

WORKSPACE: AL WONG

"Working in New York," the title of Al Wong's current installation, is the seventh and concluding WorkSpace exhibition in this series. WorkSpace, designed to function as an intermediary between the artist's studio and the museum exhibition gallery, features work of an experimental nature. Artists are invited to develop and modify their installations throughout the duration of the exhibition. WorkSpace thus provides the artist with a unique opportunity to experiment and change work that is on view to the public. The public, on the other hand, is able to witness "work in progress," a process which usually occurs in the privacy of the artist's studio.

San Francisco artist AL WONG has literally moved the contents of his studio into the WorkSpace gallery for "Working in New York." Primarily known as a filmmaker, Wong has been concerned in recent months with creating "spatial drawings" that explore the many facets of memory -- what is seen and remembered -- and the phenomenon of retinal afterimage. Wong has long been interested in exploring the phenomenon of visual perception, and often examines the optical play of negative shadow/positive form in his films. Here, he draws on hardware netting to create silhouettes of himself and others, as well as more abstracted forms. When viewed from a certain distance, the drawings and cut-out spaces on the cloth align with created shadows on the wall or floor to make optical illusions. Wong will continue to create additional works while in residence in New York.