



Leave Of Absence is a self-sustainable art space that exists to explore the positioning of contemporary art, its creator and viewers in a post-globalised age of transient movement.

LOA was hidden inside a private gated courtyard off Dalston Lane. A small white cube space with limited opening hours to the public. From 2018, Each exhibiting artist is nominated by the seed members and will be asked to nominate three artists to consider making work for the space under the guideline: One who they know of in person, one who they do not and one who does not have the right to live and work in the UK. These artists will then go on to make their own nominations, creating a hyperbolic network of connected ideas. By the end of 2019, LOA expanded its programme to curated group shows and accept exhibition proposals from artists and curators with cross-culture backgrounds.

In a time in which the relationship between viewers and the visual arts has evolved through the screens we hold; in which our legal existence in an imagined community is determined by the passport we are born with, LOA exist to explore the transnational identities through the work of international emerging artists.

LOA is currently on pause until May 2022.

The seed members

Rory Bread • Yu'an Huang • Shona Jones • Kengwu Lin • James Tabbush

Work System Advisory • Jannik schmitz

Gallery assistant • Monica Santos

Logo • Janice Chen