從以上這樣簡短的對於 VT 簡史的描述中,已經可以想見到, VT 演進的背後,真正的推力即來自於藝術環境內生存不易所帶來 的壓迫與困惑,藝術家們希望「給自己的未來一個機會」,想要掙脫 束縛,甚至是闖出去另闢一爿天,好讓自己的藝術生命可以繼續。這 樣一種「我會/將活下來」的信念所決定出的行動策略,無疑是浪漫 的,VT 發起人之一的姚瑞中就這樣形容道他們對於另闢藝術領地的 「廟」的熱情:「因為藝術就是我們的信仰」,這股驅動 VT 堅持 20 年繼續往前的力量,應該也會推使 VT 再出現下一個 20 年吧。

istorically, there have been two "Very Temple" (known as VT) and they emerged in 1997 and in 2006. The 1997 VT was an artist collective formed by Yao Jui-Chung, Chen Wen-Chi, and other artists. The 2006 VT was an art space founded by seven artists and a curator, including Chen Wen-Chi, Yao Jui-Chung, Tu Wei-Cheng, Chen Chun-Hao, Wu Dar-kuen, Su Hui-Yu, Isa Ho, and Sean C.S. Hu (curator). The former was known for its flexible, guerilla-like approach to organizing exhibitions, which allowed artists to publish their creative work while spurring the productive chain of the art scene. The latter interpreted and revitalized art spaces through more diverse approaches, and found an alternative route for Taiwanese contemporary art. Therefore, we have witnessed how the VT members seriously engaged themselves in running a night club and organizing exhibitions in the space on Yitong Street. Even after they moved to the space on Xinsheng North Road and assumed a moretraditional role as an art space, the members still upheld the same belief when starting their new chapter by transforming VT into one of the art platforms for exchanges and connections between Taiwan and the rest of the world.

From this brief account of VT's development, one can already see that the real driving force behind VT's evolution has been the sense of oppression and confusion brought on by the difficulty of survival in the art circle. Artists hoped to "create an opportunity for their future." They wanted to free themselves from restrictions, and even to create a new world for themselves so that their artistic careers could continue. Actions and strategies made under the belief of "I'll survive" were undoubtedly romantic. "Because art has been our faith" was what one of the VT founders, Yao Jui-Chung, once stated when talking about their zeal in creating their "Temple" of art. Therefore, I believe that the driving force that has fueled VT's progress for the past twenty years will continue to push VT forward in the next two decades.

寫在「非常廟」(VT) 下一個20年之前

A NOTE WRITTEN RIGHT BEFORE THE NEXT TWO DECADES OF VERY TEMPLE

吳嘉瑄 Wu Chia-Hsuan Did you think I'd crumble Did you think I'd lay down and die Oh 110, 110t I WII SULVIVE Oh as long as I know how to love I know l'Il stay alive I've got all my life to live I've got all my love to give And I'll survive I WIII SULVIVE

— | Will Survive