

# My Body Is A Temple

Pres. By Manbo Key (HomoPleasure Collective)

Tofu Space

21 September –14 November 2024



Following his teen desire for loose change and hidden porn, Manbo Key would rummage around the room of his seldomly present father. Stashed in the back of the closet, he found his father's self-made tape collection titled Homepleasure, revealing numerous recorded sexual encounters with unknown men in their family home. Within the confines of their small and traditional village, the shame and confusion Manbo felt due to his own blossoming sexuality and unresolved feelings towards a fellow male classmate seemed to amplify with his father's hidden activities. For years, he silently carried the weight of the secret that was unwillingly bestowed upon him, until one day his father willingly handed down his collection to him. This unfiltered and complex relationship has since evolved into the award-winning ongoing series Father's Videotapes (2008–), juxtaposing recollections and subtle exposures of his father's secret letters, sex tapes, and objects with Manbo's own work and memoirs.

From the club scene to the fashion industry and the art world, Manbo Key has over the years become a unifying presence in Taipei. His photographs teem with an ecstatic virility, promoting the identities that are able to flourish through the hard-won triumphs of Taiwan's queer communities. Since becoming the first nation in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage in 2019, cementing Taiwan's reputation as a burgeoning queer haven, the communities that Manbo now represents are inhabited by the party-makers, designers, painters, and drag queens – they constitute the cultural frontier of Taipei and they are Manbo's inner circle of friends. Operating as an art collective under the name Homopleasure, there is a constant flow of inspiration among them, and through their collaborative efforts, they continuously push the boundaries towards further demarginalisation of queer spaces.

Homepleasure–Homopleasure traces a lineage of intergenerational queerness that bridges Manbo Key's father's bedroom and the night club. Together with a selection of works by Homopleasure members Chien-Wen Lin, Yun-Pei Hsiung, Uning Kuo, Kai-En Chen, and Ya-Wen Li, the liberation of the nightlife is brought into the limelight, and in unison they express a space that both binds them together and sets them free.

Through photography, video, and installation, Yang Teng-Chi (b. 1986, Dongshi), known as Manbo Key, actively challenges social boundaries and fosters discussions around sexuality, gender, and body, striving for a more queer future. Father's Videotapes has earned multiple accolades, including the Grand Prize at the Taipei Arts Awards. His work has been exhibited at renowned institutions in Taiwan, such as the Taipei Fine Arts Museum and the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, as well as internationally at institutions like Parcel in Tokyo and Spielart in Munich. Manbo Key graduated in Visual Communication and Design from Dayeh University in Changhua.

Kai-En Chen (b. 1996, Taoyuan) is a multifaceted artist who seamlessly merges fashion design with visual art. Drawing inspiration from the rich tapestry of street aesthetics and underground culture of Taipei, his creations offer imaginative interpretations of the human shape and the crafted experience by reassembling components and fragments into fluid forms, particularly collage. Kai-En Chen's work has been exhibited at the New Taipei Art Museum, Lishan Art Space in Taipei, Fan Art Space in Tainan, and Shaky Floor in Taipei.

Lin Chien Wen (b. 1987, Taipei) is a versatile image-maker, specialising in fashion photography, documentary photography, and experimental videography. In his artistic practice, he blends these approaches to capture still lifes, portraits, and scenes over an extended period of time, exploring the abstract feelings of marginality inherent in the struggles of queer identity construction throughout one's life journey. Chien-Wen Lin's work has been exhibited at Culture Ensemble and Songshan Cultural and Creative Park in Taipei, and Parco Museum Tokyo. Chien-Wen Lin holds an MPS in fashion photography from the School of Visual Arts in New York.

Ya-Wen Li (b. 1990, Taipei) is a multidisciplinary artist primarily focused on illustration and etching. Drawing inspiration from the hidden corners of dark rooms and the edges of dance floors, Li illuminates the hedonistic essence of these spaces, that ignites the appetite for pleasure. Her work has been exhibited at Limit Gallery in Chengdu, Random Play in Hangzhou, Common Rare in Shanghai, among others, and she has won several awards, including Hili Illustration and 3x3 International Illustration Awards. Ya-Wen Li holds an MFA from Glasgow School of Art.

Uning Kuo (b. 1997, Kaohsiung) is a versatile artist, proficient in different fields such as fashion design, visual arts, and food arts. Drawing inspiration from the communal joy of shared meals, her artistic practice primarily involves creating sculptural works that reimagine Taiwan's rich culinary heritage in a contemporary context. Uning Kuo's work has been exhibited at Northing Space in Norway, Hakka Cultural Museum in Taichung, and Fan Art Museum in Tainan. Uning Kuo graduated from the Department of Fashion Design at Shih Chien University in Taipei.

Yun-Pei Hsiung (b. 1985, Taipei) is a visual artist whose work primarily involves illustration, painting, sculptures, and social intervention. Mainly known for his drawing series, his work frequently delves into themes such as queer identity, public space, and Taiwan geopolitics. His work has been exhibited at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, Taitung Culture Center in Kaohsiung, Warehouse Gallery in New York, and Freedom Men Art Apartments in Taichung. Yun-Pei Hsiung holds an MA in Product Design from Royal College of Art in London.