

# GLADSTONE

Ian Cheng presents two interactive works at Gladstone,  
expanding the narrative of *BOB* series

Presentation confronts the relationship between art and AI on an  
interactive plane, highlighting arts capacity to adapt to the viewer

What if an artwork could integrate you into its dream?

What if the endgame of art is art that adapts to you?

The exhibition features two works that extend a personalized experience of its world to  
you. and adapt to your attention in return.

*Life After BOB: The Chalice Study Experience (LABX)*, 2021-2022, is a 50-minute anime  
built in the Unity video game engine and presented in real-time. It centers on the life of  
Chalice, the first child to grow up with an AI symbiote called *BOB*. Unlike typical  
cinematic productions, *LABX* was conceived and built as a simulated world, populated  
by characters and artifacts with rich lore beyond the story. *LABX* features  
"worldwatching" mode, an intuitive way for you to pause the cinematic story and freely  
explore every detail of the *LAB* world and its many secrets.

*Thousand Lives*, 2023-2024, is a simulation that dramatizes the daily life of Chalice's  
pet turtle, Thousand. Thousand is driven by a neuro-symbolic AI model that attempts  
to learn the relevance of everything it encounters to its own internal reptilian urges.  
Over the course of many days, Thousand develops a recognition of the affordances  
and threats in Chalice's messy apartment environment, minimizes upsets to its  
expectations, and constructs new motives to better satisfy its competing urges. This  
slow but steady developmental process forms the ongoing drama of *Thousand's*  
lifetime in a new kind of "slow story" achieved only via simulation. When viewed one-  
on-one, *Thousand Lives* may recognize your presence and adapt to your precise  
viewing perspective, giving you a hyper-personalized portal into *Thousand's*  
worldview. Learn more about Life After BOB at <https://lifeafterbob.io/>

## Exhibition Details

*Thousand Lives*

February 23 – April 13, 2024

760 Samseong-ro, Gangnam-gu

Seoul, 06070, Republic of Korea

## About Ian Cheng

Ian Cheng (b. 1984, Los Angeles) lives and works in New York. Previous solo  
exhibitions include: *Worlding*, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea  
(2022); *Life After BOB*, Light Art Space, Berlin, Germany (2022); *Life After BOB*, The  
Shed, New York, US (2021); *Life After BOB: The Chalice Study*, Luma Westbau, Zürich,  
Switzerland (2021); *Life After BOB: The Chalice Study*, Luma Arles, Arles, France  
(2021); *Emissary Trilogy*, Fundación Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Madrid  
(2020); *Emissary Forks at Perfection*, Espace Louis Vuitton Venezia, Venice (2018);\* *Ian  
Cheng Emissaries\**, Julia Stoschek Collection, Berlin (2018); *Ian Cheng*, Serpentine  
Gallery, London (2018);\* *Emissaries\**, MoMA PS1, New York (2017); *Forking at*

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*Perfection*, Migros Museum, Zurich (2016); *Emissary in the Squat of Gods*, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2015). Previous group exhibitions include: Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy (2023); Beijing Biennial, Beijing (2022); Julia Stoschek Collection, Düsseldorf, Germany (2022); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2022); Zabudowicz Collection, London, UK (2022); Kadist x G Museum, Nanjing, China (2021); M+, Hong Kong (2021); Luma, Arles (2020); De Young, Fine Art Museum of San Francisco (2020); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2019); Venice Biennale (2019); MoMA, New York (2019); MAXXI, Rome (2018).

## **About Gladstone Gallery**

Gladstone is recognized for its embrace of experimentation and visionary practices. The gallery has long been an active partner with artists pursuing catalytic ideas and engaging with pressing issues. Headquartered in New York, Gladstone's impact extends globally with galleries in Brussels and Seoul, enabling it to present new bodies of work and evolve its program to advance the practices and reach of its artists through time. Alongside its work with contemporary artists, the gallery is a steward of the legacies of pivotal historical artists and an advocate for the enduring power of their work. Gladstone is led by a team of partners who spearhead its long-term vision and program, building on the values of its founder Barbara Gladstone.

## **Press Contact**

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