

MAP OFFICE / Disputed

25°46'N – 123°31'E

Diaoyu dao

Uotsuri-shima

Diaoyu tai

Disputed responds to numerous recent escalations in island disputes around the world. These islands are much more than small uninhabited rocks lost in the ocean. With the exhaustion of natural resources, territorial waters are becoming a precious extension of land, explaining countries' often-violent fights to claim them. With rich fisheries and natural oil and gas contained in their seabed, many times these islands are huge attractions in crowded regions with competing interests. Geopolitical strategies over contested areas foster nationalist sentiments and racism toward neighboring countries. The role of militaries occupying the same strategic space and planting their countries' sovereign flags is a visible sign of these tensions. Borrowing elements from these ongoing fights, MAP Office has created a dart game designed to conquer those disputed territories according to the countries that claim them. The competition is therefore transferred to players, who choose which country they want to represent in conquering an island.

Diaoyu dao > Diaoyu > China

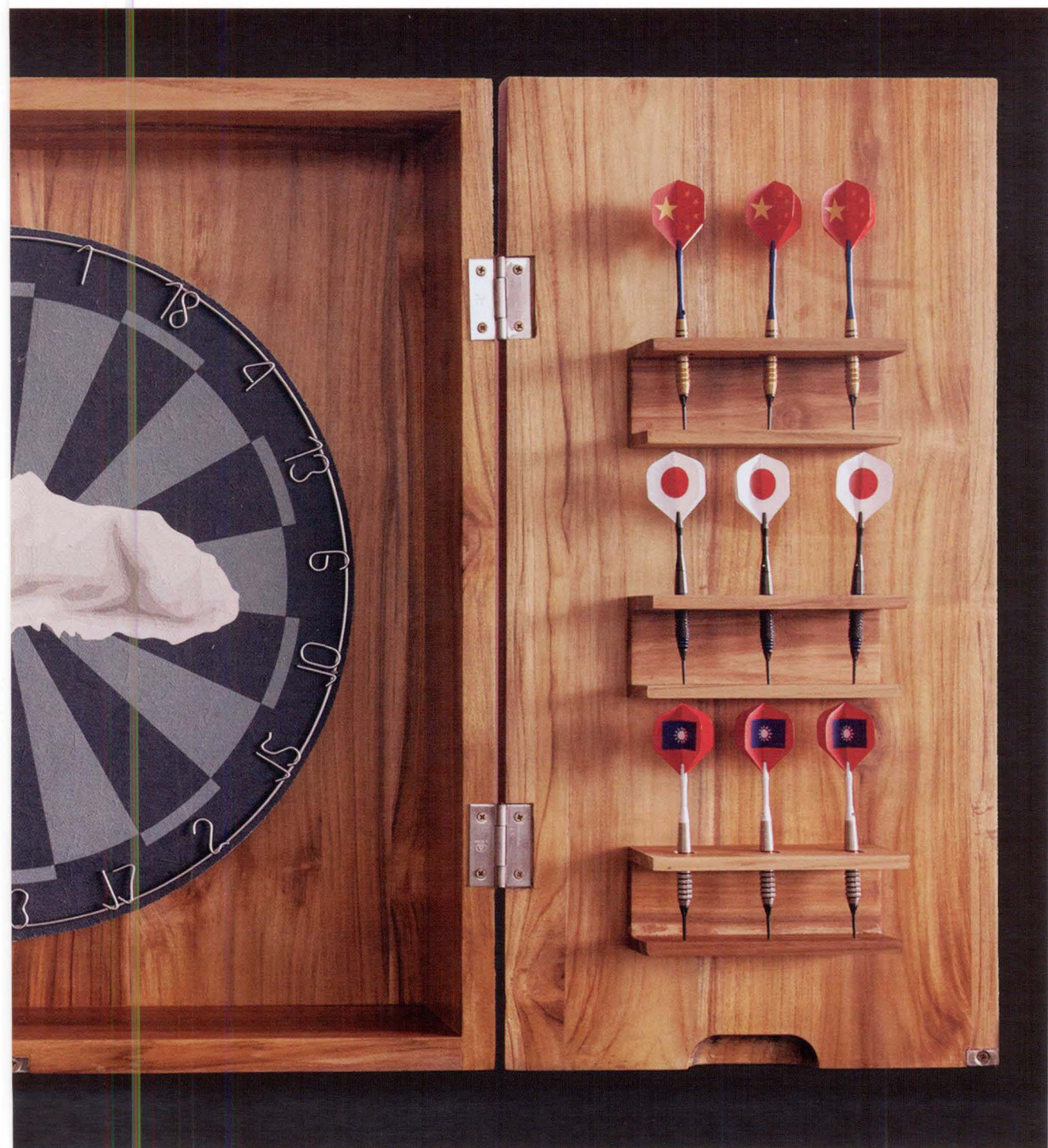
Uotsuri-shima > Senkaku Islands > Japan

Diaoyu tai > Diaoyu > Taiwan

Area: 4.32 km²

Highest Point: 383 m

This is the largest island of the disputed archipelago and an important place for fishing activities. For many decades it was the site of a Japanese fish-processing plant since 1900 housing about 280 workers. It has been uninhabited since WWII except for a few academic scientific visits. In the 1970s, the island was one of the four sold to the Kurihara family who rented it back to the Japanese government from 2002 till 2013 leading to the escalation of the dispute. This island is currently home to domestic goats and albatross. A unique species of mole is also unique to this island. Translated to English, the Chinese and Japanese name means "Fishing Island," and "Fishing Platform" in Taiwanese.



The Invisible Islands



大鴉洲 Tai A Chau

索罟群島 Soko Islands

20世紀80年代，下村和上村這兩個村落隨著島上興建最具爭議性的越南難民羈留營而遭荒廢。由於與香港市區的發展斷絕，這些村落主要生產出口蝦膏到歐洲及北美。一些人跡罕至的海灘，讓活躍的小口岸和捕魚業的規模延伸至香港以南兩公里外的中國海域。

Two villages, Ha Tsuen and Sheung Tsuen, were abandoned when the most controversial detention camp for Vietnamese refugees was built in the 1980s. Disconnected from the development of urban Hong Kong, these villages were mainly involved in producing export shrimp paste to Europe and North America. A few deserted beaches give the scale of the small active ports and the fishing industry extending in China's water to just two kilometers South.

看不見的島嶼

香港 - 深圳是相連的大都會，正在快速融合成為中國南部地區的大城市。身處中國大陸與中國海之間，香港亦無可避免地只能跟隨深圳的腳步發展。可想而知，對於中國大陸而言，香港極其量只算得上一個小島嶼。

回應今年大會兩個主題 “城市邊緣” 和 “理想都市”，我們發現應該從倒後鏡中窺探香港，藉此為中國海的發展開拓出不一樣的新角度。我們的主張完全撇開深港兩地的矛盾，建設貫穿海平線上過百島嶼，創造無限可能的新視野。

MAP OFFICE 將於主場館內展出一個藝術裝置，表達由33個島嶼組成的構想，涵蓋所有從過去到現在具實驗性的島嶼。當中一系列的個人收藏，包括相片，錄像，雕塑，貝殼，工具，拾得藝術品，亦將一併展出成為集體回憶的一部分。

The Invisible Islands

A continuous metropolis, Hong Kong – Shenzhen is rapidly merging to become a megacity in the South China region. Closed between the China Sea and China itself, Hong Kong had no choice but to look in the direction of its twin sister Shenzhen. In this sense, Hong Kong may have been an island but isn't anymore.

To respond the 'Urban Edge' combined with "the ideal city" theme of the UABB*HK2013 biennale, we propose to look at Hong Kong from the rear-view mirror and to open new perspectives in the China Sea. Our proposal will clearly ignore the polarity established with Shenzhen, to construct a new horizon happening on the water and the hundred possibilities of island in the region.

Starting from the main exhibition venue, MAP Office will present an installation composed of a 33 islands manifesto, embracing as many possible island laboratories from the past to the present. A personal collection of photographs, videos, sculptures, shells, tools, and found objects will be exhibited to become part of a collective memory.

MAP Office, 2013