbank Centre's Hayward Gallery – a space that offers the opportunity for audiences to see exhibitions from emerging international artists for free.

Bringing together film, photography and costume, the exhibition highlights Lee's longstanding exploration of isolation and solitude. By creating disjointed and ambiguous narratives with unidentifiable figures, her work makes viewers feel as though time and meaning have been displaced. This feeling of alienation encourages us to think about how our personal experiences and collective memories are shaped by state and political systems.

The exhibition features new iterations of two existing works: **Valley in the Minibus** (2024) and **The Sorrowful Football Team** (2025). *Valley in the Minibus* explores the concept of 'non-places', defined by French anthropologist Marc Augé as transitory spaces that people pass through (such as airports, motorways, shopping centres) and become anonymous. Building on the original work and live event that took place over several weekends, a group of strangers travel through a winding landscape in a van with a creature-like masked and costumed figure. A new video commission will introduce the same masked figure DJing completely alone in an anonymous space. Three full body, long haired costumes and veiled masks used in the work are on display as part of the installation. Present but disconnected from the audience, the presentation highlights the artist's interest in creating connections and intimacies through isolated experiences.

Reimagined for the exhibition as a slide projection, *The Sorrowful Football Team* (2025) depicts a blind football team playing a match in the snow in Northern Japan. Blind football is an organised sport designed for players who are blind or visually impaired. Here, Lee utilises it as a metaphor to reflect on the impact of political repression experienced under the White Terror rule in Taiwan between 1947-1987 as well as the possibility of finding light in solitary darkness.

Yung Ma, Senior Curator of the Hayward Gallery, says: *"Straddling visual and live art, Val Lee has embraced different principles to forge an artistic language that invokes various experiences, past and present. While the exhibition explores the deeply felt presence of solitude in her recent works, it is ultimately a hopeful gesture about finding connections in the most unexpected places."*

Val Lee says: *"Presenting this work at Hayward Gallery allows me to further explore ambiguous fields—where collectivity is not given, but quietly rehearsed in the blank spaces of perception. I'm glad to share this piece in London at Hayward Gallery - where form, time, and relation can stay in flux."*

Previous artists who have exhibited in the HENI Project Space include Huang Po-Chih, Heecheon Kim, Amol K Patil, Thabiso Sekgala and Hicham Berrada. The exhibition marks the fourth iteration of The RC Foundation Project Space Exhibition Series and makes up an important part of the Southbank Centre's vast array of free programming for all to enjoy.

Val Lee: The Presence of Solitude is curated by Hayward Gallery Senior Curator, Yung Ma, and Curatorial Assistant, Felix Choong. Additional support provided by the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan (R.O.C.).

Val Lee: The Presence of Solitude is presented alongside [Gilbert & George 21ST CENTURY PICTURES](#) at the Hayward Gallery, as well as Teresa Solar Abboud's [Mother Tongue](#): a monumental new public art commission which will officially launch outside the gallery on 16 October 2025.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

Image Credit:

- Installation view of Val Lee: *The Presence of Solitude*. Photo: Mark Blower. Courtesy of the artist and the Hayward Gallery.

Exhibition Listing Information***Val Lee: The Presence of Solitude***

7 October 2025 - 11 January 2026

Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX

Free.

The Hayward Gallery opening times:

Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm

Sat, 10am – 8pm

Sun, 10am – 6pm

Further information:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Twitter: [@haywardgallery](https://twitter.com/haywardgallery)

Instagram: [@hayward_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/hayward_gallery)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/

About Val Lee

Val Lee (b. 1981, Taipei) is a director and visual artist working across expanded cinema, performance, and moving image. Trained in Filmmaking and Sociology at SUNY, Lee founded the art collective *Ghost Mountain Ghost Shovel* in 2008. Their work constructs temporal scenarios that reframe space, spectatorship, and perception, often exploring systemic violence, war, and affective states through nonlinear, disorienting environments.

Lee's works have been shown internationally including the 13th Gwangju Biennale, Grand Palais, HKW Berlin, MEP, MOCA Taipei, and others, with performances at TFAM, Kyoto Art Center, and the Taiwan National Theater. Honours include the Taishin Arts Award in 2017 and support from the Asian Cultural Council and C-LAB.

About the RC Foundation, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Founded in 1995 by Rong Chuan Chen, RC Foundation has been a visionary force in promoting Taiwanese contemporary art on the global stage. An active champion in fostering cultural and artistic exchanges, RC Foundation has been supporting artists, curators and independent art spaces from Taiwan through grants and partnerships, both locally and internationally. These long-term relationships have nurtured and enriched numerous artistic projects from different perspectives, generating invaluable connections between Taiwan's contemporary art practitioners and their global counterparts.

About the HENI Project Space

The HENI Project Space sits within the Hayward Gallery and is committed to giving a platform to artists whose work is lesser known in the UK. Originally opened in 2007, the project space hosts exhibitions every year by both emerging and newly established artists, as well as significant expressions of broader visual culture. Tying firmly into Hayward Gallery's mission to present eye-opening visual art that inspires, pushes boundaries and speaks to global discourses, the HENI

Project Space focuses on innovative forms of art making and provides a platform for presenting the latest developments in contemporary art from across the globe.

About the Hayward Gallery

The Hayward Gallery, part of the Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. They include those by Bridget Riley, Bruce Nauman, Anish Kapoor, Lee Bul, Andreas Gursky, Tracey Emin, Jeremy Deller, Kader Attia and Mike Nelson, as well as influential group exhibitions such as Africa Remix, Light Show, Psycho Buildings and Space Shifters. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra). www.southbankcentre.co.uk/



RC Culture and Arts Foundation



文化部

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, TAIWAN



Supported using public funding by

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

LOTTERY FUNDED



**SOUTHBANK
CENTRE**
