



OUT THERE

NEXT STOP, SVALBARD!

An artist builds trust

ARTIST WONG KIT YI and curator Ali Wong are constant collaborators, whether on the exhibitions that feature the former's work or the digital presences they share. They also happen to cohabit in the same physical body: a productive, conceptual split personality. "We have different jobs," the artist explains, addressing the duality. "We take care of different tasks, and have different strong points. Ali makes curatorial decisions; she's very organized. I care only about coming up with crazy ideas and executing them."

Wong Kit Yi
Contracts
included in the
exhibition "North
Pole Futures" at
K. gallery in New
York this spring.

Earlier in 2015 the "duo" could be found at Hong Kong's **Oil Street Exhibition Space**, at New York's **K. gallery**, and at **NADA** New York, selling contracts for a body of work

yet to be made, in anticipation of Wong's trip to the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard this October as part of the Arctic Circle expeditionary residency program. Patrons were able to secure a commission and personalize it in various ways by selecting a date (when the piece will be made), a color, and a weird word (like *cereology*, *lollygag*, or *Argus-eyed*). These elements will guide the artist, who, once in the Arctic, plans to combine them in a manner "photographic, sculptural, performative, or painterly." The curator notes that in each iteration of the project, the basic premise "is about not fitting into the economic model that currently prevails in the art world." The artist adds, "The primary material in this project is trust."

—JULIET HELMKE