

*Perfect Sense* by Chris Shen is an experiment in automation and systems of trust.

The exhibition features site-responsive artworks made of everyday automatic devices, locally sourced and altered in New York. The works, activated by motion sensors, respond to the architecture of the space, the visitor, and themselves.

First presented at Current Plans, Hong Kong in 2022, the second iteration of *Perfect Sense* takes place at Public Works Administration, a gallery located in Times Square, down a stairwell between street level and the subway concourse. The space is intermittently lit by the motion sensing security lights of **Lume (Auto)** which are arranged in close proximity to create an ecosystem of perpetually activated devices. Alongside, **Not Saliva (Auto)**, a modified dispenser, discharges a nondescript gel into the visitor's palm. In the corner, **Fuji Cyber-Relax (Auto)**, a found machine with intimate intent, contracts and expands when it senses a visitor nearby.

The works automatically illuminate, dispense, and massage in curious ways beyond their components' intended purposes as helpful equipment. These moments create unexpected delight or discomfort, emerging during the suspension of the visitor's implicit trust in these familiar, ubiquitous objects.

Like the New York City subway, and many other businesses in Times Square, for the duration of *Perfect Sense*, Public Works Administration will remain open 24/7. However, unlike the nearby eateries, shops, and pharmacies whose staff continuously serve an endless stream of customers, the gallery will remain unattended and open to the public, to exercise the mutual trust of the organizers, artist, and audience.\*

Text by Celine Wong Katzman

\*The exhibition will be documented by a CCTV camera also streaming live at [chrisshen.net](http://chrisshen.net)