當代攝影的空缺與生成

以台灣的聲音、身體與檔案作為方法

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一、攝影生態學

台灣當代攝影的形構:檔案、數 位、田野與後媒介

當我們今天走進攝影展間,可以看到各式各樣不同策略操縱的影像襲來,無論是民間照片、網路截圖、挪用、遊戲影像、google介面、演算法後台、書籍與檔案等,我們可以看到創作者操作影像的手勢,已經不同於堅持自己拍攝照片的攝影家。相較來說,走進傳統攝影展間,則可以感受傳統美學、類比膠卷、或原作讚賞等,觀者必須以一種有距離的方式看待經典的「攝影藝術」。如果我們再用過去的框架在看今天的當代攝影實踐,勢必會遇到「短路」。

我們可以明顯感受到空間部署的轉移,如果說過去的攝影作品大多關注作品本身、印刷質量、現實倫理等;那麼今天的戰場則轉移到空間問題。要言之,不是去追問創作者再現或拍什麼,而是去問空間部署如何製造「效果」。也就是說,如果過去攝影的創作脈絡,作品本身自成一格地強調視覺美感經驗;今天的攝影作品則更嘗試透過空間與場域部署誘發觀者的身體、觸感與知性的全面參與。所以,除了空間展覽,攝影書也成為許多攝影家選擇發表的媒介,因為這樣作者可以更加介入、編輯與形塑紙本空間。要言之,今天的攝影不再服務現代藝術建制的階級品味,而是試圖召喚新的「公眾」,使作品在跟觀者的交互作用當中富含公共性。

我想提出「攝影生態學」的方法,離開藝術建制化的攝影枷鎖,進而「走向公眾」地跟觀者產生交織關係。如果說傳統的攝影概念,常侷限在美學或技術獨立自主的框架,而超然於外部生態。那麼,今天的攝影就得關照更多外部關係,比方說空間部署、後網路政治、社會關係、歷史再述、媒介間共振以及生態網路的連結等。換句話,當代攝影必須有如病毒般跟外部不斷互相感染共生。

我試圖從「攝影生態學」的問題切入攝影。如果說過去的攝影常常侷限在自身媒介的歷史或政治問題,那我想要透過後媒介之後的攝影,重新問題化攝影的本體。也就是說,如果西方現代主義強調「媒介特殊性」(Medium-Specificity);那麼Rosalind Krauss提出的「後媒介」(Post-Medium Condition)則是對攝影概念的全面擴張。而本研究想提出的「攝影生態學」(Photography Ecology),則是試圖重估攝影,並且運用在地實踐跟全球技術進行共振與協商。

回到在地實踐方面,本研究將分析目前台灣當代攝影論述的三套框架,分別是「攝影作為歷史爭辯」、「攝影作為數位演繹」以及「攝影作為田野調查方法」。雖然這三套框架各有其優勢,但在回應目前日漸豐饒的當代攝影實踐上還尚待補足。因此,本研究將綜合台灣攝影的論述框架,融合西方的後媒介理論,重新生成「攝影生態學」,藉此回應台灣當代攝影的發展。

再訪攝影,不是為了建立線性的歷史體系,更不是為了找到台灣攝影的原初本源。而是試著 重新找回攝影的生命與強力,讓攝影體系重新活化,討論攝影如何像病毒般,與其他領域交 織感染,將攝影從靜態影像的框架中挪移。有別於「此曾在」強調單張照片與關於過去片段的攝影本體論;我試圖在新的時代條件中,重新配置「生態的攝影本體論」。

台灣目前的攝影論述建制體系仍然尚待補全,但我們可以約略看到當代攝影的三條論述形構在台灣的走向。攝影在這三大論述框架之下,大抵來說可以分成強調歷史研究的「攝影作為歷史爭辯之物」;再來則是由於數位網路的發達,許多創作者開始離開類比邏輯,反對攝影紀錄的再現,轉向以藝術家之姿介入影像,強調擬像的「數位攝影演繹」;最後則是90年代至今作為藝術攝影的主要論述,也就是把攝影作為田野調查計畫的「新紀實攝影」。此外,本章也將探討「後媒介」與「擴延的攝影」對當代攝影的影響,作為發展「攝影生態學」的基礎框架。

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一、攝影作為歷史的爭辯場域:攝影檔案

在台灣史面臨中國史的威脅與日本殖民還有西方霸權的多重支配下,許多人試圖挖掘尚未成為正典的歷史檔案以及野史資料,試圖挑戰既有的官方檔案架構,並且以各種過去的民間檔案補充台灣在殖民下的空白歷史。

關於攝影跟歷史的關係,2017年北美館的攝影大展《微光闇影》跟陳傳興於2009年出版的書籍《銀鹽熱》遙相呼應幽暗的史觀。乃至於《攝影之聲》近來出版的各大專題〈被攝影史——成為影像的台灣〉、〈歷史與書寫專題〉、〈冷戰影像,美國因素〉等。都在討論正統歷史之外,延遲、未竟、尚待討論的影像檔案。

我們可以關注到,攝影媒材見證歷史的特性,作為民間檔案的補遺或者官方歷史檔案的批判都是其不可忽視的重點。此外,郭力昕在《現代美術學報,33期》策劃「寫真時代:日本殖民歷史與臺灣攝影經驗」專題,也將攝影視為檔案與史料,通過對攝影檔案之不同功能或使用方式的考察,梳理日本殖民者的治理,以及攝影產生的政治、社會與文化作用。

換言之,攝影的檔案與史料化,不是將再現的證據做為僵化的大歷史,遮蔽在國家的檔案控制下;更多是作為抵抗官方或殖民歷史觀下的「顯現」。誠如陳傳興所說「攝影論述的場域應該是影像顯現的可能開展,而非封閉,掩藏此種可能性於任何一種指稱、敘述性意向要求下。[1]」

要言之,上述的討論在形塑「攝影-檔案」的批判框架,無論是台灣在早期殖民攝影史中「攝影者-被攝者」的位置,或是美國冷戰時期對台灣影像的管控,更甚至過去因為政治審查沒辦法被展出的抗爭照片或原住民影像等,都是在補充歷史的範圍下生產。

「攝影作為歷史爭辯」的方法可以讓我們跟官方檔案的機制保持距離,重新由在過去被遮蔽的影像中重新看到閃光,進而模糊公共跟私人照片的界線,讓我們省視我們當下跟屬於台灣在地的歷史發展。此外,這種方法也不同於攝影傳統崇尚作者美學的框架;而是以歷史性、社會性、政治性、地緣性等跨域方法來重新看待照片。

另一方面,這套方法跟傳統的報導攝影傳統也保持著一定距離,他們不會將照片作為客觀見證的證據。換言之,這套論述既抵抗攝影作為美術的傳統,同時也不落入傳統報導攝影的窠臼,更重要的將攝影作為歷史爭辯的物件,進而提出另類視差的史觀,提出「另類言說」跟「主流言說」爭辯。用藝評家Hal Foster的話說「這些檔案研究者受到一些被遺漏掉的或是遭到過抵制的歷史資料的吸引,他們企圖以實物的形式再次將之公之於眾。[2]」

然而,這套方法容易落入文化研究或後殖民的「凝視框架」,而忽略照片的可編輯性、再詮釋性以及流通性。要言之,這套方法大多還是建立在銀鹽照片的類比邏輯,並且強調意識形態批判,更在意照片再現過去的「證據」(無論是暴力或壓迫等),或者拍攝者(殖民者)的「權力位置」如何掌控可見與不可見(過去的不可見在今天如何可見)。

無論如何,這套方法一個很好的起點,讓我們重新思考台灣「攝影——檔案——歷史」之間 的複雜關係。而我們也不只把目光放在攝影家或藝術家拍的照片,形塑僵化的攝影藝術體 系,而是將各種民間、素人或官方照片檔案作為爭辯的場域。

二、攝影作為數位演繹:觀念與數位攝影

讓我們從歷史的現實爭辯,轉移到藝術場域裡對數位攝影的討論。以姚瑞中策展的《幻影天堂,2002》、《出神入畫,2004》,乃至於之後他出版的《台灣當代攝影新潮流》,以及樊婉貞編輯的《非關真相:九〇年代至今華人觀念攝影》為代表,我們可以注意到觀念藝術、行為表演、數位攝影或擬像在台灣創作者的創作中合流。他們不同於傳統攝影紀錄現實的「再現」觀點,這些藝術家以各種主動方式介入到影像(數位後製、修圖、改圖等),讓我們意識到攝影跟繪畫再次合流的「可塑性」。比方說大量修改影像的袁廣鳴《城市失格》、李小鏡《十二生肖》、吳天章《同舟共濟》、陳界仁《魂魄暴亂》等都是這類論述形構的代表。

樊婉貞在《非關真相》中指出觀念攝影的四個特質,這幾個特質很重要的點出觀念攝影如何 擺脫攝影紀錄傳統,以過程性與建構的方式來思考攝影。首先是觀念攝影不是觀看紀錄的結 果,而是觀看紀錄的過程。再來是照片代表的真實,在經過剪輯、局部使用後也能變成騙人 的伎倆。然後是相較於傳統攝影的主客分明(拍攝者-被攝者),觀念攝影的主體可以是拍 攝者本身,也可以是被攝者,角色可以對換,主體和客體可以變得混淆。最後則是觀念攝影 對現狀不滿,帶有挑釁和對傳統模式的反叛 [3]。換言之,攝影在跟觀念藝術互相感染後,就 不再只是單純客觀見證的工具,更可以容納作者的介入、虛構、轉化與各種挑戰攝影媒材紀 錄特性的方法。

另一方面,姚瑞中認為90年代之後的台灣攝影創作,大量受到網際網路或數位合成影像的影響。「影像不但預視了一個新世界的降臨,在電腦強大的運算力之下,更暗示了真實已比真實還更『真實』,影像本身的存在已經從『再現現實』、『扭曲現實』到反映『失落的現

實』,轉入一種『超越現實的現實』。[4]」換言之,90年代後的創作者更關注某種次文化、 幻想、擬像等特質。

此外,他還進一步提到相較於過去創作者對歷史與現實的關懷,這類年輕作品更為去政治性,更加關注自己的幻想。「與前一代懷有積極人文關懷及社會反思的創作態度不同,大多數年輕藝術家的作品並不特別要去談什麼社會議題,對於藝術改造社會的烏托邦理想也興趣不大。……可以明顯發覺年輕一代從90年代初期對社會、歷史的反省與批判姿態,轉向個人語境的獨白。[5]

在姚瑞中的整理中,我們可以發現90後一代數位攝影更關注次文化與個人幻想,相較不關注 現實與歷史問題,他們更關注數位帶來對現實的解放,以及擬像製造的瘋狂能指[6]。然而, 這些無關現實,更關乎個人幻想的數位合成作品(比方說何孟娟、黃建樺等),在面對「台 灣新紀實攝影」論述時,則受到了極大的挑戰。

三、攝影作為田野調查:台灣新紀實攝影

在90年代數位攝影的擬像站上一波高峰之後,2000年以後的相關攝影論述「重新贖回現實」,而這波攝影的論述形構,則為至今的攝影發展打下基底。這波攝影論述的奠基之一,可以從2010年張美陵於高雄美術館策劃的《出社會:1990年代之後的台灣批判寫實攝影聯展》看出端倪。該展策展論述提到:

「數位科技的興起,更造成寫實攝影的式微,攝影可以經由數位竄改,使得攝影喪失與真實的密切關係。並且,現代主義的作者原創性,讓位於後現代的挪用與遊戲,去深度扁平化的藝術風潮,使得沉重的社會關懷變得荒謬。攝影藝術的社會批判角色,失去了社會寫實的著力點。當代藝術的寫實主義被重新定義,寫實的觀念已經改變,例如攝影的寫實主義不再只是對於模仿的複製,而是發明新的再現真實的方法。[7]」

換言之,在《出社會》中,不只是攝影擁抱後現代擬像的虛無,而是將攝影的「寫實」視為發明新的再現現實方法。而在該檔展覽中的攝影家,也都離開攝影傳統攝影記者單純再現現實的框架,更自省地考慮攝影問題,同時也複雜化攝影跟現實之間的關係。比方說至今仍然活躍的攝影家張乾琦、陳敬寶、沈昭良、陳伯義、周慶輝、吳政璋、鐘順龍、楊哲一等,都是這一論述脈絡的延續。

另一方面,2011年郭力昕在《攝影之聲》創刊號發表的「新紀實攝影」論述也間接強化《出社會》的主張。郭力昕聲稱「當代諸多攝影藝術類型、主題或手法,大多取材自真實的生活、現場、或人的各種活動與面貌,我們或許可以大膽地說,當代攝影藝術最主要的取向或觀念,概納起來,正是新紀實攝影。[8]

此外,他雖然也提醒新紀實攝影可能變成虛無、物件、自溺、符號的展演,跟現實無關的表現。同時他也對新紀實與藝術場域的合流保持批判態度,認為藝術話語的迷魂陣反而有可能 遮蔽現實問題[9]。雖說如此,他還是強調新紀實攝影多元的積極意義在於挑戰傳統紀實攝影的單一表現,並且打開更多元的攝影觀「顛覆傳統紀實敘事語言、極大地包容了再現真實之多元可能的新紀實攝影,正以一種嶄新、辯證的藝術價值和社會意義,開拓著一個繁複且開放的攝影世界。[10]

無論是張美陵或郭力昕,都不約而同對攝影單純再現現實的能力不滿,試圖以更複雜的攝影語言構造現實。在傳統紀實攝影中,攝影家必須以不介入、客觀報導的方式快速捕抓第一手事件,並且發表在報章媒體上讓閱聽人知道;然而在新紀實當中,攝影家可以運用各種視覺藝術的語言來重新進入現實,舉凡數位後製、編導擺拍、行為介入、疏離冷面、類型學等的方法。而攝影家發表場地也從傳統紙媒,轉向攝影書、美術館、替代空間等。

關於傳統報導(新聞媒體)到當代紀實(攝影書、藝廊、美術館等)發表媒體場域的轉變。評論人林志明認為跟台灣政治背景的改變有關,原本解嚴前見證式的傳統報導方式,也難以再回應複雜的現實問題,而是被解嚴後號稱多元開放的媒體主宰,他提到報導攝影在解嚴後,看似自由發表但卻掩蔽許多問題「解嚴之後的台灣社會,並不是媒體不再關注有關社會正義、人性價值等嚴肅議題,反而因為整個社會走向了『開放多元』形成一個和權威體制相對的『允許的社會』。在這樣的社會中,悲慘和災難的報導背負著另一種意識形態的任務:它甚至不是在彰顯,反而是遮蔽更嚴重的矛盾和正在進行的改變。[11]

在我看來,這批台灣新紀實攝影家的崛起以及發表場域的藝術轉向,也跟藝評人王聖閎指出的當代藝術民族誌或田野轉向的興起脫離不了關係[12]。在台灣當代藝術多受到西方藝術史方法的影響前提下,我們感受到自身檔案的匱乏,於是許多研究者與藝術家試圖去從台灣民間的土地去挖掘自身的藝術史。而攝影在也成為採集台灣地景或民間景觀的有效工具,更甚至成為跟民間文化長期交陪的田野方法。

然而,在當代藝術田野轉向的傾向中,卻容易缺乏對「攝影反身性」的探問,單純將攝影視為採集資料的工具,舉凡庶民文化、台灣風景、民間老照片等,而較少對於攝影自身的後設思考。王聖閎也提醒田野如果只是停留在單純地再現,而少了人類學方法的反身性,則容易淪為視覺符號的表象展示,缺乏行動的交互過程。

這種反身性,除了對當代藝術或人類學本身的自我批判以及後設意識之外,還要對攝影家「使用的攝影媒材」進行更進一步的探問,否則攝影只是為了達到採集民間檔案的手段,而 忽略了媒材本身有其複雜的問題。此外,假如沒有對媒材的自反性,這樣的操作也很容易淪為號稱在地實踐,但卻是異國情調或自我東方化的他者表象。

要言之,新紀實攝影在當代藝術田野轉向的浪潮中,又再次讓攝影連結起藝術場域。儘管新紀實離開傳統紀實的再現窠臼,也遠離數位造像對擬像的崇拜,以更豐富的攝影方式介入現實與連結民間。但對攝影本身的後設與反身性還是不那麼足夠,大多作者還是以疏離冷面、類型學、編導擺拍等西方當代攝影形式處理台灣議題。事實上,在「出社會」與「新紀實」的2000年之後,還有更豐富的攝影實踐沒辦法被放在上述框架中,或許今天該形一套更具反身性的觀點來面對當代攝影的多元實踐。

綜觀台灣當代攝影論述的形構,大抵可以分為「作為歷史爭辯的場域」,「數位攝影的演繹」或是「新紀實與田野調查」。在歷史問題上,攝影作為實證與解構過去史觀,讓人意識到傳統正統歷史的局限性,這邊的照片多是稀有照片或民間照片,而不是分析攝影美學形式問題,更關乎攝影跟台灣歷史建構之間的關係,這套攝影的論述還是建立在照片類比的再現邏輯,以及意識形態的批判;數位攝影的演繹,則讓攝影脫離紀錄的功能,更傾向個人美學

對現實的轉化,更加擁抱後現代的擬像與幻想,而相較不關注現實或歷史;新紀實與田野調查的論述,則又再次將攝影關照現實,但這種關注現實的方法不是回歸傳統記實的再現窠 日,而是攝影家以當代更複雜的語言介入現實,並且大量採集民間的地景與檔案。

除了「數位攝影的演繹」較為偏向在當代藝術純藝術的發展脈絡,在這套論述中的作者也大多是美術學院體系背景的藝術家,而非報導紀錄為主的攝影家。至於「攝影作為歷史爭辯的場域」以及「新紀實與田野調查」則又更加把攝影跨界到人類學、歷史學、台灣學、文化研究等其他領域。在前者,攝影更多是民間或官方檔案的資料,論者也會更加去作者化(去美學化)的分析照片中的意識形態建構。至於後者,則是回歸「攝影家」跟當代藝術合流之後,更豐富的表現形式與田野踏查。

四、後媒介後擴張的攝影

面對現實以及處理現實的問題,可以概略區分兩種態度,第一種是新紀實或歷史研究關心現實或歷史議題,但是卻用新的方法處理現實,大抵來說現實跟影像之間還是有類比連續性存在。至於第二種的數位攝影,則是離散式現實,過去影像的類比連續性已不復存在,而是虛構碎片重組與拼裝的現實。

然而,新紀實以及數位攝影或歷史研究的脈絡,已經不足以回應台灣當代攝影今天發展的複雜處境。今天創作者多把攝影作為「之間」的流動媒材,而不是擁抱再現以及擬象的兩端。誠如藝評家Hal Foster所說,今天不能只是處理再現(紀實類比)或擬像(數位虛擬)的二元對立,而是得思考如何透過虛構來製造「真實的效果」[13]。換言之,不是擁抱擬像即真實(或擬像後面沒真實)的後現代歡愉(數位操演),更不是天真相信再現即真實(報導攝影或歷史研究),而是辯證式地透過虛構來築建不可見的真實,進而在新自由主義天羅密網的控制下,鑿開與擴大真實的裂縫。

本文提到的攝影操作,毋寧說是更像「擴延的攝影」,這並非現代主義強調的媒材特殊性; 而是跟靈光消逝後的機械複製技術、空間的拼貼與集合、挑戰線性時間的霸權與飄忽不定的 「幽靈」有關。這種攝影性的幽靈,則不斷糾纏於書籍、攝影書、報紙、雜誌、電影、紀錄 片、錄像乃至於新媒體的VR、AR或今天的網路媒體或Instagram當中。

關於當代藝術中「媒介概念的擴展」,可以參照藝評家Rosalind Krauss提出的「後媒介」,後媒介指的是當代藝術因爲採用混合媒介擺脫了現代藝術的傳統具體媒介分類(如油畫、雕塑等媒介),而進入「後媒介狀態」[14]。

後媒介狀態往往是在一項技術「因其自身的過時而衰退」之後出現,而且在這種狀態中,「新技術的各種不同層面的機制」能為藝術家提供「技術支助」來取代傳統的藝術媒介。同時藝術家也會利用過時的技術進行實驗,「以利用其表達手段的能力」,並「發現其救贖的可能性」。媒介作為理論研究對象而興起,在不同藝術家的手中,它與其他媒介相互交融,其自身的特異性被消解,進而被重塑(reinvented)。

另一方面,關於攝影媒介的擴張性,攝影評論George Baker在《攝影的擴張領域》 (Photography's Expanded Field) 將攝影置於各種關係之間,討論由靜止(stasis)和敘事 (narrative)、非靜止(not-stasis)和非敘事(not-narrative)共構成的攝影實踐場域。 [15]Baker企圖跟Krauss對話, 進一步延伸Krauss的觀點提醒我們「現在我們需要對抗當代 藝術中傳統媒介和物件的誘惑力,同時我們也要竭力放抗進入到我們當下所謂『後媒介狀態』的盲目性和健忘症。」她提出攝影在一定程度上是被它不是什麼所定義,而不是以它自身作為目的。因此本文也承接Baker的觀點,不是去定義攝影是什麼,而是在攝影幾乎無所不在的今天,追問什麼是「不是攝影的攝影」,進而形塑新的攝影本體論。

關於攝影,直接會讓人想到「靜態影像」,但我試圖從「攝影的反面」來重新看待與定義攝影。我不採用傳統「靜態影像」與「動態影像」來區分「攝影」與「電影/錄像」的方法。依照攝影評論David Campany的說法,它們早已互相滲透與影響,我們可以看到許多動態影像在借鑑攝影的靜止(例如Andy Warhol的《帝國大廈》),或者靜態影像在運用蒙太奇方法編輯(例如Chris Marker 的《堤》),或是電影劇照等,他們都是處在互滲的共構狀態[16]。要言之,我更關注的是機械複製影像當中共享的「攝影生態學」,而非回到媒材特殊性,建立攝影獨特的美學位置;而是攝影跟其他媒材交互作用又重塑自身的關係。而這種「攝影生態學」也穿透到聲音、身體與檔案中,抵抗官方歷史、新自由主義建立的同一性,重新找到攝影的生命與強度。

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- [5] 同註4,頁48。
- [6] 值得一提的是,誠如姚瑞中所說90後的創作者確實比較少關注現實,但解嚴一代的創作者(陳界仁等)在使用數位技術時,還是在乎歷史與政治的問題。換言之,重要的還是在年代的分野以及回應的時代不同,而不是只要用數位就無關政治或歷史。
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邁向攝影生態學:循環再製、跨媒 介、自反性

我想提出的「攝影生態學」,可以從Matthew Fuller的《媒介生態學:藝術與技術文化中的物質能量》以及許煜的《機器與生態學》當中看出端倪,儘管他們主要在處理更廣的技術媒介問題,但我想以他們的思路為起點,更聚焦攝影的問題。同時,本研究也將融合「歷史爭辯」、「數位演繹」與「新紀實」在台灣當代攝影的形構論述,進而結合西方「後媒介」以及「擴延的攝影」重估攝影理論。最後,我將以蘇郁心、李浩與陳以軒的作品為例,生成在地的「攝影生態學」。

關於機器生態學的觀點,我們可以看到抵抗西方同質技術,生產「技術多樣性」的重要性。 回過頭來看攝影,如果說傳統攝影大多符應西方藝術史發展的同質框架;那麼今天的攝影就 得跟生物般不斷交織以及變體,而我想借用許煜對多元技術的思考,將這種發展過程稱為 「攝影多樣性」。要言之,我不只是把攝影作為人造媒介,而是把攝影視為有機生物,不斷 於在地操作的實踐語境中纏繞與變種。

「我所提出的,是朝機器生態學的方向去思考。要開啟這個機器生態學的討論,首先要回到生態這個概念本身。生態的基礎是多樣性,因為生態系統的概念必須是建立在生物多樣性(包括細菌在內的所有生物型態的多種物種)上。要討論機器生態學,會需要另一個和生物多樣性平行的觀念,我們將它稱為技術多樣性(technodiversity)。生物多樣性是技術多樣性的相關物,因為沒有技術多樣性,我們便會目睹因同質的理性而導致的物種消失。」——許煜[1]

另一方面,相較許煜強調必須具備生態「媒介多樣性」的思維;兼具藝術家與思想家身份的 Matthew Fuller則是更「媒介反身性」以及「媒介纏繞的過程性」。他提到「媒介生態學是 瘋狂、瞻妄、沉悶、焦點和認知的煽動,並與其分離,總是閃耀般地對現象識別為一種運動 和一種東西。[2] 」換言之,生態學是過程導向的瘋狂流動,而不是將對象(攝影)固定下 來。

Fuller主要是借鑑德勒茲與瓜德里的《千高原》(Mille plateaux),形成異質層疊與不斷交織的少數語彙。以及瓜達里對生態思考以及對新主體生成的理論框架,他提出「媒介的種種利害關係,在所有尺度上,都被洽切地理解為是深刻政治性或倫理——美學性的。有關未來主體化的思想及試驗的實驗室。[3]」要言之,回頭來看攝影媒介,我們不能單純把攝影當作採集田野的利用工具,而是要思考攝影媒介自身的政治、倫理與美學性,更重要的不是「透過攝影找到主體」(因為沒經過對媒介本身反省的直接採集很容易落入自我殖民的主體表象),而是「在攝影媒介的重新操作中形塑新主體」。

一、再製循環與纏繞交織的攝影:蘇郁心《水眠Ⅱ》

在媒介生態的理論開展後,我想將視點聚焦回扣攝影形構的問題。如果說新紀實的攝影家大多是自己拍照片,並且以大片幅、長時間緩慢紀實、實地田野等方式實踐。那麼,在生態網路中的攝影創作,不一定會以自己拍攝的影像為尊,攝影可以激活過去或網路上的檔案,形成流通、循環、再製,像病毒般感染與繁衍[4]。要言之,在循環的觀點下,重點不再只是去拍照片,而是如何對既有圖像產生新的觀點與批判意識。

關於循環再製影像的例子,藝術家蘇郁心擅長搜集網路上不帶藝術表現意圖的科學影像或者製圖技術,解構其中隱含的政治問題。她的《水眠II》運用散文電影(Essay Film)的形式,潛入製圖技術,批判隱藏在地圖後面的不可見權力。她以媒介考古學的方法挖掘潛藏於今天萬華西藏路下河流(赤池)的前世今生。除了質疑今天Google地圖的製作以外,更同時解構日本殖民時代繪製赤池的地圖。這些號稱客觀的地圖技術,實則充滿了各種意識型態的建構,上帝視角的Google並不比殖民時代的地圖更加中立,它反而將世界的複雜性簡化成可以控制的客體。

除了對地圖技術的後設批判,她還運用了各式各樣的鏡頭來替我們導航西藏路下的河流,舉凡在機車上的GoPro、空拍機、又或攝影機視角。此外,再加上過去與現在的地圖重合,這些複數視角的重疊與交叉,恰恰解放單一視角的霸權。重要的是,她侵入既有地圖技術霸權的裂縫,重新找到去殖民凝視的可能,而觀者也在這些圖像的辯證過程中,體驗複數地圖形塑的另類空間。

《水眠II》運用各式各樣的圖層以及現成影像疊加,以及旁白敘述,辯證著河流的過去與未來。這部作品雖然乍看是探討萬華西藏路下過去潛在的河流,但實際上也呼應著台灣本身受製圖技術控制的問題。而此等製圖技術也從過去的平面紙張到Google map的街景再到Google Earth的3D建模,這些都跟人類企圖透過攝影(機械之眼)建構世界理性秩序的慾望有關。而蘇郁心則是進一步解構這些形塑世界圖像的秩序框架,讓人重新連結身體跟地方的複雜關係。

我們可以注意到,她的創作同時涵蓋歷史爭辯、數位影像以及新紀實對於現實的關懷。但她 不停留在過去攝影家擅長的再現形式或數位擬像的操演,而是流通、循環、改製、重新操作 各種現成影像,進而形塑新的感知與碰觸歷史問題。

二、攝影的自反性:李浩《我看見我讓我看見他》

除了跟現成影像的共生與循環再製,對媒介自身的「自反性」也值得一提。那麼我們可以看到模控學(cybernetics)的反饋運作如何影響各式各樣的媒介。比方說音樂中「聲音的反饋」,乃至於攝影中「影像的遞歸」[5]。有別於朝向外部世界的探索,攝影在此不斷以重複、遞迴、回歸自身內部的操作方式形成某種動態的「自反性」。

在台灣探討攝影遞歸性的問題上,李浩透過他的攝影創作讓人意識到「攝影媒介」本身的問題,他不是透過攝影再現或採集田野檔案,更多是使攝影思考攝影自身的問題,而人們通常視為基底的背景媒介,也在李浩透過不斷遞歸的行為下,反客為主地成為李浩主要探討的內容。

在李浩2017年的個展《我看見我讓我看見他》,則是回返各時代的影像技術——底片、照片、報紙、影印機、電視、電腦、印刷、感光元件、行動裝置等。他大量運用差異、重複、遞迴、疊加以近乎儀式的行為創作,在各式媒介載體上進行影像實驗,透過重複性的實踐行為,將媒介自身推往其物理極限,反饋媒介各自特有的雜訊以及物質性,也就是影像基本組成元素——粒子或波。

這種透過重複反饋,抽象具體對象的方式,也讓影像從再現的侷限,抽象化至有如聲音的虛擬性。而當這些看似具象的影像當中,實則充滿了許多雜訊,他則把這些雜訊作為他創作主要關注的對象,把這些日常人類肉眼忽略的雜訊,透過影像的重複機制操作逼顯於觀者眼中,讓人意識到媒介本身的問題,而不是再現的幻象。

雖然乍看李浩的照片顯得抽象,但實際上這種虛擬是高度物質的。也就是說,這些充滿雜訊與噪點的影像,並不是藝術家的心境或激情(比方說抽象表現主義);而是物質世界本身的不穩定、隨機與不可預期性。換言之,我們總是用一套僵化的機制觀看世界,但他則更關注世界當中的微小物質粒子,與各種聲響的隨機碰撞。與其說這展覽是視覺形式導向的,不如說更傾向聲音粒子震動的唯物性。

三、跨媒介的身體交織:陳以軒《委託製作》

除了攝影的自反性,攝影生態學同時重視「攝影的物質性」部署。誠如攝影評論Lucy Soutter所說「一幅照片永遠不只是一個影像——它總是採取特定的物質形式。我們解讀影像主題的慾望往往取代了我們對於它們作為物件屬性的意識。……關於處於時空之中的照片物質屬性,加深了我們與它的關係,鼓勵我們把我們的身體和社會與文化脈絡納入進來。」 [6] 換言之,攝影生態學更關注被過去研所忽略的「物質」,重新將照片鑲入物質、媒介與場域部屬中,召喚另類的身體經驗。

如果說李浩的唯物性是媒介與世界的交互關係;那麼陳以軒則是探討攝影裝置跟身體的控制與被控制之間的關係。2020年拿下台新視覺藝術大獎的《委託製作》幽默地呈現今天影像創作者們在新自由主義之下的無奈肉身。擅長以攝影為主要表現媒材的陳以軒,在《委託製作》中轉向了劇場、多頻道錄像與空間裝置。這組作品乍看是落在錄像裝置的框架討論,但事實上《委託製作》也充滿許多攝影生態學的可能。比方說對攝影的後設探討、或者是攝影家拍攝的舞蹈姿勢以及透過這些姿勢繪製的舞蹈圖譜,例如「攝助合體技」、「田野調查」、「暖身」、「鏡頭按摩」、「大隊接力」、「左手只是輔助」、「互相傷害」及「喪屍卡位」等,透過姿勢的命名,我們也可以感到這群接案人在拍攝時身體與機具互動的荒謬樣子。這種「後設」思考,讓《委託製作》脫離一般宣傳片的再現邏輯,而是揭露出委託的框架,以及讓人意識到這群接案者在拍出精采照片或影片時的拍攝姿態。

這些都在在呈顯「接案影像」的背後,也就是那群製造影像的接案者身體。這些身體往往是被忽略的一環,大家都關注精美影像的製作。而陳以軒則是調度這些身體,反客為主地將這些身體作為創作的主要關注對象,進而討論「創作」跟「接案」之間的複雜關係。除了接案者的身體以外,值得一提的是展覽的空間佈置,而這些錄像螢幕也同時是物質性的一環。陳以軒在八螢幕的環繞投影中,此起彼落的播放這些錄像,而觀者也沒辦法再用傳統定點的方式觀看,而是得強迫地被他的調度安排轉身觀看。換言之,他除了調度這些接案拍

攝者的身體以外,他又更進一步透過錄像頻道的播放與安排調度觀者的身體。相較於傳統攝 影展觀看單張照片的凝思的觀者身體;陳以軒的調度讓攝影與身體再次活潑地「動」起來, 同時也沒有忽略對攝影機具拍攝的後設反思。

要言之,《委託製作》也呈顯攝影後設的自反性,而他更進一步以八頻道展演的方,在展場部署觀者的身體。除了影片內容對攝影或接案的後設探討,也同時關於影片外部觀者身體跟八頻道投影的關係。值得注意的是,他演繹的已不是紀實攝影的倫理問題(拍攝者/被攝者、殖民者/被殖民者、壓迫者/被壓迫者、甲方/乙方等),試圖喚起覺醒意識;他更多是討論新自由主義下的藝術家或接案者身體,如何共構成有機的生態網路。

小結

在台灣的當代攝影論述形構中,以歷史爭辯、數位演繹或新紀實為三大主要框架。歷史爭辯在意的是如何跟官方大歷史形塑的檔案進行抗衡;數位演繹則是關注攝影如繪畫般的想像力與可塑性;新紀實則是更出社會與關注現實,更強調攝影家如何透過當代的操作手段採集田野檔案。此外,在面臨「後媒介」衝擊媒介特殊性的前提,攝影也得重新找到自身的位置。在重構自身位置的攝影生態學中,李浩以後設方式激進地摧毀攝影的再現傳統,進而凸顯攝影媒介的物質性,讓不斷遞迴反饋的重複與差異在場。蘇郁心重新流通既有的影像檔案,拼裝另類的視差與敘事。陳以軒則是以攝影的錄像裝置,構建各種身體間交互控制與作用的張力。

本研究提出以攝影自反性、循環再製性以及身體交織影響的「攝影生態學」,以擴增過去台灣論述攝影的框架,試著以生態的方式思考攝影媒介的能動性。而不只是將攝影視作歷史的補遺、數位的建構或者是田野的採集方法。要言之,對於攝影媒介的再思考,並非鞏固台灣攝影史的本質論框架,而是更退一步的思考攝影自身,這不只是把攝影視為再現台灣的手段,而是把攝影媒介在新的語境與時代條件下重新問題化。

如果說傳統攝影本體論總是將攝影固定在過去時空片段的擷取;那麼本研究提出的攝影本體論,則是後設、生成與相互交織,如同生態網路般串連的物質動態過程。攝影生態學,同時抵抗現代攝影與新自由主義建立的同一框架,以不斷變體、自我指涉與循環流通的方式操作。於是,攝影不再指涉同質的過去;攝影更多是在今昔之間辯證地互相作用,在各種影像的裂縫中發現閃光,進而激請我們在這一瞥光芒中邁向有機的未來。

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- [2] 馬修·福勒(Matthew Fuller) 著,《媒介生態學》(麥顛 譯)(上海:上海社會科學院出版社,2018),頁10。
- [3] 同註[1],頁11。
- [4] 攝影的重新激活性,也讓人想到班雅明的經典文章《生產者作為作者》,或者布希歐提到用的《後製品》,乃至於藝術家Hito Styler強調的循環製造。
- [5] 許煜也在《遞迴反饋》中談「自反性」的本體論。

[6] 露西·蘇特(Lucy Soutter)著,《為什麼是藝術攝影?》(毛衛東 譯)(北京:中國 民族攝影藝術出版,2016),頁160。 二、咪咪喵喵的敘事與情感

蠢蠢欲動的「弱喵情感」

各種雜亂影像的剪接,賦予其一段旁白的碎碎叨叨、有時有動感十足的流行樂、有時有氛圍音樂(Ambient)的低頻震動;Youtube、迷因、抖音影像的挪用;遊戲建模的利用;各種狂喜、幽默、科幻、思辨的情感混雜在一塊。這是我們在各大雙年展、美術館與藝術節會碰到的拼接影像語法,他們大都離開單純作者親自拍攝或取材在地田野的影像,轉向拼接一堆現成影像。我們該如何面對這種混雜的錄像語言?

這種狂亂語言不是遵循現代主義式的「媒介自反性」,試圖激發觀者產生美學沉思的效果;而是瘋狂地讓觀者陷入混沌、暈眩、資訊過量與不知所措。你會看到一大堆零散碎片,但是很難拼接成一個完整的敘事整體。然而,這樣的拼接效果,卻不同於當代藝術的「散文電影」以及「敘事轉向」[1]。而是更像「資料庫」碎片的連結網路,亦即跨個體的「影像生態」。

媒介理論家馬列維奇(Lev Manovich)提到的「資料庫電影」與思想家東浩紀提出「資料庫動物」都提及因果敘事的衰退,影像之間的連結變得更加鬆散碎裂[2]。然而,這些資料庫不是惰性的,而是具有生成的生命力。用馬列維奇的話說:「『靜止』且『客觀』的資料庫具有無窮活力和自主性。」[3]換言之,影像檔案不一定從屬人類主體,而是其行動的力量。

混沌的咪咪喵喵「情感物」

在敘事轉向中,觀者還是作為主體在接受並詮釋影像,試圖跟大敘事抗衡。然而,在資料庫中,觀者一起變成「客體」,一起變成資料,一起跟資料「交互作用」,從賽博龐克的風格變成了「賽博圖客」。也就是說,這時我們沒辦法再用文化研究視角來確立主體身份;人已經是「非人」。媒介理論家傅拉瑟(Vilém Flusser)也提到,我們離開了前歷史時期(敘事為主)進入了分散又連結的「技術圖像的宇宙」,我們既是圖像生產者也是消費者(不是被動接收)[4]。

影像不只是再現人的清楚樣貌,確立其穩定主體(看看你臉書的大頭貼);而是變成了模糊 互滲的「情感物」。混沌情感物對於穩定主體造成很大威脅,因為有穩定的主體,才有辦法 書寫歷史、建構國族、營造穩定認同。往往,國族敘事的大歷史就是在排斥不入流情感的前 提所構成。

對「再現」的批判?

經過許多法國思想家對「再現」的挑戰(尤其傅柯),我們發現自己的文化、身份、認同、語言、主體,往往受制於一系列文化技術物所建構。可以說,我們沒有主體自由,一切都是文化建構。然而,如果停留在此,很容易滑入相對主義,而建構論也大量被右派拿去證明「科學方法是被建構的、氣球暖化不存在」。

藝評家福斯特(Hal Foster)也指出「對再現的批判被看作在腐蝕我們對於這些道理的信任,從而助長道德上的冷漠和政治上的虛無主義。對主體的批判同樣充斥意想不到的結果,

對主體被建構起來的本性,被說成在慫恿與消費主義有關的身份,而此身份就是對商品物化的展示。」^[5]換句話說,對再現的批判容易讓人退回虛無主義——沒有什麼是可以相信的。對福斯特來說,批判不一定是要保持距離;而是可以融入體制批判,將日常變陌生。相對應的,藝術家希朵·史戴爾(Hito Steyerl)也提出我們不需要排斥「垃圾再現」而追求「主體」,反而是要想辦法融入「垃圾再現」當中,跟客體並肩,並曝露當中的問題^{[6]。}希朵更像是承襲班雅明的傳統,不過度排斥技術,反而是擁抱新技術的潛能。然而,在她創作中,她是更激進地玩這些技術圖像,讓其變得過度、瘋狂與莫名其妙。她雖然擁抱技術,但她並不崇尚科技進步論(例如每期iPhone絢麗發表會的烏托邦想像)。而是滲入科技、反轉科技、揭露科技與藝術背後的權力網路(更像駭客!)。

從「解構再現」到「抽象現實」

希朵同時關注「現實為何」的問題。她挑戰傳統紀錄片「再現」現實的方式,因為今天的現實已經變得抽象,難以被再現。對於政治的關注也不只是主題是政治正確,而更關乎材料如何組織的方式(不是拍政治議題電影,而是「政治地拍電影」)。她提到「如果說政治再現變得抽象模糊」[7]。

希朵跟建構論一樣挑戰了傳統記錄片客觀再現穩定現實的方式,然而她不是單純的擁抱後現代「建構論」,而是覺得還是有「真實」,只是那個真實世界不是具體可見地人事物(新聞報導),而是抽象、不穩定、混沌、暈眩、如同咪咪喵喵的真實^[8]。

情感考古學

此外,希朵也再三強調紀錄片與檔案當中的「情感性」,而不是作為「再現的客觀證據」。因為客觀證據往往容易再次回到歷史目的論框架,成為一種排他性強的歷史證據;相反的,藝術家在檔案中開啟的「情感強度」、「奇想拼接」以及「製造另一種說話方式」,則能夠抵抗大歷史編制,成為一種「自由遊戲」。跟資料庫一樣,檔案變得有自己的活力,不一定從屬於大敘述收編。簡言之,希朵更強調的是檔案(資料庫)當中自由重組的情感強度[9]。在「官方秩序」與「情感的混沌」之間,希朵明顯擁護後者,她不像評論家桑塔格(Susan Sontag)或瑟庫拉(Allan Sekula)乃至於郭力昕對濫情影像排斥而強調「歷史脈絡」的重要性;她反而擁護一種「批判性情感」。這種批判性情感,是建立在各種元素的超連結(擺脫歷史框架),進而讓影像檔案美學化。毀掉其原本屬於建構歷史的目的,成為無目的的手段(美學)。

柏拉圖的「洞穴寓言」、紀德堡(Guy Debord) 的「奇觀社會」乃至於電影《駭客任務》的母體,以及相關的批判理論,往往建立在「幻象/真實」的二元對立,強調我們要捨棄幻象擁抱真實。然而,希朵卻是擁抱幻象,她陶醉於圖像的情感力量、不迴避奇觀、讚美奇觀的想像力。她質疑檔案總是要服務於特定歷史的考古方法,進而轉向「情感考古學」——「其顫抖的緊張弧線似乎由純粹的活力、強度和偏執組成」[10]。

明顯地,希朵跟福斯特都不是要我們離開幻象,回返真實,因為這再次落入二元對立陷阱。 他們反而是鼓勵「激化幻象」:融入幻象、改造幻象、激起幻象強度。也就是說,不是追求 本真自我的封閉性,而是思考開放性的網路連結,一種「循環再製的影像生態學」。

影像生態的資料庫

希朵的「影像生態學」跟網路興起的「資料庫」系統也脫離不了關係。因為他們都不同於傳統因果關係的「敘事」,而是強調「關係串聯」。然而,新自由主義的大數據不也是迎合這套關係網路?我們不也早都是「數據物」運算的一份子?

大數據跟關係網路的運作方式乍看相同,但是我們在大數據裡不會有「斷裂」感,所有的關係都是在鞏固設定好的封閉秩序(或說是所有斷裂都是在強化秩序)。東浩紀也提到網路上所有看似偶然的連結,其實都是不斷再強化現代社會既有的秩序結構(排他的、仇恨言論等)[11]。相反的,在弱影像生態裡是能激起一種古怪的強感覺,它會斷裂進而重估預先設定的程序。

強喵?弱喵?

我想回到「咪咪喵喵」(mi mi mâu mâu),咪咪喵喵指在台語指的是撞得稀巴爛的意思,同時也指涉網路迷因的無腦發音(往往是貓)。貓咪的隱喻,同時像「資料庫」一樣指涉了大敘事的崩解,貓咪沒在跟人敘事結構,貓咪給人的感覺往往是液態、跳來跳去、偶發與不確定感。有趣的是,咪咪喵喵除了是資料庫的運作方式,同時也是其內容(網路貓圖與迷因)。

必須注意的是,咪咪喵喵也可分兩種,一種是「強咪咪喵喵」(強喵),一種是「弱咪咪喵喵」(弱喵)。強喵像是instagram出現的呆萌貓圖、網路歌曲《學貓叫》的洗腦旋律(我們一起喵喵喵喵喵)、勸世寶貝喵喵的《喵電感應》,這些都服務於無腦呆萌又洗腦的大數據控制,強喵看起來很洗腦,但情感強度都是安全的,終究是在服務於一套注意力經濟的秩序。

相反的,弱喵是激進地解放力量,它看起來既可愛又詭異,給人的感覺很抽象(沒有強喵那麼具體)。它不排斥強喵,可以融入強喵,同時將強喵改造變「弱」,讓人反身性地觀看。而弱喵激起的情感強度會更危險地讓人感到不安,以「過冷」(極度放慢或呈顯媒介基礎)或「過熱」(加速推到底)的姿態瘋狂運轉。

弱喵同時也不服務於私有化收編,而是更加公共性地召喚「生產者作為作者」,也就是讓大家動手去改造影像,讓影像富有情感的傳播力,並將其感染給其他人,召喚其他人「做弱喵」,而不是數據控制下的強喵。弱喵往往不喜歡智慧財產權,而是以盜版、再製、改造、挪用等方式,連結被官方話語排斥的群眾,重新生產影像的另類生命。此外,弱喵也不會遵循「敵/我」(正統/異端、正版/盜版、本土/外來等)對立的語言邏輯,而是連結他者,好客地朝他者開放。換句話說,咪咪喵喵讓上述「敵/我」對立的二元語言邏輯失效,是更激進且政治地資料庫運作。

弱喵看起來俗氣,但往往激發一種強烈的感染力。這讓我想到余政達諧擬的<u>「法咪咪」計</u>畫,實在太靠攏強喵的網紅明星生產流程(儘管他想諷刺)。相反的,李亦凡則富含弱喵感,我們在作品中感覺到一種古怪力量潛藏其中,他改造與再製的迷因與網路梗,同時在3D人偶不斷訴說中出現讓人不安的詭異感,這絕不是對迷因文化的讚頌(像余政達),也不是對迷因洗腦的批判(批判理論家對幻象的駁斥)。而是既讚頌又批判,他引用日常中的迷因洗腦漩渦,同時將他過度誇大,在瘋狂運轉中,觀者也開始自反性思考自己的觀看。

弱喵的瘋狂運轉,恰恰如希朵所說的彰顯了影像的「情感強度」,不是將其扣回歷史、政治 議題的目的論框架;更不會因為它不夠理性思辨,過於感性而斥之以鼻。弱喵召喚的更多是 從既有目的中斷裂的影像、更具非目的性、以及更具個人腦洞的狂想,這種影像不再是小敘 事去填充國族敘事的不足,更加傾向一種強力的感性運動風暴去席捲既成的媒體與歷史敘 事。

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失語・屍語:敘事衰變

我們常常因為有趣的敘事而動情與入戲,想想看,我們是否曾為了追目前最夯的影集而廢寢 忘食地投入敘事與劇情角色中的關係。然而,在當代藝術的操作中「敘事」往往被視作愚弄 人、讓人怡情的「幻象」,它讓我們脫離身體,身體靜置地被動接收訊息。有如柏拉圖洞穴 預言的囚徒,敘事的景框讓我們被偶戲的影子給吸引,而忘記外在真實。許多現代藝術的創 作也試圖也以反敘事方法讓我們意識到景框外的環境與媒介條件,企圖對抗幻象的誘惑。不 過近來許多藝術家試圖重新以敘事重述歷史,撿拾在藝術發展中被拋棄的敘事傳統;然而, 到了今天,那些曾經回返敘事結構的作者,為什麼又開始衰變與解離敘事語言?

敘事同時也跟「國族大敘事」有關,也就是跟歷史的成形離不開關係。在大歷史崩解的今天,許多小敘事不斷地崩發出來。大敘事往往建立在一套排他系統上,忽略個人的、私密的、微不足道的敘事,而只選紀念碑的豐功偉業。這套系統往往只服務於既定的意識形態。

我們當然可以重新回去講故事,但是必須用不同的方式去講。台灣創作在2014年有一波 「敘事轉向」。主要是藝評人王聖閎觀察當時台新獎,明確地以蘇育賢與高俊宏的作品為 例,提出相較於現代主義高冷的媒介自反性,如今的創作者更關注在地田野與他人生命經 驗,重新展開新的敘事:

「他們共同匯聚成這股『朝向他人生命經驗』的創作趨勢,同時也提供我們清晰的參照線索,來重新審視『敘事』在當代藝術創作中的位置。正是因為這是一個經驗愈加震盪破碎、 創傷記憶難以言喻的時代,我們才更加需要一種嶄新的敘事力量,需要更敏銳細膩的想像與 表達形式,來記述那些原本被遺忘、壓抑和忽略的生命故事。[1]」

從「反敘事」到「敘事回返」

關於重新說故事的路徑,藝評人江凌青在2015年的〈從雕塑電影邁向論文電影: 論動態影像藝術的敘事傾向〉更細緻地分析錄像藝術的反敘事傳統(雕塑電影、擴延電影等)如何拒絕框內的「敘事幻象」而更關注框外的「在場的真實」。她更進一步提到重新回到框內擁抱敘事的傾向,並以「論文電影」(Essay Film)作為主要發展,強調跟文化經驗有關的集體敘事與複雜視角[2]。

2018年,策展人黃香凝策劃的《影像的謀反》也遙相呼應上述的敘事轉向,該展找的許多 藝術家都再度回返電影敘事,不過這種回返是融入更多視角的敘事方式,讓影像介於虛構跟 真實之間,誠如策展論述所說「在創作手法上,不再如錄像藝術早先對敘事性的抵抗與挑 戰,而是回到電影的拍攝手法中吸取經驗,進而擁抱敘事以處理當代社會性議題。[3]」

從王聖閎、江凌青、黃香凝的這條軸線上來看,我們可以注意到敘事的回返不是回到既有的 穩固敘事,而是來到更加後設視角與虛實的並置,重新對穩定現實提問,進而連結在地的政 治與議題。也就是說,「敘事轉向」強調的不是再次說好結構完整的故事;而是敘事從電影 院裡的「傳統敘事」被藝術家變造地更加開放與不定。如果說傳統敘事是封閉性的迴圈,那 重返框內的敘事則更開放,更加邀請觀眾的介入。 然而,我們可以看到過去敘事轉向的藝術家最近的創作卻「不再用語言敘事」。從許家維、蘇育賢以及許哲瑜近年的創作來看,錄像從一波朝向他人敘事的「田野經驗」,又來到了更複雜的「物件情感」。這情感不是作者經驗或對他者的同情,這都朝向作者的認同;而是非人感知的「情動」(Affect)。

情動不是向心地鞏固既有感覺(可辨識的情緒,如孤獨、哀傷、開心等);而是更加離心地 運作過程,一種更抽象的實在感。情動,不是侷限在人類中心(或作者論)的框架,而是物 與物之間互相誘惑結合的偶發強度,一種生態網路的情動。簡言之,情動不只是作者的情 感,而是觀者與作品之間相互構成的「關係」[4]。

物的行動與生(聲)命:許家維

讓我們回頭看許家維的例子,我們不能只是用「敘事轉向」看他如何用敘事「再現他者生命」,也不能再採用「敘事文本/影像感覺」的二元對立邏輯。而是敘事本身也有情感,這同時包括旁白念的節奏、語調、字幕的運用;以及鏡頭與場景的調度;蒙太奇的方法;乃至於裝置現場調度觀者的身體。無論是「框內」或「框外」、「敘事」層層的檔案與考古調度都彰顯了「情感物的生命力」。

許家維在《神靈的書寫》(2016)與《回莫村》(2016)仍有神靈表演儀式的敘事;之後再到資料庫運算的《飛行器、霜毛蝠、逝者證言》(2017),至此為止的影像調性還是冷調嚴肅。然而,到了結合3D建模歷史的《台灣總督府工業研究所》(2018)以及結合資料庫調度與日本漫才表演討論熊貓政治的《黑與白-熊貓》(2018),又或引用Minecraft遊戲引擎製作散文影像探討銅礦生態鏈的《礦物工藝》(2019),則更有散文與網路資料庫的拼接風味。

近來的《在聖堂裡的一場演出》(2021)則把敘事轉化成更空間感受性的「聲音」——對考古遺跡物、曲譜、歷史以「當代技術重製」的聲音迴響,進而在重製中賦予死物內在的能量。我們可以察覺許家維越來越離開敘事(或另類敘事),而是更強化對檔案的感受力,以及遊戲建模或視窗介面的重組,甚至成為抽象的聲音曲調,而現場演奏場景跟數位建模礦石的震動,也呈顯物的行動與生命。

缺席又在場的物之音:蘇育賢

另一方面,蘇育賢在《晚安,待會見。》個展(2021)當中也離開《花山牆》(2013)以來關注的他者生命故事,近一步將焦點轉移到自己的生命故事以及跟「物件」的關係。空蕩蕩的展場、白牆上的痕跡、打爛再重組的吉他、無聲跳舞的棉被錄像,都在在讓於展場缺席爆裂的「聲音感受」(而非敘事),徘徊在觀者腦中(以空蕩來讓人想像曾經發生的事件)。

有如幽靈般地棉被之舞也讓人感受到一種詭異日常的迎來,同時呼應藝術家身份轉化的生命 經驗,晚安之後從父親身份的人類象徵秩序離開,身體如棉被扭捏又緩慢地切換到旁人難以 理解的藝術家「物的世界」。

重構屍身的操偶術:許哲瑜

無獨有偶,許哲瑜的《一隻綠頭鴨的不尋常死亡》與《編號314》(2021),也少見《麥克風試音》以來環繞著「重建人物」的精彩文本結構,而是讓「動物」與「影像」再次出聲。這兩件作品同時重建處於「實驗室以及博物館」中的動物身體(實驗兔與博物館鴨),許哲瑜重新將這些死去的身體建模,進而在影像當中賦予其「既死又生」的詭譎力量。

《一隻綠頭鴨的不尋常死亡》透過3D建模重建綠頭鴨,再將其置入現實場景中,當中穿插著破格小孩的建模,配合極其擬真的鴨子建模,讓人感受到一股詭譎氛圍,彷彿影像發出刺耳的「噪音」。再製身體所裂解出的影像力量,不同於博物館與實驗室的「中性」死物,讓人感到過度真實的「屍身表演」同時也解構「科學再現(建模)」的暴力。

《編號314》的「實驗兔標本」被操偶師擺弄的蒼白肉身感,也跟蘇育賢的白棉被遙相呼應。只是許拍攝兔子運用的「鏡頭敘事」更加豐富,以拉近拉遠的方式讓我們覺得標本兔子像活兔一般運動(屍身在演繹搔癢、舔毛等活兔姿態);蘇主要用定焦鏡頭拍攝棉被的表演。在蘇育賢與許哲瑜的作品中,彷彿「屍身」(棉被、鴨、兔子)也在操偶的過程中重新展現生命,與其說肯定生,毋寧說更像在「死與生之間」的中陰地帶擺盪的複雜情感。

敘事轉向的失語

在許家維、蘇育賢以及許哲瑜的影像創作中,我們看到「敘事轉向的失語」,藝術家越來越脫離「人的敘事」,他們依然在「歷史檔案重建」的譜系上,重新跟過去對話;然而如今他們從語言的結構敘事,衰變為「影像聲音」,進而呈顯「物(屍)的情感」(礦石、棉被、吉他、兔子、鴨子等)——更加模糊抽象但卻又更真實的感受。他們都繞經歷史考古敘事,轉向了「影像與聲音的物質性」,這並非聲音藝術或實驗電影關注的材料物質性,而是更傾向視覺語言裂解的物質性。

這一波創作方法學,不同於「反敘事」的錄像傳統,拋除框內幻象而強調在場物質性;也不同於「敘事轉向」的回返敘事,重新述說個人小敘事。而是在框內的敘事方法上重新轉制成 聲響與更多非語意訊息的身體感,進而調動框外觀者腦補與想像的介入。

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影像在我們之外嗎?弱喵敘事的邀請

我們可以看到藝術家在今天大量引用網路資料庫來編織敘事。然而,他們的敘事更加富含異質情感,而不是服務於封閉系統。「情感物的敘事」不同於新聞媒體的報導、也不同於亞里斯多德三幕劇敘事(好萊塢敘事原型)、更不是歷史大敘事、也不是個人小敘事去填補國族敘事的空缺、或亞洲、東方、南方等地域敘事去補充西方敘事的不足。而是更加錯綜複雜、零碎、鬆散、流動的敘事。毋寧說,情感物的敘事恰恰是一種「弱喵敘事」:對於資料庫的檢索、跳躍連結、飛快蒙太奇、聲音的突顯等,讓觀眾感到模糊的美學體驗,重新分配我們日常在網路上接觸的「強喵敘事」[1]。

跟資料庫結盟的「弱喵敘事」,恰恰抵抗現代主義以來「意義封閉的完全世界」(貓咪之所以惹人喜歡,恰恰是因為它們的形象夠弱,才被人類投射許多意義)。弱喵敘事更強調跟觀者的交互作用,在檔案鋪陳與各種素材的拼貼縫隙當中,保留觀者介入的空間,由於開放性,觀者的「腦補」變成作品重要組成的部分。

「弱喵敘事」更多會邀請他者(路人、讀者、觀者、評論、策展、藝術家),重新「再脈絡化」地結合組裝與「再生產」,有如布西歐(Nicolas Bourriaud)提過的「後製品」,網路上的物,可以不斷透過循懷再製以及新的語境產生另類現實「當代藝術就是一台剪輯機,用來擾亂社會形態,並將其重新組織,插入原來的劇本」[2]。

再製循環的影像

影像再生產的循環機制不同於新自由主義下的「私有化」機制(去你的著作財產權),回到 封閉系統與個人品牌神話。而是「走向公共」地邀請我們重新喚起創造性的能量,攪動既定 事實、挑戰藝術家神話、顛覆國族權威、開腦洞地虛構另類未來。這種結合資料庫、邀請觀 者再生產、開放敘事、交互介面、再製循環,其實不用在當代藝術裡找,難道這不是我們日 常在社交媒體中司空見慣與快速流通的「迷因」(MEME)?

弔詭的是,相較於快速的消費媒體,當代藝術往往作為緩慢美學沉思的場域。哲學家韓炳哲也以文化工業的語調批判迷因的膚淺,以及數位的加速人們越來越弱智,並且強化一個沒有他者的自戀世界[3]。此外,當代藝術的政治性傾向,也強化國族家恨、歷史創傷、轉型正義、後網路、生態危機等批判性。

在上述「當代藝術的大敘事」, 迷因似乎不值得一提, 比如陳界仁在那邊嚴肅保存被歷史排 斥的人們幽微地「生命狀態」, 乃至於各種痛苦創傷的景象; 你在那邊惡搞迷因, 多不合時 宜?然而, 我們必須瓦解「嚴肅藝術」與「娛樂迷因」的二元對立界線。誰說消費迷因不能 嚴肅思辨?嚴肅思辨不能消費迷因?

「後發」的姿態:致穎

致穎《總是春光乍洩》(2021)承襲他偽紀錄片的創作方法,然而敘事卻更加地碎裂。他 一樣在解構影像,不過在《總是》中卻更加娛樂地偽裝成李小龍。以「截拳道」的後發姿態 反擊西方凝視——不是預先想好反擊套路,而是順著敵方的招回擊潛藏在日常生活中不可見的各種歧視。在錄像裝置《打光》當中,可以看到三段敘事,分別探討著黑人如何因為曝光不足難以顯影的故事、手機的程式設計師如何建構相機演算法的訪談;而他也建模李小龍的頭像作為影片的講述者。

相較於現代主義的冷調影像,這部極度幽默又感官刺激十足的作品(圓圈還會以RGB色彩旋轉),帶給人一種活潑的感受性。他有如散文電影拼接許多複雜的材料,飽含政治批判,同時揭露手機演算法的機制,並且配合膠卷拍攝的幽默MV功夫片來帶起觀者的感受性。最有趣的是,他的錄像裝置在結尾處會閃光回打觀眾,觀眾就像是被配備三鏡頭的手機拍一樣、被閃、被一套內建歧視的演算法攝下相片,也就是說,不只是觀者在看這些影像,展場的部署也呈顯了「攝影的反身性」觀看。

此外,展場前側的錄像《功夫流感》,則搭配instargam的迷因圖瀑布流,承襲「講述式表演」(Lecture Performance)的形式,以口白解構迷因當中病毒、刻板印象、以及台灣潛藏對黑人歧視的問題。要言之,致穎自己故意把自己偽裝成西方人想像的刻板,進而以李小龍的截拳道方法,以「後發」的力道反擊西方建構的歧視與偏見。我們可以看到致穎把娛樂迷因跟嚴肅批判性結合得惟妙惟肖,而場域當中的武術與運動身體,則讓其脫離「對霸權的單向控訴」,而更像是一種互相滲透的「情感表演」。

觀看的餵養: 劉玗&吳思嶔

關於迷因的引用,劉玗與吳思嶔的《餵食秀》(2021),也同時在雙頻的影像中拼接許多動物(昆蟲)餵食的小短片。這些餵食短片時而療癒(小貓咪按鈴),時而噁心詭異(碎魚肉),時而變態殘忍(鱷魚猛抓),難以預期的剪接配合幽默的罐頭配樂。而觀者也陷入了一種著迷的觀看情境,目光被人類餵養動物的行為給抓緊。

然而,回頭看展覽的佈置,我們才意識到原來整個展場土色的佈置以及人造自然的詭異裝置,恰恰就是「養殖箱的環境」,觀眾以為的觀看自由,恰恰是被一套媒體機制所控。換句話說,我們有如被媒體環境餵養的動物,而土色空間打造的自然環境也象徵著媒介化的第二自然。《餵食秀》同時呈顯「療癒影像的吸引力」以及「拉開距離後設觀看」的張力(有如致穎「幽默效果」以及「政治批判」的張力),而他們展場的整體佈置也把觀眾從置身事外的角度,吸入成共構影像生態的重要環節。

扭扭的影像與肉身:李亦凡

最後,我想提李亦凡感受力十足的《Important message.mp4》(2019)與《不好意思...請問一下這個怎麼打開》(2021)。在《Important message.mp4》當中,詭異的數位人頭,以大舌頭的弱智口吻講述著亦真亦假的網路訊息,連結著用藥、技術與腦控的關係。觀眾被四處環繞的建模人頭與迷因垃圾給轟炸(貓圖、長輩圖、殭屍蝸牛等),影像不斷扭曲變形地襲來。

李亦凡就像調度各種網路的資料庫拼貼。我們不只是要聽他說什麼網路幹話(真假的確認不重要),而是他如何激發影像過度激烈的「感受性」(強化迷因檔案的感受)。要言之,原本這些在手機裡短小迷因的感受,被他放大到一種極致浮誇狀態,我們慣性腦袋也開始當

機,開始以另一種角度看待日常的迷因。同時,他在影片中也會大量穿插「你知道嗎?」的口白去指涉框外的「你」(觀者)。

到了《不好意思...請問一下這個怎麼打開》的單頻錄像,他開始配合髒髒破破的環境場景,並且替數位人頭接合一具「滑溜身體」[4]。該作乍看也是碎碎念的幹話拼接,然而這位數位人的身體姿態可是富含戲劇性,他手上的菸會變茶壺、身體會不斷高速飛舞、四肢也一直扭曲變形、觀眾難以固定下來這具不定形的扭扭肉身。當你在看肉身的神奇舞動看得著迷時,同時會看到這具肉身是如何被身著綠裝的藏鏡人操縱。要言之,李亦凡透過「浮誇迷因」與「活溜肉身」還有「宅男幹話」的碎碎叨叨,讓人感覺到一種超連結想像,同時也後設地指出「形象是如何被建構」以及「迷因的感受性」。

致穎《打光》如水般武打的身體動感,可以跟李亦凡《不好意思》的滑溜肉身互相呼應,他們螢幕上不穩定的「液態身體展演」都在不斷調動觀眾靜止觀看的肉身。另一方面,劉玗&吳思嶔的《餵食秀》也可以跟李亦凡的《Important》交互對照,他們大量運用與強化網路上的現成影像,只是《餵食秀》運用的是把療癒跟噁心的短片剪接一塊,並配合空間裝置呈現觀者被影像餵養的狀態;《Important》看似較少裝置感,但瘋狂強化迷因的感官刺激,讓人感到過度暈眩,同時因為「過度」也讓人反思瀰漫在日常的影像。他們的操作都不約而同地把觀者牽連進影像生態的漩渦,你我早已深陷參與影像的一環,不再是置身事外的影像旁觀者。

重新編碼日常

在致穎、李亦凡、劉玗&吳思嶔的語言當中,我們可以看到更複雜的感性能量與敘事方式,他們運用迷因、幽默、療癒與娛樂感十足的方式,讓觀眾沉浸入戲;同時後設地拉開距離,讓人意識到自己「正在觀看」。我們當然可以被一開始看的感官刺激吸引,但是細緻去回頭看,則會意識到當中的反身性與批判性。相較於韓炳哲對數位文化的悲觀(呼籲回返類比原真性),我們可以感受到這些藝術家滲入數位日常,同時解構看似理所當然的日常。這些藝術家共同以「弱喵」方法,去挪用日常、解構歷史或者滲入網路技術物,重新在太多的世界裡,流通循環與再製影像。這些再製的虛擬幻象看似跟現實無關,然而他們卻都指涉著現實。希朵·史戴爾(Hito Steyerl)曾區分流通再製影像的兩種模式,一種是用拼貼再製回頭走向作者英雄崇拜;另一種則是重新編碼既有機制,曝光潛藏的監控與資本問題[5]。我提到的作品都更接近後者,讓人意識到「系統控制」的問題,而不只是玩弄數位美學的拼貼形式。

儘管他們乍看包著強喵(高度感官刺激)的華麗衣裳,但他們保留著開放空間,去刺激與挑 戰觀者的慣性,同時將觀者計算於影像生態的一環。不過,這不恰恰就是資本運作的邏輯? 把觀者的感性也計算其中?然而,相較於資本的封閉迴圈,弱喵更加開放,敘事方法更加碎 片,更讓人感受到「不可預期」的感覺。

弱喵不落入已經制式化的娛樂效果或苦情批判,而是交互辯證地混雜不同感受。不只是用藝術的陌異語言來震撼觀眾,也不只是挪用媒體化的娛樂語言,而是用乍看好入口的形式引誘你吃,但吃進去卻發現有多重層次。而這份詭異的弱喵感受,也開啟我們以嶄新眼光重新看待被強喵(政府、資本、大歷史、大數據)控制的日常。弱喵邀我們融入數據狂飆,重新改造數據、編造自己的資料庫、勇敢破壞主流話語,嘗試打開各種檔案潛藏的感性想像。

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[4] 《不好意思》的肉身滑溜感,更像遊戲實境的即時反饋,而非動畫片段合成的生硬,即時反饋的肉身也更具有魔性的魅力。

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三、聲音、身體與檔案的散文書寫

娛樂不致死:洗腦腦的思辨影像

每天的螢幕上都映射著大量的訊息,這些訊息無一不是想影響我們,無論逗人發笑、讓人震驚、引導人消費,它們都在索求我們的注意力。那些瀰漫在instagram、Line、Youtube、臉書等社群平台的零碎訊息都是想要對我們「起作用」。它們利用現代人面對資訊焦慮的困擾,要洗腦我們、改造我們、讓我們變得不同(通常是透過消費)。沒錯,你正在看的文章也是要洗你一波。

相較於大量抓取我們注意力的五花八門媒體、花俏蒙太奇、高速剪輯模式;當代藝術往往提供一個讓人沉思、反省、批判以及回訪歷史的場域,讓人得以擺脫資訊焦慮以及不斷加速的困擾,進行美學內省沉思的體驗。比方說,陳界仁、蔡明亮、袁廣鳴、阿比查邦

(Apichatpong Weerasethakul) 、 維奧拉 (Bill Viola) 等人的錄像,都提供了一種特殊的審美經驗,以冷冽運鏡、緩慢節奏、非敘事的長鏡頭語言來讓我們感受影像本身的威力。

然而,這陣子出現一種「咪咪喵喵文體」的混雜影像語言,在藝術場域變形的出場。這種影像語言不只是在讓觀眾美學沉思,而是讓觀眾陷入暈眩、慌恐以及精神錯亂的含糊感受。他大量運用碎片化的蒙太奇、日常幹話敘事、弱智發音以及混合宅男遊戲魂。沒錯,我們沒辦法再用一種美學沉思的角度看待這種作品,而是感受其酷炫幽默的效果。

面對「娛樂效果」,藝術文化人往往會斥之以鼻「這不過是消費主義的產物。」也會有人批評說「這跟youtuber的感官娛樂有什麼區別?」「我是去遊樂場還是在看藝術?」在嚴肅討論國族家恨、地緣政治、身份認同以及歷史創傷的當代藝術中,這種表面上聲光效果做足的作品往往讓人覺得輕盈無力,只是在娛樂觀眾,而不是刺激觀眾去思考更深刻的「結構性問題」。可以這樣說,咪咪喵喵這種混沌玩物,只是讓人陷入膚淺的迷因狀態,用誇張綜藝效果讓人笑笑就過,而沒法讓人停下思考。

A

在黑色的空間裡,一顆頭懸浮在空中,從四面八方迎來,不斷用弱智的大舌頭語言碎碎叨叨許多陰謀論以及拼貼內容農場的假訊息。這顆虛擬頭像,在講話時會過度地開合嘴巴,由於嘴部的瘋狂運動,頭也開始有扭曲變形的感覺(口的誇張運動讓人想到培根的繪畫)。迷因瘋狂引用的大量刺激,讓人目瞪口呆。或許這只是當代藝術的虛構錄像作品,然而這再現實不過,我們生活早已被一堆真真假假的「訊息」夾攻,毫無喘息餘地。你不信嗎?覺得太脫離現實了嗎?只要你打開手上的手機,歡迎來到分秒都被攻佔的訊息流宇宙:)

影像的「真實效果」,是真的嗎?

在冷冽凝視的長鏡頭中,錄像作品要求我們自反性地意識到自己身體,觀眾不只是站在安全距離的旁觀者,更是錄像的共同參與者。在好萊塢敘事電影中,觀眾是被動的旁觀者,身體靜止不動的被引入「幻境」。在前衛藝術或劇場中,往往是想挑戰觀眾,讓人沒法好好「入戲」,用各種方法讓人後設意識到「媒介」本身問題,而不只是進入「再現」的內容。比如

實驗電影與擴延電影(雕塑電影)也開始運用各種媒介自反性狀態,讓人思考「電影的電影」,以及電影本身的物質條件:「光、影、膠卷、暗室、機具等」,而不只是讓人沉迷於電影敘事的霸權。

然而,到了「散文電影」(Essay Film)[1],地方敘事又被重新引入藝術,全球化下的後殖民狀態,也被大量用到當代藝術或者影展,以碎裂、複調或後設的敘事法,抵抗傳統結構敘事,可以看到近來當代藝術再度招回敘事,也讓人意識到影像更混雜的狀態[2]。當代藝術的影像操作手法,都要人擺脫幻象的愚弄,要求人面對「真實」。如同藝術史家畢沙普(Claire Bishop)所說當代藝術追求「真實效果」,敵視消費主義跟劇場沆瀣一氣的奇觀社會[3]。這是藝術很重要的部分:對奇觀與強權的批判,以及對真實的渴望。這些作品也會試圖開啟觀者身體感知的複雜性,而不是讓人沉溺於視覺感官享受的幻象。

B

一具富有滑溜身體的人,碎碎叨叨在講幹話跟個人小時候的生命故事,同時也提到數位人是如何製成的(頭是淘寶買的)。這具數位人偶在講話同時,手上叼著跟菸(菸還會像魔法變來變去),身體不斷飛舞,四肢不時快速扭動、旋轉與抽動。有如德勒茲提過的「無器官身體」,身體擺脫物理與制度的限制,處於無定形的解放狀態?

聽幹話的入戲途中,會瞥見幾幕披著綠幕的人在控制數位人偶的身體。這單頻錄像大致可分成三層次;數位人在分析數位人如何被建構(講講幹話還有小時候想操控機器人的中二記憶);數位人其實也被控制(綠幕人浮出);最精彩的是,這行為指涉著螢幕外的觀者其實也是被控制的數位人。我們自以為是有自由意志與有血有肉的人類主體,但在大數據與元宇宙試圖統一天下的狀況,我們不都早已是數位建模下的數位人了嗎?

裝置與身體漫遊:視(靜止)與觸(流動)

當代藝術離不開對「身體」的關注,這具身體不只是藝術家創作出來的身體形象,更多是關於「觀眾的身體」調控。在這個強調沉浸體驗的當代環境中,藝術家開始把觀眾身體的體驗當成創作的一部分,在展覽空間調度觀者的身體,不只是用傳統電影院或鏡框式舞台的佈置形式,讓觀眾身體靜止不動的看框內的戲。而是用「裝置」(今天攝影、錄像、繪畫等媒材都要「裝置化」),的方式讓觀者的身體運動,藝術史家葛羅伊斯(Boris Groys)也提到,在裝置當中觀者的身體被轉化成「漫遊者」[4]。

班雅明也思考過觀者狀態改變的問題,在機械複製時代,觀眾的狀態更多是「散心」,而不是凝思「專心」。這種散心的感受同時連結建築,不只是觀看傳統繪畫靈光的美的沉思,而是跟空間交織的散心體驗,這同時連結到難以被視覺化約的觸覺。比如一棟建築,你可以輕鬆用攝影視覺化約它形象;但當你走進去建築的時候,更多是五感連動的共同作用-觸覺。班雅明也提到觸覺感官對建築的重要性「因為人類的感官在歷史轉折時期所被賦予的建築任務,完全無法經由存粹視覺的方式——也就是經由凝思靜觀——而達成,而必須透過習慣,必須依定觸覺對建築物的接受,才得以逐漸勝任。」[5]

這也是為什麼許多當代的錄像裝置不能只是單頻的讓觀者靜止凝思。而是要運用帶動觀者身 體感的空間裝置以及音場部署,讓觀者的身體開始移動。觀者不是被動的觀看,而是得主動 行走,不斷撿拾作品遺落的碎片,在犯案現場的碎片當中組織自己的敘事。 身體的控制與被控制,變成藝術的主要戰場。傳統的黨國政治是透過上對下方式控制我們身體(老大哥、健康操、軍訓課、升旗典禮、老師訓話等);今天的新自由主義則不是用上對下方式,而是潛移默化地全面調控我們身體(什麼最時尚的髮型、服裝、搭配,最潮的3C、最Hito的遊戲、最Hito Steyerl的藝術表現)。

隨著最Hito的遊戲經驗滲入展覽現場,有人會覺得咪咪喵喵影像其實只是直接將網路梗視為「現成物」引用而製造陌生效果(對菁英或老人而言),並沒多少轉化。然而,有趣的作品引用的現成物,不會只是將網路梗從圈內次文化搬移到展覽現場,更多是引用日常生活中「控制-被控制」的政治關係,將其從消費魔障中去魅,另其可感。換言之,作品得反身性地考慮這種交互控制的關係,以及更加後設地運用這些習以為常的控制技術。

C

六具奇形怪狀的裝置,形成一個巨型舞台,上面層層疊疊地投影著扭曲變形又四分五裂的噁爛人體,同時有個敘事者在碎碎唸著幹話跟遊戲梗。這些幹話關於各種「顏色」帶出的聯想跟感覺,<u>3D龍橋段</u>光彩奪目的投影閃頻,更讓人感到迷幻暈眩。在這大型裝置舞台的後面,藏著一個不起眼小錄像,播放著具有詭異身體的人在玩弄投影機,這台投影機不斷轉換各種顏色的光,恰恰是打在現場那六具奇怪裝置的舞台上。

對於顏色的感知聯想,讓人想到藝術家賈曼(Derek Jarman)臨死前寫的《色度》,只是這作品又把這顏色連結到遊戲人物改變的各種狀態(冰凍術的藍!而「死亡」的瘋狂意象也在該作不斷出現);噁爛的裝置Mapping,讓人想到奧斯勒(Tony Oursler) 各種不定型的層疊投影裝置,但是他又比奧斯勒多了碎碎叨叨的幹話。主要敘事方式,是各種諧音梗的莫名連結,這也讓人想到網路狀態的碎片資訊串連。

無意義的碎碎念、無意義的重複、精神分裂的狀態、不斷打開的超連結、瘋狂表現著有意義的樣子!這作品不是用「理解」的,而是要用「感受」的。一種極度弱智、混沌與無腦的感受力襲來,讓人目瞪口呆。然而,當觀者走到舞台後頭看到小錄像,你會意識到這一切的感受性,都是有人在背後「控制」投影,觀者也同時參與被控制的一環。

這難道不也是我們的狀態?我們每天看著同義反覆、帶著大量情感誘惑、充滿各種酷炫話語、碎片化的連結(你在看這篇文章時多視窗與超連結出去多少次了?),所塑造的真實世界?重要的不是理性思辯的嚴謹度,而是表達方式的各種戲劇化與其帶動的情感。重要的不是說什麼,而是「怎麼說」。理性、邏輯、推論等內容都不重要;重要的是媒體調度人「相信」的情感。

情感政治:「控制-被控制」

無所不在的控制技術正在調度著我們的情感,他們都在影響、改造、洗腦我們,打開我們的社群平台,你會感覺到一堆真假難分的東西在試圖對我們產生作用。當代藝術是一個對立於消費社會,提供人停下思考的場域,一個凝思專注、批判反省、更關心內在體驗的地方。然而,今天當代藝術引入「訊息流、碎片化的媒體經驗」時,難道只能因為現在觀者都習慣社群媒體刺激互動的感受性。所以我們要加強互動、加強感官刺激的體驗讓人更容易進入藝術嗎?

絕非如此!咪咪喵喵也不會只是在講究各種雜耍特技的吸睛效果。有趣作品在引用這種網路碎片化的現成體驗時,不會只是盲目肯定跟風,也不會單純否定批判。而是「過度肯定」地加速它、瘋狂運轉它、把這種感官經驗推到底!相較於對現狀的否定批判,媒體研究者烏利西(Wolfgang Ullrich)更加肯定誇大「誇大是讓人類擺脫特聽思考框架的束縛的方式。人們可以藉此敷演各種理論的結構,讓人對於意識形態的正當性產生懷疑,並且提倡諷刺的態度。」[6]

當瘋狂舞動推到極致時,觀者過熱地刺激也會開始展開反思,產生另類自反的批判意識(區別於上對下說教的批判性),以及網路狀態各種看似理所當然的荒謬。此外,各種後設運鏡的方法,也讓觀者反身性地意識到自己「正在觀看」,而不只是單純沉浸在聲光電的享受與帶動。

然而,面對無腦連結的碎片幹話,尼爾後人類(Nill Postman)在《娛樂至死》批判電視時代的資訊流不斷助長知識的碎片化「電視對話會助長語無倫次和無聊瑣碎……電視正把我們的文化轉變成娛樂業的廣闊舞台。很有可能,到最後,我們會接受它並喜歡它。」「刊相較於書面文化的嚴謹結構論述,電視或今天網路將強化碎片無意義與膚淺情境,我們被媒體改造成只能接受情感刺激的娛樂體驗,覺得嚴謹思考的書面體既老派又不合時宜。後人類還是依照媒介特性,把「消費娛樂」(電視表演)跟「嚴肅思考」(書的論述)視為勢不兩立的情況,覺得我們得贖回書面體傳統,否則我們就不會思考了。然而,咪咪喵喵恰恰不是運作在互斥邏輯,而是互滲交織的狀態,誰說不能一邊分心娛樂,同時一邊專心思考?

娛樂不只是讓我們至死,娛樂到極致同時也讓我們反身性地思考我們在今天是如何被控制,如何越來越被各種浮誇情緒帶動。當然你可以沉浸在誇張娛樂效果,被聲光影音洗腦一波,但作品的反身性,也讓我們思考媒介跟我們之間的交互關係,進而重新看待數位殭屍化的日常。

你知道口?數位殭屍的未來並不遠唷!我們是數位殭屍同時也是有生命的那種!嘻嘻

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A: \(\text{Important_message.mp4}\) , 2019

B:〈不好意思…請問一下這個怎麼打開〉,2021

C:〈灰色是最無聊的顏色〉,2021

為什麼我們要起身?藝術與運動

在黑暗空間中席地而坐的人群,被從後方進入的舞者劈開,為了讓看似揹負重袱的舞者緩緩前行,人群不得不讓位。隨後,一陣炫風的身體姿態席來,人群跟舞者的界線開始滲交織,我們離開鏡框式舞台個人的凝視位置,化身為共舞與身體感染的人流。隨著舞者不段穿梭在觀者之間引起的風暴,我們偶發地推擠、腳步移動、不知道事件在哪、不知道該何去何從,我們全部在暴風中失去位置,仿若愛情般地緊張、發汗、量眩與不確定性襲來心頭,原訂預設好的身體位置也隨之失效,讓人感到既不安焦慮又享受其中的矛盾張力。

王世偉在2021年於雲門重演的《群眾》,讓人開始激起慾望想再次進入藝術與運動之間的關係。在當中,我們到底變成了什麼?我們如何成為群眾?群眾如何不化約成同一性的集體,同時保留個人內在性?群眾動員的情感力量為何?藝術與運動的關係又是什麼?

所有「藝術與運動」的作品,必定會面臨美學跟社會現實的矛盾。到底藝術是在收編社會運動(成就個人美學,消費該運動)?還是藝術只是服務於社會運動的工具,重點是改變世界(藝術不重要,重要的是運動)?[1]這種互斥邏輯,瀰漫在各種輿論中,藝術家明明對運動高度有感,卻不敢直接介入,生怕一不小心就消費運動,將這種不可化約的感受力,化約成僵化的「藝術形式」。

「媒體再現」與「現場強度」

在我看來,消費與否的道德界線不是那麼重要。更重要的是藝術家如何「轉化運動」,如何讓運動不只是「媒體再現」,如何「激起運動的強度」(而不是將力量化約)?還記得在香港運動發生的時候,我們每天在社群媒體都看到一堆運動的殘暴影像,水柱、煙霧、口罩、頭破血流與激情控訴的符號不斷上演,這些影像僅管透過媒體傳遞香港情境,但同時也化約了現場的強度。在旁觀他人的痛苦當中,痛苦鎮壓照片的流傳,以凝視取代了身體感知,在媒體過度渲染中我們身體逐漸麻痺,既覺得不公義,同時又無能為力。

在現場奔跑的緊張感、隨時可能被抓、偶發的人流聚合、緊張心跳的震動,這些都難以透過 媒體化約。在消費媒體中,我們看完一則則血淋淋地震撼新聞,隨即廣告迎來,彷彿告訴你 對這事件不用太認真。然而,藝術提供了一個有別於媒體的場域,以更加完整脈絡的情境, 形塑事件本身,舉凡舞台、燈光、聲音、煙霧,乃至於觀者的場面調度等,讓人離開冷眼旁 觀的侷限,更加完整沉浸其中。

美學的另類介入

當然,有人會覺得我太高估藝術,藝術不過就是一群資產階級觀看的產物,菁英建構出來的文化品味,一切不過是權力結構的共謀,大量解構美學的話語,讓美學在今天似乎是一個讓人覺得迂腐保守的詞(相較於行動的激進)。然而,藝術確實提供了「自治區」,讓人反思、批判以及拓展我們的感知經驗,從康德美學以降強調的「無利害關係」,也關乎著解放與自由。儘管今天美學自主被認為是資產階級的品味象徵,行動主義者會認為透過行動介入的改變社會才是重點;然而其實「美學自主」跟革命、遊戲、介入與重塑等行動都切割不開關係。

美學自主不是代表品味象徵,更多是關於感知的重塑、對壓迫的不滿、以及對自由的嚮往。 美學自主不是個人品味的鞏固(個人品牌、藝博會、這些東西都是在賣個人性);也不是以 集體行動的名義化約個人。而是在高度私有化與強調個人主義的今天,霸道地重拾「公共 性」以及生產「新的集會」、塑造「另類群眾」。

美學是一種另類介入,區別於目的性的「工具-手段」論(社會結構對人的控制),美學的偶發性聚合,如同愛情般撼動理所當然的結構,在當中不再是被上對下領導的同一性群眾,而是「複多的群眾」,在當中個人「內在體驗」,也同時轉化成「公共體驗」。

美學不再是強調個人自溺小確幸(強化個人主義,我好孤獨),更不是公共話語的理性共識 (往往強調話語邏輯,排斥各種非理性雜音)。而是「既個人又公共」、「既內且外」的集 體體驗,當中的主體不再是固定的位置;而是好戰的、混雜、流動、跟他者互相依存的流變 主體。

《群眾》的交織體驗、平等生態與不可預期

回過頭來看《群眾》,先暫且不提跟社會議題與公民運動的關係,這容易流於一種對於國家 霸權的單向控訴,以議題導向化約作品(也是很多人愛批判的藝術消費議題)。另外,《群 眾》看似在劇場空間「再現香港街頭的抗爭場景」,如煙霧的瀰漫、眾聲的喧嘩、抗爭符號 與黑衣穿著等,但也並不只於此。更重要的是,我們必須更細緻地進入「作品的操作」,或 說是「群眾運作的方式」。

首先,是群體跟個體的關係,整場表演,只有一位舞者田孝慈,所以我們可以說舞者再現了 抗爭的群眾姿態嗎?當然不是!群眾不是如媒體所再現的(抗爭的人群人馬),群眾是極限 的內在體驗。這種內在體驗不是主客二分的凝視媒體再現,而是互相滲透、有如生態般交互 影響的體驗。

再來,只有獨舞,所以田孝慈是舞蹈的主角嗎?也不是!這當中有如香港運動般是「去大台」的操作,除了觀眾跟舞者同樣是「群眾」,一起用身體姿態交織共舞之外。更重要的,是舞台的聲音、光線、煙霧、兩傘、口罩、黑衣服裝、降落的燈管以及各種物件,這些「無生命的群眾」,也都是共構的表演者,他們同時是行動者。我們不能只是把群眾化約在「舞者一觀者」的人類,而是必須擴及物件跟群眾共構的有機生態網路,所以「生態網路」其實才是真正的主角。

第三點,生態網路的帶動、身體感染與滲透,是否單純在抵抗「疏離距離感」?事實上,觀者不是被強制運動,他同時可以選擇「不動」,不管舞者各種跌到、攀扶、踉蹌的姿態,不伸出援手、不給他依靠,一樣可以維持理智,保持距離旁觀他人痛苦,甚至開場劈開觀眾群的橋段,觀眾也可以選擇如如不動,逼舞者繞道。這種「共舞沉浸—疏離旁觀」的關係,也有如運動現場般,有的人在旁用眼睛圍觀,有的人則是高度入戲地進入現場。重要的是,整場劇不是導演可控的,觀者是最大的不可控因素,一切都是如此不可預期,觀者有更大的主動權干擾舞者預先安排好的運作。

為什麼我們要起義?

體驗性、平等性與偶然性,讓人感受到某種遊戲般的姿態。不是上對下控制的同一群眾;而是去大台、偶發、隨機聚合、充滿生機的流動網路。重要的是,《群眾》後設地跟「劇場媒介」原初的慶典集會互文,劇場原初也是集會,不只是上演表演讓人觀看的地方(成為「奇觀」),而更多是擴散其情感形塑出「另類的公共空間」(不是預先安排好,而是佔領、偶發、不可預期)。

《群眾》最後一幕舞者打開窗戶,讓「外面世界」進入「虛構劇場」的場景,也讓人在一片壓抑、窒息、緊張與運動的感官刺激中得以呼吸,並且在留白中反思當中的激情,同時沒有謝幕的戛然而止,也預示著運動的「從未結束」。最後,我想引用藝術史學者迪迪-于貝爾曼(Georges Didi-Huberman)在《慾望所致:何以讓我們揭竿起義》振奮人心的話:

「什麼是起義?首先大概是革掉身上的恐懼。把它扔得遠遠的,甚至直接扔到那些利用我們的恐懼去謀求權力的人臉上。扔到遠處,讓這個動作本身流傳開來。依此賦予它一個政治的意義,激起心中的慾望,將慾望及其膨脹的喜悅抓住,扔到空中,讓它擴散,擴散到我們呼吸的空間、他人的空間、公共空間和整個的政治空間中。」[2]

《群眾》逃逸於話語中心的說教或者視覺媒體的簡化;以身體、姿態、感染以及現場氛圍,將「視覺觀看的觀眾」,塑造成「身體參與的群眾」。在當中,身體互相碰觸,我們把革命、反抗、脆弱與痛苦的姿態,從身體肌肉深層記憶裡召喚出來,讓其不被今天私有化機制的身體淹沒(媒體的情感控制);美學在此重塑我們貧乏的慾望,凸顯激進力道,我們再次發展另類的慾望與激情,我們如酒神般手舞足蹈,我們同時也平等地如流水、如獸、如萬物、如宇宙、如混沌、如,咪咪喵喵。

參考文獻

[1] 面對「藝術」與「社會」的二元互斥邏輯,咪咪喵喵不屑一顧,畢盡咪咪喵喵強調混雜交 織與矛盾並置,而不是排他互斥。

[2] 迪迪-于貝爾曼(Georges Didi-Huberman)(陳旻 譯), 〈慾望所致:何以讓我們揭竿起義〉, 《新美術》第2期(2018):39-104。

作為塵埃與雜音的「我們」

「講故事的人沒有意識到睡美人醒來的時候身上可以蓋著厚厚的一層灰……同時,可怕的粉塵經常侵入人類居所,均勻地弄髒他們。」——巴塔耶(Georges Bataille)[1]

人們往往忽略萬物的根本條件,只關注現代文明建構的知識。而傅柯(Michel Foucault)以降的理論家,都在拆解這套認知系統是如何構成,人文科學也不是理所當然。毋寧說,我們可見、可感、可知的事物,都是在建構在層層的文化條件上。不論是文化研究或當代藝術,都在試圖解構文化條件,讓人意識到語言、文字、符號與歷史的暴力。然而,近來的作品不再耽溺於解構文化語言等權力機制(觀念藝術以來的手法),更多是朝向運作咪咪喵喵的宇宙本體。

是訊號,還是雜音?

我們今天所有的可見、可知、可感,都建立在一套「排他系統」上。在古希臘,這套系統是只屬於男性的理性話語聲,女性或奴隸則被視為雜音。時至今日的Meta(ig或臉書)時代,這套系統只優先辨別「臉」,鞏固臉的識別權威;屁眼跟下體則被視為影像的雜音,優先需在系統內排除[2]。「去蕪存菁」的過程讓我們快速地獲得事物意義,以及彰顯事物等級的優先順序,然而這過程卻是高度暴力地鞏固人類既有的清晰體系,把雜音給過濾在外。往往,咪咪喵喵就是需要被正統聲音排除的雜音。

雜音,包括當代藝術或國際影展常見的政治關懷主題(難民、移民、遷徙者、離散的人、LGBTQ、身份難以錨定的人),然而這些主題的鞏固,似乎把雜音收編入既有的政治體制。看看各大雙年展,幾乎包含這些大主題,但是也難以避免消費他者身份的問題。然而,對思想家洪席耶(Jacques Rancière)來說,重要的政治性,不在於對弱勢主題關懷的正確性,而是在於「操作方法」上的激進性。不只是讓他者(雜音)可見,而是讓他者挑戰我們既有的可感框架,使那些被遮蔽的事物發出自己的聲音。值得注意的是,讓事物自己發聲,不是指他者需要藝術家代言,而是藝術家「作為調節者」讓事物發出被人遮蔽的聲音。

也就是說,不是主題上的正確,而是「操作上」如何彰顯難以被既有體制消化地雜音與分歧,這恰恰是既政治也美學的運作。而將往往被視作背景雜音的灰塵顯露出來,正好挑戰人類習以為常的慣性。

灰塵的知識運作

2021的台北美術獎首獎,跳脫議題先行(身份、歷史、認同等)的慣例,更多回到氛圍以及空間整體的體驗。首獎藝術家林彥君與Aloïs Yang的《氛塵:沉積於塵埃裡的音景》除了現場的空間裝置外,同時關注「另類知識生產」,這套知識生產系統,不只是透過人類視角建構(落入上述議題化的問題),更多是關於「塵埃」知識裡蘊含的絕對客觀性。

黑暗展場中瀰漫著紫色微光的氛圍,現場可以看到若干座細長雕塑,上面附著有如在收音的雷達狀物件,當中有座大型雕塑呈載著電視,電視的錄像播放著沒有人類的自然場景(彷彿末世)。展場此起彼落地播放著聲音,時強時弱的聲音讓人感覺被包覆在其中,有時像是末日火山的噪音、有時是河水的流動、有時像絕對地寂靜(配合低頻)。展場有面透鏡的光,反射著展覽空間裡不可見的主角:「灰塵」。

一般被人類主體視作雜音的灰塵,弔詭地透過聲音監測的迴響,倒過來成為「形塑觀眾」的主體(不可見的灰塵與環境音也聯繫起來)。我們彷彿走入導演塔可夫斯基《潛行者》的「區」(Zone),一個人類文明消亡的地帶,一個充滿塵埃,並讓人內省自身存在的所在。不同於塔氏潮濕舊舊的鄉愁感,《氛塵》展場裝置的佈置,有如科學探測儀般冰冷中性的裝置(包括藝術家建立研究室的灰塵書寫)。而這種冷調氛圍也跟內在宇宙的浪漫形成一組有趣張力。

人類時間忽略的「無時間性」

藝術家宣稱的灰塵客觀性或未來考古學,不同於歷史學家的檔案考古或是科學家的實驗(奠基於過去的實證資料)。而是既有科學也有歷史調度,同時具有藝術的轉化,將認知轉化成「氛圍體驗」。也就是不落入語意認知的窠臼,更強調不可見的氛圍調控,這也是不同於純粹視覺認知的「觸感體驗」(五感沉浸於其中,被灰塵音景給形構)。

「灰塵時間」不同於人類的線性時間,線性時間往往奠基在排除不穩定時間的基礎上。灰塵時間更多是互相纏繞交織,過去即未來、未來即過去的不穩定時間。時間在此不再是量化的物理時間,更多是指向內在的綿延時間。與其說灰塵的時間是非線性時間(消費奇觀也是讓人繞不出去的非線性時間),不如說是「無時間」:不是獨尊人類歷史的線性或非線性時間,而是不同物種共生共存的時間,廣納環境界(Umwelt)的時間。

此外,有如吳燦政《十年-台灣聲音地圖計劃》把自然的風景聲音引到美術館。《氛塵》一樣把外在的自然聲,作為「現成物」般挪用到美術館。不過相較於吳燦政在台灣採集的田野自然聲,《氛塵》採集的地點更特殊(英國的秘密核能武器測試研究站的灰塵聲),混合的聲音又更加混雜,有如宇宙振幅,同時如同末世鳴叫。

聲音與氛圍體驗

關於聲音氛圍的營造,如果說藝術家蘇郁心《hibernatemode 休眠模式》運用影像-聲音-散文的方式調度空間,探討苔蘚的另類時間;那《氛塵》則是關注灰塵的時間。這些「非人」的時間觀,都大大挑戰「人類預設的時間」(線性或非線性的)。體驗不再關注人類話語的主旋律,而是情境與不可見的空氣。

然而,必須注意的是,這種非語意的「情境體驗」,恰恰跟新自由主義的「體驗式經濟」不 謀而合。在一個體驗被收編的年代,今天我們不再是消費可見的具體物件,而是不可見的情 境不斷在調控我們的感受(德勒茲的「控制社會」)。「物」,從外在的物件,變成了觀者 腦補的體驗(我們去咖啡店更多是消費不可見的體驗)。不同的是,新自由主義的體驗,更 多是誘導人去消費自我良好的感受,體驗成為了商品。藝術的情境體驗,更多是無方向性, 無目的性地讓人思考自身、世界與宇宙的存在。

作為背景的灰塵氛圍

《氛塵》不是讓物理的灰塵可見,而是讓「灰塵發聲」。它不只是讓灰塵變成視覺可見的前景,而是讓灰塵作為「可感的背景聲音」。背景從原本襯托主體的惰性物質,變成了充滿活力的生命。《氛塵》不是以形象再現灰塵;更多是讓原本隱匿在背景的「灰塵訊息流」得以可感。

灰塵跟雜音一樣,是氛圍般、瀰漫在空氣裡的懸浮微粒,它們其實高度具有「物質性」,然而人類卻往往忽視他們,或要將他們除之而後快。現代性的乾淨整潔律令,是不允許藝術或商品沾染上灰塵的「不潔」(實驗室也是隔絕塵埃的環境)。不過,藝術家恰恰將作為「背景的環境」,反轉成創作主題,我們只要從19世紀作曲家Erik Satie開啟的家具音樂

(Furniture music) ,到20世紀John Cage經典的《4:33》翻轉環境聲響的手勢,再到Brian Eno發揚光大的氛圍音樂(Ambient music)可以窺知一二。

從「末世灰塵」到「活力幻塵」

瀰漫在空氣的氛圍,也跟灰塵脫離不了關係。從曼雷幫杜象拍攝的《大玻璃》拍攝的《灰塵滋生》(Dust Breeding)開始,到近來卡帕尼(David Campany)用攝影策展回應該張照片的《塵與時:從宇宙到居所》,都在試圖回應不可見的灰塵問題。而他們也延伸思想家巴塔耶的灰塵(宇宙)無形本體論,指出「灰塵體現了一種超越人類視野與希望的宇宙時間。永恆存在的灰塵使文明懂得謙虛。」[3]。如果有灰塵歷史的話,人類現階段看似偉大的文明歷史不過是滄海一粟。[4]

無論是巴塔耶或者是卡帕尼,背後的思想都奠基在基督宗教「末世論」前提去思考人類生死與宇宙塵土的關係(塵歸塵 ,土歸土)。相較來說,我想借用佛家的「幻塵」概念來打開另一種世界觀。不同於基督教末世或是人終歸塵土的宿命論;也不同於佛家對塵世幻象的否定。藝術的幻塵,回過頭重估理所當然的現象世界,肯定虛擬幻象的真實,更進一步讓人思考塵粒的循環、交織與運動。如果說巴塔耶的灰塵是死亡的象徵,那「幻塵」則是關於循環、生命、活力、生態與流動。

我們意識所認知的穩定世界,都受制於人類話語。幻塵本體的無形無狀,更顯露了事物隱而未顯的實在樣貌。這不是唯心主義的浪漫主體,也不是唯物的科學(用科學方法測量也陷入人類主觀),而是「既唯物又唯心」的基礎唯物,亦即持續交互碰撞地宇宙本體。不斷運動的宇宙本體,以及空氣中的微塵記憶,讓人想到科學家巴貝其(Charles Babbage)在1828年的推測,遙相呼應地成為《氛塵》運作的現實:

「空氣是一個龐大的圖書館,記載了人類訴說或低語過的任何東西。這些東西變化多端卻分 毫不差,裡面混有最古老的和最新的生死嘆息,它們被永久地記錄下來,有未曾兌現的誓 言,也有尚未履行的諾言,在一顆顆微粒的統一運動中長存不朽,作為人類善變意願的見 證。」[5]

本文的「我們」

我們,無時無刻都在成為灰塵。

我們,不可見地潛藏在背景裡。

我們,如同主旋律排斥的雜音。

我們,正在交雜成訊息。

我們,在空氣的微粒裡交互碰撞,人脫落的皮屑、貓毛、病毒、唾液與各種懸浮無機物相互 交融。

我們,幻化成氛圍與無形,不再是穩固的人類主體,而是混雜的「我們」。

我們,不再是排斥他者而形成的共同體(人類中心,比如納粹或川普等排外來構成我們的穩定共同體)。而是跟他者並肩、一起形變的我們,一種未知的我們。

我們,是過去與未來的灰塵交疊而成,不再是線性時間的穩定主體(只有人類)。而是包含著:大爆炸塵埃、隕石碎屑、恐龍骨骸、花粉、手機材質、死去的人以及未出生的人,疊加的我們。

我們,是群,是流,是場,是力,是喵,是宇宙。

參考文獻

[1] Georges Bataille, 'Poussiere', Documents no. 5, 1929, p278-279.

[2]藝術家Hito Steyerl在Proxy Politics: Signal and Noise一文中,也討論了這套臉跟屁眼的運作機制。屁眼其實也像灰塵一樣,是明明存在但卻往往被遮蔽的雜音。

https://www.e-flux.com/journal/60/61045/proxy-politics-signal-and-noise/

[3]大衛·卡帕尼(David Campany)(陳珮瑄、李欣潔 譯)《塵與時:從宇宙到居所》。 台中市:國立臺灣美術館,2020。頁174。

[4] 藝術史家伊夫-阿蘭·博瓦(Yve-Alain Bois)也曾用巴塔耶的灰塵概念去談人類建築不可避免地會走向滅絕。而他也跟羅莎琳,克勞斯(Rossalind Krauss)共同在龐畢度用巴塔耶的「去形」(Formelss)概念策劃展覽。「去形」也正好是咪咪喵喵的核心概念。

Yve-Alain Bois & Rossalind Krauss. Formless: a User's Guiede. New York: Zoom Books. 1997.

[5] Charles Babbage, The Ninth Bridgewater Treatise. 1828.

https://victorianweb.org/science/science_texts/bridgewater/intro.htm

重塑後生地貌:許哲瑜《畫那顆頭,及其軀體的記事》

「開始認識到身體變成詭異:雙生的產生、分解肢體、窒息的幻想與活埋的恐懼聯繫在一起,自我一分為二,不再聚攏自己的器官,而是看著它們,像是置身事外。」——羅莎琳·克勞斯(Rosalind Krauss)[1]

在媒體影像過剩與大量合成影像搞得虛實不分的今天,到底如何呈現真實?暴力、死亡與暗 黑跟真實之間的關係為何?如何重構「案發現場」?如何打破連續性記憶(媒體與歷史)的 假象,召喚地理般崎嶇又不穩定記憶?

一種潮濕、含混、頹喪、無力與逼進死亡的感覺,似乎成為媒體影像不斷渲染下的暗潮。今天的戰爭、疫情乃至於星球危機,也大量被媒體中介,我們似乎在透過各種「媒介」(從新聞媒體到元宇宙)接近真實的「再現」,然而所有的媒體「再現」必定難以必免「扭曲現實」的問題。

媒體現象在今天也發生了變化,相較於過去大眾媒體對記憶的塑造,在平台主導的今天我們變得越來越喪失「集體記憶」。大數據分化的部落不相往來,我們失去穩定的共同土地。如果說,在電視蓬勃的時代,我們的記憶有某種程度的共同基礎;那網路平台則讓我們除了在平台之外不再有共同地基,而是離散、真假難分、你一言我一語的碎片記憶(真假不重要,有效就好)。

媒體再現的記憶與遺忘

我身處於「電視」與「網路」轉換的時代,明顯感覺到集體記憶正在被快速推進、快速遺忘。 我們似乎不斷將記憶外部化(書寫、po文或照片、新聞生產),同時不斷遺忘。柏拉圖提到 書寫與遺忘的悖論,在今天更加放大「再現」與「遺忘」的矛盾,他們瘋狂地交織在一起, 我們看似記錄起很多東西,但卻也什麼都不記得。面對此矛盾,我們到底該如何重新塑造記 憶?

在後現代思想家對「真實」瘋狂解構之後,我們似乎落入相對主義困境。沒有什麼真實,只有無窮擬像與「再現…再現…」(例如實體貓咪、被拍成貓咪照片、上傳到網路平台、再被重製回現實的循環)。面對此種困境以及網路平台加劇的「後事實」(post-truth),我想要重新捍衛「另類真實」,此種真實不再是「真實優位於虛構」,而是跟「虛構」的感受、情動、死亡、噪音、雜質、不穩定、詭異與不可能性有關——碎片殘肢的真實:後人類技術的情感運動。

場景速記

讓我們將鏡頭切換到藝術家許哲瑜與陳琬尹共同合作的《畫那顆頭,及其軀體的記事》。走 入黑暗展場,開場《事件現場製造》的播映可以感受到巨幅影像配合雜雜的3D建模、破敗 淒涼的武俠場景、隨興KTV場景等畫面襲來。地上放置的軟墊似乎可以讓人輕鬆觀看事件, 然而此影像絕非輕鬆地讓人療癒,而是充滿殘暴、黑暗與裂痕的重新追憶。

左轉到下一間黑暗展間,迎面《穿顱透寫》的放映。一種呢喃、抑鬱、跟黑色的敘事襲來, 重新被繪製的人物拼貼於現實場景中,搔癢、扭曲、眼球運動、日常閒話叨叨、將宅男感推 到極致的形象,配合著私密家庭錄影帶般地搖晃手持鏡頭。看似日常的對話表面,卻也暗藏 著許多不詳的殺機,離開身體的頭顱們,在不經意地敘事中被喚起。

再往前走的灰暗空間,終於可以看到不是影像投影的「物質性裝置」。依靠在牆面的灰色殘腿、傾斜擺放的電視機、以及模糊抽象的灰白繪畫。現實彷彿脫下彩色誘人的外衣,被強制抹上一層灰階色調,一種懸疑、脆弱與殘破的氣質。

走到展場底部,《編號314》高度強力的詭異兔子影像過度清晰地往觀者襲來。作為死屍的兔子在表演著生前的樣貌(抓癢、舔毛),除了操偶師在表演生兔的姿態,鏡頭運動也過度地貼近兔子屍體的毛皮,讓人感到觸視的暈眩,同時屍臭的濃濃腐朽味也在影像運動中朝觀者襲來(視覺帶動聯覺感官推到極致)。展場底部的另一面,則可以看到投影扭曲的《一隻綠頭鴨的不尋常死亡》。似真亦假的鴨子與各式各樣的動物以及小孩,穿梭在現實環境中遊蕩;然而畫面中的掃描建模並不完美,而是不斷裂解、變形、瑕疵,建模的影像團塊彷彿充滿滋滋地噪音。

污穢與碎形表面

如果說大眾媒體與歷史再現(建模)的影像以視覺為主,仿若網紅的無暇塑料肌膚;那麼許哲瑜作品中的技術建模則是充滿著皺紋、傷疤與殘缺——地質學般坑坑疤疤、充滿裂縫、崎嶇不平的表面。如果以「地球影像」來看,大眾媒體、官方歷史、集體記憶乃至於科學記錄或犯罪現場的檔案,有如「藍色彈珠」再現的清潔秩序,讓人得以「觀測與控制」;那「星球影像」,則是貼地爬行,滲入泥濘、污穢、濕氣、含混與觸感的地表,讓我們以另一種方式重新記憶起日常。

身體,不再是完整人形;而是失去頭顱的殘肢。觀者,有如偵探,在展場拾起一片片碎片, 試圖從線索中拼湊出一股主動的虛構想像。我們逐步意識到大眾媒體、科學標本、刑案檔 案、集體歷史似乎都暴力地化約了生命的複雜性。然而,許哲瑜不是迴避這些媒介,反而是 以私人日常的方式再次操弄媒介,同時不洋裝中立地曝露自身位置。[3]

集體與私人:纏繞的地質皮相

關於自我揭露以及私化的感性。在《事件現場製造》重返台灣新聞事件<u>「江南案」</u>的敘事中,我們除了可以看到當事人<u>吳敦</u>重提往事的興奮語調以及其記憶建模。同時可以看到許哲瑜在KTV裡訪談刑案建模公司的員工侃侃而談如何掃描駭人驚悚的案發現場;而在鏡頭360度掃描KTV全景後,則又看到許哲瑜在台上聲嘶力竭地唱著王傑《一場遊戲一場夢》的副歌[2]。無獨有偶,在《一隻綠頭鴨的不尋常死亡》中,在鏡頭掃過KTV地上一攤詭異的污漬轉場,當中女主角也唱著張惠妹的《哭不出來》。集體記憶的90年代流行樂,交織纏繞著記憶中潛藏的暴力、創傷與裂痕。

許哲瑜重建現場的鏡頭調度,有如將現實場景再次轉化成3D模型。他在《事件現場製造》中不再運用招牌晃動「手持視角」(家庭錄像真實感),而是建模鏡頭般「非人視角」滑溜地不斷穿梭、掃描與重構現實(實搭武俠場景的運鏡也像是3D模型)。這種掃描地質表面的幽靈飄移視角,在最後一顆鏡頭精彩地「回穿」吳敦的頭顱模型,內跟外的界線在此混淆,我們不再處於外部觀看敘事者吳敦的回憶,而是彷彿被反摺入吳敦的內部。觀者就如同被迫戴上敘事者的「皮相面具」,我們的記憶伴隨著武俠電影、暴力新聞事件、KTV等,也共同纏繞進這段集體記憶。

超越再現夢靨,迎向後生吧!

讓我們把鏡頭切回開頭提到的「另類真實」,儘管媒介、掃描器與建模等檔案扭曲了現實。 但與其讓媒體與私有化企業跟意識形態控制這些模型來形塑真實,為什麼我們不能奪回掃瞄 機?為什麼我們不能重構自己的模型?為什麼不把掃描機捅進普丁內部?為什麼我們不把建 模的清晰度與完整性調「弱」?為什麼要一直活在網路平台控制的部落化當下,不來線下重 啟另類的集體記憶呢?

許哲瑜「塑形」的基底往往帶著詭譎、腐朽、陰鬱、暴力、黑色幽默的味道,他也試圖重構「死亡」的不可能性,以接近「後生」(Afterlife)模糊的中陰狀態。為什麼我們不能自己創造歡快的、愉悅的、瘋狂的、分裂的、混沌模型來參與後生?讓我們愉快地跟星球上的動物、表皮、殘肢、幽靈、數位噪點以及潰爛的地質孔隙結盟吧!但虛實不分與咪咪喵喵的混種交織可別過於離地,我們還是得將殘存於台灣島嶼地層中晦暗的集體/私人記憶重新翻攪出土,以迎向後生的另類真實。

參考文獻

- [1] 伊夫-阿蘭·博瓦(Yve-Alain Bois)、羅莎琳·克勞斯(Rosalind Krauss) 《無定形:使用指南》(柯喬等譯),廣州:花城出版社,2021。頁204。
- [2]《一場遊戲一場夢》呼應了吳敦的生命記憶,高潮迭起的人生江湖有如是一場遊戲一場夢。但遊戲跟夢並不代表虛假,當中也有一定程度的真實。
- [3] 許哲瑜往往會在作品中曝露自己「拍攝者的位置」,這也讓事件重返多了「反身性」特質,也讓他不淪入再次鞏固僵化歷史的敘事。

咪咪喵喵宣言

咪咪喵喵不只是關於貓,而是對過去的重估,以及感受力與想像力的重塑。咪咪喵喵不是在 instagram不斷浮出貓咪視覺形象(療癒、幽默或可愛),更多是我們如何撫摸貓咪的感 受:難以化約的強度、生成本體的力道以及對整體的感受力。

今天社群媒體的「訊息」不斷簡化這種無法被化約的強度。這套媒體機制把所有對貓的複雜 感受,化約成貼圖、懶人包、以及資訊表,讓人可以迅速接受到一個清晰訊息。而訊息煽動 的二元對立(狗派與貓派、藍營與綠營、保守黨與進步黨、左與右、憤青與文青、異性戀與 性少數、壓迫者與被壓迫者),也不斷地滲入我們日常,不管你挺狗還貓,二元對立的政治 邏輯不斷形塑我們的認知框架。無論是對立又或是簡化貼圖的形式,都是在縮減我們的感受力,進而鞏固既定世界的秩序。

形塑既定世界可不簡單,也是要不斷挑戰並更新內容,不斷加速更新、像是ios每隔一段時間就跳出的更新訊息、伊歐·馬斯克要征服火星、馬克·佐克伯格從臉書變meta。相較於既定世界,咪咪喵喵關注的是「潛在世界」。本體的世界、超越的世界、不可能的世界、生成的宇宙。這絕非佐克伯克宣言的元宇宙(受資本與數據控制),而是咪咪喵喵宇宙!

今天略過文化,直接談本體論,往往會被文化研究的學者嗤之以鼻,因為形上學、本體論都是西方白男所塑造的普遍性基礎,建立在排斥非西方語境的前提下,更是忽略細緻的文化風土差異。然而,如果不考慮潛在的問題,我們很容易退縮到「經驗世界」,不斷強化既定世界。

咪咪喵喵宇宙,逃離於經驗的既定世界,同時也逃逸於傳統形上學框架。在雙重解離中,更接近另類宇宙本體。咪咪喵喵是政治姿態,是新同時也舊,是西方同時也是亞洲。咪咪喵喵允許矛盾共存,而不是消解矛盾來追求共識,而不遵循新出現永遠是最好的律法。

咪咪喵喵運用的是「既是……且是……」方法,如夢一般並置矛盾。咪咪喵喵不遵循線性時間(像是狗狗的親情與成長);而是處在瞬間即永恆的時間。咪咪喵喵抵抗國家與資本對實體與網路空間的治理;而是必須佔領既有的空間,讓空間能讓人做夢,咪咪喵喵像電影技術般,在被消費主義單一化的貧弱想像之外,重新喚起我們「夢想」的能力。

咪咪喵喵除了對影像空間的關注以外,也關注「話語」。咪咪喵喵不創「詞」,而是借用「詞」、改造「詞」、挪用「詞」。咪咪喵喵不像要發明一個新概念得創造一個新語言(例如無器官身體),而是總能在既有語言的運用中發現縫隙。咪咪喵喵不「跨域」、不「新創」、不「新」、不「科技」,同時又比上述更加跨域也更加新,咪咪喵喵既改造話語也改造影像更重塑我們對世界的想像。

咪咪喵喵不只是可見的內容,而更多是不可見的基礎建設,一套潛在運作的方法。咪咪喵喵 既虛擬又物質,是元宇宙讓人沉浸的虛擬影像,也是支撐著影像的物質基礎。咪咪喵喵的內 容讓我們入戲發笑,同時也讓我們反身性地意識到媒介的物質條件。 咪咪喵喵不能只是好萊塢電影或消費迷因形塑的幻象,也不能只是當代藝術高冷的媒介自反性(讓人意識到幻象的控制)。咪咪喵喵同時是幻象,也是媒介本身,他會把兩種互斥的東西搓揉一起,而不是繼續鞏固雅俗的二元對立(藝術真實VS消費虛幻)。

咪咪喵喵抵抗邏輯上非此即彼的「矛盾律」與「排中律」,在互斥矛盾中只能生產一個結論 (社會重要?還藝術重要?),咪咪喵喵討厭單一結論的導向,而是同時回返到既藝術又社 會,既美學又政治,既粗鄙又雅緻、既變態又正常、既弱智又聰穎的混沌狀態。

咪咪喵喵不屬於任何一個領域,他只屬於他自身,同時也跟其他所有領域共享基礎。現代性所塑造的學科領域,往往朝向「純化」狀態,界定學科疆界的排他性。同時,咪咪喵喵也不是「跨領域」風潮,因為跨領域也早已成為一個建制化「領域」,被消費主義給收編(各種時尚聯名款的潮流)。咪咪喵喵是所有學科的根基,不過是不可見的,他不是經驗產物,而是先驗的基礎建設。

咪咪喵喵的方法跟拉圖的STS(Science, technology and society)、哈曼的物件導向本體論(Object-oriented Ontolog)、德勒茲以降的新唯物論(New Materialism)、哈洛威的賽博女性主義(Cyberfeminism)以及當代藝術的運作方法有「親緣性」。他們同時都運用非人視野、共生纏繞、混雜交織、黏稠與共振的方法,模糊人文(政治)與科學的界線,而不是各做各的劃清關係。不同的是,咪咪喵喵以「發音」為基礎,而不落入「藝術」或「STS」的預先概念化。

咪咪喵喵更多是回返到發音過程中的物質振幅,他更接近唵(om):宇宙大爆炸發出的第一音殘響。但咪咪喵喵又跟唵的純粹發音不同,而是纏繞更多複調的魅音。咪咪喵喵去魅既有學科形式,反魅到嘴唇-聲帶-肺震動的聲響、咒語與魔法。

然而,咪咪喵喵也不是身心靈或嬉皮般地要我們回返到自然和諧的前現代狀態,強調鄉愁或者預設人類和諧穩定的心靈基礎,試圖回歸人文價值。咪咪喵喵的本體論是特異性、矛盾互斥、弔詭與混雜歧異,而不是排斥技術而擁抱人類心靈的純粹性,更甚至咪咪喵喵會挑戰所有宣稱共識和諧的普遍基礎(這往往是暴力排他)。咪咪喵喵同時會暴力地積極介入現代技術的裂縫,重新賦予現代技術新的脈絡與生命,將功能性、理性計算、目標導向與消費主義的人類中心控制去魅;回返到技術本身偶發的異質生命。

咪咪喵喵關心「非認知系統的關係網路」,而不是語意認知的話語系統,這恰恰如大數據的 運作,更關注不斷突出的關係跟連結。我們將脫離哈伯馬斯提到的「互為主體」理想;在訊息社會,我們都正在「互為客體」。你在瀏覽這篇文章時,你的滑鼠點擊、待的秒數、移動 軌跡等等潛意識,全部都被客體化成數據。咪咪喵喵並沒有要回到人文主體的自由幻象,而是深刻理解與滲入我們互為客體的不可逆現狀。

咪咪喵喵跟班雅明也有技術媒介上的親緣性,在後機械複製的資訊網路時代,不只是想回返前現代的傳統靈光,而是再脈絡化地創造靈光。咪咪喵喵肯定人機關係的模糊,而不是頌揚傳統人文主義精神。咪咪喵喵比機器更機器、比人文更人文、比科學更科學、比消費更消費。作為穩固系統運作之外的雜音,咪咪喵喵親近《攻殼機動隊》的草薙素子、《駭客任務》的尼歐、《西部世界》的德洛麗絲,他們都模糊人機界線,解構人本身的話語,並且作為例

外地挑戰運作機制。咪咪喵喵看似跟隨資訊社會發展出來的新方法,但實際上咪咪喵喵早已存在。如果說凱瑟琳·海勒斯在1999年宣稱「我們早已是後人類」,那咪咪喵喵將以扔到空中的姿態飛舞「我們早已是咪咪喵喵」!

The Essays of Sound, Body and Archive

Amusing Ourselves (Not) to Death: Speculative Images of Braaainwashing

譯丨張新

Flat screens are flooded with information every day, all trying to influence us. They shock us, make us laugh, or want to go shopping, as they eagerly seek our attention. Fragmented messages on social media platforms like Instagram, Line, YouTube, and Facebook strive toward "affecting" us. They exploit the information anxiety of modern people, attempting to brainwash us, transform us, and make us different (usually by consuming things) — that's right, this article you're reading now is no exception. In contrast to the plethora of sensational media content, fancy montages, and fast-paced editing that catch our attention, contemporary art often provides a place for contemplation, introspection, critique, and historical retrospection to engage in aesthetic contemplation that is free from information anxiety and constant acceleration. For instance, the video works of Chen Chieh-Jen, Tsai Ming-Liang, Yuan Goang-Ming, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, and Bill Viola all offer unique aesthetic experiences, employing long takes that are cold, slow-paced, and non-narrative to make us experience the force of the image itself.

However, a mixed visual language — the "Mi Mi Mew Mew Style" — has emerged recently in the art world with its constant transmutations. This type of visual language does not make the viewers sink into aesthetic contemplation; instead, it extensively uses fragmentary montage, nonsensical everyday narratives, and silly voices — with a distinctively nerdy, gamer spirit — to induce us into an uncertain state of dizziness, panic, and mental confusion. Indeed, we can no longer view these artworks from the perspective of aesthetic contemplation, but must learn to appreciate their cool and funny effects.

People in the contemporary art world often dismiss the "entertainment value" of artworks, believing that it is "merely the product of consumerism." They criticize it with remarks such as, "How is that different from the sensory entertainment of YouTube videos?" or, "Am I watching an artwork? Or am I at an amusement park?" Preoccupied with major issues of geopolitics, identity, as well as national or historical trauma, they often think of artworks that employ superficial visual and audio effects as breezy and dismissible, whose only aim is to entertain people as opposed to shedding light on deeper, "structural issues." One can say that a disorderly plaything like Mi Mi Mew Mew only puts people into a superficial state of memes, amusing them with spectacular effects, but is unable to make people stop and think seriously.

A

A floating head comes in at you in a dark space from all sides, blabbering about conspiracy theories, piecing together fake news from content farms in a moronic, lisping voice. As the virtual head speaks, it opens and closes its mouth in an exaggerated and frantic manner, making the entire head distort accordingly (the exaggerated movements of the mouth remind me of a Francis Bacon painting). We are dumbstruck by the maximal stimulation of memes cited all over the place. While this may be just another fictitious

contemporary video artwork, it is also entirely realistic, given that our lives have been under the attack of "information" — information that we're often unable to determine its authenticity — for many years now without ever a moment's respite. You don't believe this? You think this is ridiculous? Just open the phone you're holding in your hand and you'll find yourself caught in the endless universe of information flow:)

The "Reality Effect" of Images: Is It Real?

Video artworks force us to become reflexively aware of our bodies with their cold, reserved long takes. The viewers are no longer spectators watching safely from afar, but actively taking part in the artwork. In Hollywood movies, viewers are passive spectators, as their motionless bodies are dragged obediently into a "fantasy land." In contrast, avant-garde artists or theater practitioners aim to challenge viewers by making it difficult for them to "empathize" with the work by employing various methods that foreground critically the subject of the "medium" itself, moving away from the "representation" of their contents. For instance, experimental cinema and expanded cinema (sculptural film) have utilized the reflexivity of the medium to make viewers reflect on the "cinema of cinema" as well as the material conditions that together make cinema possible — light, shadows, film, dark rooms, and machinery — rather than succumbing to the hegemony of the cinematic narrative.

However, in the genre of "essay film," [1] local narratives are reintroduced into the artworks. As the postcolonial condition of globalization becomes an oft-addressed topic in contemporary art and film festivals, artists are also resisting traditional narrative structures with fragmentary, polyphonic, or meta-narratives. We can therefore observe the return to narrative structures in contemporary art and how images are becoming increasingly hybridized. [2]

Contemporary artists use images to free us from manipulative illusions and challenge us with "reality." As art historian Claire Bishop states, because contemporary art stands against the society of the spectacle of consumerism and theater, its goal is, thus, to achieve the "reality effect." [3] This aspiration is essential to art: to critique the spectacle and the hegemony and strive for reality. Likewise, these works seek to expand one's corporeal perception and refuse to offer visual illusions in which viewers can indulge themselves.

B

A figure with a slippery body babbles nonsense and about childhood memories, as well as how digital humans are made (they buy their heads on the internet). The digital puppet speaks with a cigarette in hand (the cigarette shape-shifting like magic), dances in the air, and rapidly twists, turns, and twitches its limbs. Like Deleuze's "body without organs," it appears to be unbounded by physical and institutional restrictions and has entered a state of formless emancipation.

As we're lured by the digital puppet's trash-talking, we notice that a few people dressed in green are controlling its body. The single-channel video can be roughly divided into three layers: the digital man analyzing the process by which digital humans are constructed (talking shit and reminiscing about how it had once dreamed about controlling robots as a child); revealing that the digital man is also controlled (the green men are uncovered); and finally, the stroke of genius, how this arrangement points to the fact that the viewers in

front of the screen are also digital humans that are being controlled. We believe ourselves to be real, flesh-and-blood human subjects that possess free will, yet as big data and metaverses conquer the earth, have we not already become digital humans created from digital models?

Installations and the Corporeal *Flâneur*: (Static) Visibility and (Mobile) Tactility

Contemporary art is inseparable from the "body," not so much the body image created by artists, but more the regulation of the "body of the viewer." In the contemporary environment in which the immersive experience has gained prominence, artists have come to regard the viewer's corporeal experience as part of their works. Instead of employing the spatial arrangements of a traditional movie theater or proscenium, they regulate the viewers' bodies in the exhibition space to keep their bodies in motion and prevent them from watching performances behind a fourth wall. These artists make use of "installations" (in today's world, photography, video art, and paintings all need to be "turned into installations") to mobilize the viewer's body; as the art historian Boris Groys suggests, the viewer's body is transformed into a *flâneur*. [4]

Benjamin has also considered the question of the altered state of the viewer: in the age of mechanical production, the viewer is, more often than not, in a state of "distraction" rather than "concentration." An example of this state of distraction is architecture: unlike the state of aesthetic contemplation where we appreciate the aura of a traditional painting, the distracted viewer is engaged in an interwoven experience with space, an experience connected to tactility and irreducible to its visual dimension. For instance, while you can easily reduce a building to its visual image through photography, when you walk into one, your experience of it is based more on the cumulative effect of the senses, namely tactility. In a similar fashion, Benjamin also highlights the importance of tactility in architecture: "for the tasks which face the human apparatus of perception at the turning points of history cannot be solved by optical means, that is, by contemplation, alone. They are mastered gradually by habit, under the guidance of tactile appropriation." [5]

This is also why many contemporary video installations have abandoned the single-channel format, which allows the viewer to stop and concentrate, in favor of spatial installations and sound fields that activate the viewers' physical sense and set their bodies in motion. No longer looking at the artworks passively, they must now actively move along the space, collecting the hints left inside the works to construct their own narratives like a detective at a crime scene.

The body has become the major battlefield of art. While traditional party-state politics manage our bodies through a top-down approach (the Big Brother, physical exercises, military training classes, flag-raising ceremonies, and pep talks), the neoliberalism of today opts for a more insidious approach to regulate our bodies comprehensively (what is the most fashionable hairstyle, clothes, outfit, the most trendy electronic device, the hottest video game, and the most Hito Steyerl artistic expression?).

As the hottest gaming experience infiltrates the exhibition space, some may believe that Mi Mi Mew Mew images are simply borrowing internet memes like "ready-mades" to defamiliarize the viewers (namely the elites and old folks), with little creative transformation. However, when great artists include ready-mades in their works, they not only transfer internet memes from the subculture to the exhibition space but also refer to the everyday political relations of "controlling-controlled," demystifying these relations from

the veil of consumerism to make them perceptible. Or, to put it differently, the work must reflexively consider this relation of mutual control and critically employ the techniques of control to which we have grown accustomed.

C

Six grotesquely shaped installations form a large stage; layers of torn, distorted, repulsive human bodies are projected onto it. A narrator is talking shit and dropping video game references, chattering about the associations and feelings that arise from "colors." The dazzling and flickering projection of the "Porygon scene" from Pokémon makes the situation even more psychedelic and dizzying. A small inconspicuous screen is hidden behind the large installation stage, showing a strange-bodied man playing with a projector. The projector is constantly changing the projected colors, which are precisely the colors cast on the stage with the six strange installations in the room.

The sensorial association of color reminds one of Derek Jarman's *Chroma*, written before his death, but the colors here are further connected to the status effects of game characters (blue for frostbite! And the mad symbol of "death" is, too, always present in the work); the sickening installation mapping brings to mind Tony Oursler's formless and multilayered projection installations, with persistent trash talk added on top of it. The main narrative technique of the work is the random connection of homonyms, which reminds one of the fragmentary information sequences of the internet.

Meaningless prattle, meaningless repetitions, schizophrenia, and interminable hyperlinks present meaningful features, with their madness! This work is best "felt" rather than "comprehended." An extremely moronic, chaotic, and brainless sensation washes over you and astonishes you. However, as you reach the back of the stage and discover the little green video screen, you realize that everything you've felt is the result of someone "controlling" the projection and that the viewer was also part of what was being "controlled."

But isn't this state of being controlled similar to ours? Every day we encounter a real-world shaped by links that are repetitive and synonymous, full of emotional appeal, filled with cool and fancy words, and fragmentary (how many windows and hyperlinks have you opened while reading this article?). Now it is less about the rigor of rational thinking, but more about the ways of dramatic expression and its emotional effect. Not what is said, but "how you say it." Reason, logic, and inference are rendered moot; what's important is our feeling of "belief" and how the media manages it.

The Politics of Affect: "Controlling-Controlled"

Technologies of control manage our emotions by influencing, transforming, and brainwashing us. A simple glance at your social media platform, and you are overwhelmed by a deluge of things that are trying to affect you, things you can't determine whether they're fake or not. Contemporary art is a space that defies the consumerist society, a space for people to stop and think, a space of contemplation, critical reflection, and inner experience. However, as contemporary art today introduces "information flow and fragmentary experiences of the media," should we create artworks that are more interactive and sensorially stimulating to make them more accessible to the public, simply because viewers nowadays have grown accustomed to the stimulation and interaction of social media?

Of course not! Mi Mi Mew Mew is not just about acrobatic, eye-catching effects. When referring to the ready-made experience of internet fragmentation, great works don't just affirm or follow the trend without a second thought, nor do they simply deny and criticize it. Instead, they "over-affirm" it, accelerate it, run it wild, and push the sensory experience to the limit! In contrast to the negative critique of the status quo, the German media theorist Wolfgang Ullrich suggests that exaggeration is "a way to free humans from the fetters of particular frameworks of thought. It is a way for people to draw up theoretical structures, cast doubt on the legitimacy of ideologies, and promote a satirical attitude." [6]

As the frenetic dance movements are pushed to the extreme, the over-stimulated viewer begins to reflect on the various absurdities of the internet that are taken for granted and develop an alternative and reflexive critical consciousness (which is different from critical thinking that is didactic and condescending). Furthermore, the meta-approach to camera movement allows viewers to become reflexively aware of their act of "seeing" rather than simply being immersed in the audio-visual experience.

On the subject of the nonsensical connection of fragmented trash talk, Neil "Post-man" criticizes in his book *Amusing Ourselves to Death* the fact that the information flow of the age of television consistently promotes the fragmentation of knowledge: "that television's conversations promote incoherence and triviality [...] Television, in other words, is transforming our culture into one vast arena for show business. It is entirely possible, of course, that in the end we shall find that delightful, and decide we like it just fine."[7] In contrast to the structurally rigorous discourse of written culture, television and today's internet tend to enforce fragmentary, meaningless, and superficial scenarios. We are transformed by the media into accepting emotionally stimulating entertainment and believe that the written words of rigorous thinking are old-fashioned and out of date.

Based on the varied nature of different mediums, Post-man considers "consumerist entertainment" (television performance) and "serious thinking" (written discourse) to be fundamentally incompatible, believing that we will lose the ability to think without a return to the written tradition. In comparison, Mi Mi Mew Mew operates according to a state of mutual infiltration instead of the logic of mutual exclusion — who's to say that we can't think with focus while distracting ourselves with entertainment?

We don't just amuse ourselves to death. When amusement is turned up to the max, we also begin to think reflexively about how we're being controlled today and led more and more by superficial emotions. Of course, you can immerse yourself in excessive effects and become brainwashed by sound and light, yet the reflexivity of these artworks also points toward the interrelationship between the media and makes us reevaluate our digital-zombified daily lives.

Do U know? The future of digital z0mbies is upon us! W3're d1gital z0mbies an) th3 k1nd t#at's al1ve! H3h3h3

Notes

[1] Leading essay film artists include: Jean-Luc Godard, Harun Farocki, Chris Marker, and Hito Steyerl; Ho Tzu Nyen, Hsu Chia-Wei, and Liu Chuang also incorporate similar techniques in their work.

- [2] 江凌青,《從雕塑電影邁向論文電影: 論動態影像藝術的敘事傾向》,《藝術學研究》 第16期,2015,頁169-210。
- [3] Claire Bishop,《畢沙普選輯1:表演與美術館》(黃亮融 譯),台北市:一行出版, 2021,頁11。
- [4] Boris Groys. Art Power. The MIT Press, 2013.P. 64.
- [5] Walter Benjamin,《機械複製時代的藝術作品:班雅明精選集》(莊仲黎 譯),台北:商周出版,2019,頁56。
- [6] Wolfgang Ullrich,《不只是消費:解構產品設計美學與消費社會的心理分析》(李昕彥譯),台北:商周出版,2015,頁218。
- [7] Nill Postman,《娛樂至死》(章艷 譯),桂林:廣西師範大學出版社,2009,頁72。

The works mentioned in this article are by the artist Li Yi-Fan:

A: Important_message.mp4 (2019)

B: HOW DO YOU TURN THIS ON (2021)

C: Boring Gray (2021)

What Makes Us Rise Up? Art and Movement

譯|張新

A dancer enters a dark space from the back and cuts through the crowd sitting on the ground. The dancer seems to carry something heavy on her back, and the crowd makes way for the dancer to come slowly forward. Soon, a dazzling whirlwind of body gestures. The crowd begins to merge with the dance; we are no longer gazing at a proscenium stage from our individual positions but transformed into a dancing, contagious human flow. As the dancer glides through the spectators and brings chaos along her way, we are lost in the middle of a storm, bumping accidentally into each other, relocating, not knowing where to look or where to go. As if falling in love, we become nervous, sweaty, vertiginous, and uncertain, fretting and enjoying this contradictory tension as our presupposed body positions lose any sense of relevance.

The revival of Wang Shi-Wei's Masses at Cloud Gate Theater in 2021 has rekindled a desire to revisit the relationship between art and movement. What are we in this relationship? By what means do we become the masses? How do we prevent the masses from turning into a homogenized collective while maintaining their inner selves? What are the affective forces that mobilize the masses? And what is the relationship between art and movement?

Works about the relationship between "art and movement" always encounter the contradiction between aesthetics and social reality. Is it the artists that co-opt the movement (in order to realize their individual aesthetics by exploiting the movement)? Or is art only an instrument for social change (social change is more important than art)? [1]The popular belief in the incompatibility of art and movement has discouraged artists from direct social intervention despite their strong sense of social awareness, as they are wary about the risks of inadvertently exploiting social movements by reducing their irreducible sensibility into rigid "art forms."

"Media Representation" and "Live Intensity"

To me, the most important question is not whether we are exploiting social movements but how artists might "transform them," overcome their simplistic "media representation," and "increase its intensity" (instead of decreasing it) in their artworks. Let us recall the time of the protests in Hong Kong and the brutal images of the protests we witness on social media every day back then: water cannons, smoke, masks, head injuries, symbols of impassionate accusations. Although these images are able to convey the situation in Hong Kong to us through the media, they also diminish the intensity at the actual locations. When we regard the pain of others, the circulation of harrowing photographs of suppression supplants our corporeal perception with the gaze. Our bodies are gradually paralyzed by this sort of sensational media coverage and we are at once infuriated and powerless.

The nervous running and hiding, the constant fear of getting caught, the accidental gatherings, the beating of the heart — these sensations are difficult to convey in full through the media. Consumerist television channels show an endless stream of bloody, shocking news stories, only to follow them up quickly with ads, which seems to suggest that we should take these events more lightly. In contrast, art offers a space unlike that of

the media, providing more comprehensive contexts that also shape the events themselves, mobilizing space, light, sound, smoke, and the viewer's movement to lead us out of our shells and immerse us in the actual situation.

The Alternative Intervention of Aesthetics

Of course, some might think that I think too highly of art. From their perspectives, art is merely produced by the bourgeoisie for their visual enjoyment, a cultural taste constructed by the elites, and the collusion of the structure of power. Discourses on aesthetics have been so exhaustively deconstructed to the point that the concept itself seems to have become a derogatory term of pedantry and conservativeness (compared to the radicality of action). Nevertheless, art does indeed provide us with an "autonomous region" in which we can reflect on, criticize, and expand our perceptual experiences. The tradition of "aesthetic disinterestedness" since Kant likewise aims at emancipation and freedom. Although the notion of aesthetic autonomy is currently seen as a status symbol of the bourgeoisie, since activists believe that social intervention through action is the better path to change society, actions such as revolution, play, intervention, and reformulation are in fact inseparable from the concept of "aesthetic autonomy."

Aesthetic autonomy is not a symbol of taste; it is more about reshaping the perception, the opposition to oppression, and the aspiration for freedom. Aesthetic autonomy is not the consolidation of personal taste (personal branding and art fairs, among other things, use individuality as their selling point), nor the diminution of individuals in the name of collective action; instead, it aims to forcefully reclaim the "public," produce of "new assemblies," and shape "alternative masses" in a time of privatization and individualism.

Aesthetics is an alternative form of intervention. Unlike the teleological concept of "instrumentality" (how humans are determined by the social fabric), the accidental, aesthetic assemblages, like love, change the status quo. In these assemblages, the masses are no longer homogenous and led from top to bottom; instead, they are "multiple masses" in which our "inner experiences" are transformed into "public experiences."

Aesthetics is no longer focused on self-indulgent personal happiness (which reinforces individualism, I'm so lonely), nor the rational consensus of public discourse (often emphasizing the discursive logic and rejecting all sorts of irrational noises). It is, instead, a kind of collective experience that is "both personal and public," "within and without," in which the subject is no longer a fixed position, but a belligerent, mixed, and fluid becoming-subject interdependent with others.

The Experience of Interwovenness, Ecology of Equality, and Unpredictability in Masses

As we come back to *Masses*, we might, for a moment, bypass the relationship between social issues and civil movement, because pursuing this topic could easily lead to the one-sided condemnation of state hegemony and thus subordinate the work to the social issues at hand (which is what many criticize as "art taking advantage of social issues"). Furthermore, although *Masses* seems to "have recreated the scenes of protest on the streets of Hong Kong" in the theater by employing imageries and effects such as swirling smoke, clamoring voices, symbols of protest, and black clothes, this is not all that there is. More importantly, we must take a closer look at the "operative approach of the work," or, in other words, how it "makes use of the masses."

First, there is the relationship between the collective and the individual. Given that only a single dancer, the choreographer Tien Hsiao-Tzu, is seen throughout the entire performance, is it correct to proclaim that the dancer represents the masses of protesters? Of course not! The masses are not what the media represents, but an intense inner experience. It is not the medial gaze of the subject-object binary, but an infiltrating, ecological, and reciprocal experience.

Second, since there is a solo performance, is the dancer, therefore, the protagonist of the dance? The answer is likewise no! As is with the Hong Kong protests, here we are also dealing with a "decentralized" operation. Besides the audience and the dancer both functioning as "the masses," who form a duet with their body gestures, it is, more importantly, the "inanimate masses" — the sound, light, smoke, umbrellas, masks, black clothes, descending light tubes, and various objects on stage — that act as both coparticipants of the performance as well as agents. We should not restrict the masses only to the "dancer-spectator" humans, but must also take into consideration the organic, ecological network created together by the objects and the masses. Hence, it is this "ecological network" that is the true protagonist of the piece.

Third, is the drive, body infection, and osmosis of the ecological network only a stance against "the sense of alienated distance"? As a matter of fact, the spectators are not forced to move; they can, instead, also choose to "remain where they are" and refuse to assist or support the dancer as she falls, grasps, and stumbles during the course of the performance; they can maintain their reason and regard other's pains from a distance, or even decide to hold their ground during the opening scene during which the dancer directly walks through the audience and force her to make a detour. This relationship between "immersive participation" and "detached observation" likewise echoes real-life protest situations, where some observe the scenes from afar and others directly and enthusiastically take part in the action. And most importantly, the performance is not entirely controlled by the director: the audience functions as the main factor of uncertainty. Everything hangs in the balance, and the audience is bestowed with a great amount of liberty to interfere with the dancer's choreographed movements.

What Makes Us Rise Up?

The experiential, equal, and serendipitous nature of the work evokes a sense of playfulness. The masses are not a homogeneous crowd controlled from the top; instead, it is a fluid network that is decentralized, accidental, randomly converging, and full of life. Most importantly, *Masses* engages critically with the "medium of theater" and its original function as festival and assembly. If we take a look back, we can see that theater originally served as assembly; it not only offered a space for people to watch performances (thus becoming "spectacles") but also created an "alternative public space" through the expansion of its affective influence (which is not pre-determined, but interventional, accidental, and unpredictable).

In the last scene of *Masses*, the dancer opens the window to let the "outside world" into the "fictional theater," releasing the tension of the depressive, suffocating, tense, and shifting sensory stimulations, while also leaving room for the audience to reflect on the impassionate intensity they've just witnessed. In addition, the show also ends without a curtain call, signaling the fact that social movements "never truly come to an end." To

conclude, I would like to quote the inspiring words by the art historian Georges Didi-Huberman from his book *To Desire*, *To Disobey: What Makes Us Rise Up*:

To rise up? First, to pick up one's fear, no doubt. To throw it away. Or even to throw it directly in the face of those who draw their power from organizing our fears. To throw it away, but also to spread this very gesture. To give it, through this, a political sense. It is to have aroused one's desire. It is to have seized it — and with it its expansive joy — in order to throw it in the air, so that it extends into the space we breathe, the space of others, and the entire public and political space. [2]

Masses successfully rejects the discourse-centered didacticism and the reductionism of visual media and transforms the "audience of visual observation" into "masses of physical participation" by means of our bodies, gestures, and ambience. Bodies collide in the theater space. We conjure up gestures of revolution, resistance, vulnerability, and pain from our muscle memories buried deep within our bodies, releasing these gestures from the corporeal confines of today's system of privatization (the affective control of the media). As aesthetics reshapes our depleted desires and exerts radical force, we are allowed to develop alternative desires and passions once again; we dance like Bacchus, the god of wine, and we are equal like water, like beasts, like everything, like the universe, like chaos — like, Mi Mi Mew Mew.

Notes

[1] Since Mi Mi Mew Mew underlines the apposition of hybridity and paradox instead of that of mutual exclusion, it detests the binary logic of mutual exclusion between "art" and "society."

[2] 迪迪-于貝爾曼(Georges Didi-Huberman)(陳旻 譯),〈慾望所致:何以讓我們揭竿 起義〉,《新美術》第2期(2018):39-104。

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"We," are Dust and Noise

譯|張新

"The storytellers have not realized that the Sleeping Beauty would have awoken covered in a thick layer of dust [...] Meanwhile dismal sheets of dust constantly invade earthly habitations and uniformly defile them." - Georges Bataille

People often overlook the fundamental conditions of everything as they focus their attention on the knowledge of modern civilization, and theorists since Foucault have devoted themselves to showing us how this cognitive system is constituted, and how humanities should not be taken for granted, or rather, how the things we see, sense and know are the product of various cultural conditions. Cultural studies and contemporary art aim to deconstruct these cultural conditions and raise awareness about linguistic, symbolic, and historical violence. However, in recent years, artists have moved away from the deconstruction of power structures such as culture and language (a method developed by conceptual art) and are turning towards operating the Mi Mi Mew Mew cosmoses.

Is It a Signal, or Noise?

Everything we see, know, and sense today is based on a "system of exclusion." In ancient Greece, this system is the voice of reason: only men were allowed to possess it, while women and slaves were seen as noise by the system. Fast forward to today — the age of Meta (Instagram or Facebook) — and it is the "face" that is identified, prioritized, and consolidated by this system as the definitive human feature; anuses and genitals are considered to be visual noise and must be excluded from the system without delay.[2] This "winnowing" process permits us to swiftly grasp the meaning of things and establish a hierarchical order, yet it also forcefully reinforces the existing system of clarity and filters out all the noise. And oftentimes, Mi Mi Mew Mew is the noise that must be excluded by the voice of legitimacy.

Noise includes political issues that often appear in contemporary art exhibitions and international film festivals (refugees, immigrants, migrants, diaspora, LGBTQ, and people whose identities are difficult to anchor); however, as these issues are gradually consolidated, noise also seems to be co-opted by the political system. While major international biennales rarely miss out on these major topics, they likewise cannot avoid the problem of the exploitation of minority identities.

However, as Rancière suggests, the political is not chiefly about the political correctness of advocating for minorities, but about the radicality of the "operation"; not making the other (noise) visible, but allowing it to challenge our framework of the sensible and to speak for itself. This does not mean that artists should come to represent the other; instead, artists should function as "moderators" and help bring forth these hidden voices.

Hence, the political is not about the political correctness of the issue at hand, but about finding ways to "operationally" underline the noise and dissensions that cannot be easily absorbed by the system, an operation that is both political and aesthetic. To uncover the dust, considered often to be background noise, is precisely to challenge our usual practices and customs.

The Knowledge Operation of Dust

Returning to the overall ambient and spatial experience, the grand prize of the Taipei Art Awards 2021 challenges the praxis of addressing major issues. In their award-winning *Ambient Extraction: sedimentary soundscapes in dust*, artists Yen-Chun Lin and Aloïs Yang employ live installations to express their concern for "alternative knowledge production." This alternative system not only exceeds the human perspective (trapped in the aforementioned predicament of political correctness) but also examines the absolute objectivity contained within "dust" knowledge.

In a dark exhibition room filled with a faint purple radiance: slender sculptures attached with sound-recording, radar-like objects. A large sculpture is placed in the middle, fitted with a TV set; apocalyptic scenes of nature devoid of humans are playing on its screen. Sounds rise and fall in the room, evoking a sense of intimate enclosure: doomsday volcanoes, flowing rivers, and absolute silence (with bass frequencies). Through a glass lens, light reveals the invisible protagonist of this space: dust.

Dust, often regarded as noise by the human subject, paradoxically and inversely becomes the subject that "shapes the spectator" through the reverberations of sound monitors (uniting invisible dust with ambient sounds). Recalling "the Zone" in Andrei Tarkovsky's *Stalker*, the region of human civilization in decline, we enter a space filled with dust, which encourages us to reflect on our own existence. However, in contrast to the damp, tattered sense of nostalgia in Tarkovsky's film, the installations in the exhibition room are cold and disinterested, like scientific detectors. This cold atmosphere creates an interesting tension with the romantic inner universe.

The "Atemporality" Neglected by Human Time

Unlike the historical archival research or scientific experiments (based on empirical data of the past), dust objectivity and future archeology, declared by the artists, are at once scientific, historical, and aesthetic; they transform cognition into an "ambient experience," escaping the shackles of linguistic cognition, and is more concerned with regulating the invisible ambience, creating "tactile experiences" that exceeds pure visual cognition (by immersing the viewers' senses and shaping them with dust soundscapes).

"Dust time" is unlike our human linear time. While linear time is often based on the exclusion of unstable temporality, dust time is more entangled, an unstable temporality in which the past is the future, the future is the past. Here, time is no longer the quantified physical time, but the inner durational time. Instead of referring to dust time as non-linear time (as the spectacle of consumption is also a non-linear time that incarcerates us), it may be better to describe it as "atemporal time": it is not the linear or non-linear time that privileges only human history, but a time in which species can coexist and the *Umwelt* is considered as a whole.

Furthermore, similar to how the artist Wu Tsan-Cheng introduced natural soundscapes into the art museum in his solo exhibition "10 - Taiwan Sound Map Project," *Ambient Extraction* also adopts natural sounds from the outside world as "ready-mades" and transfers them into the white cube. Nonetheless, in comparison with the natural sounds of Taiwan gathered by Wu, those of *Ambient Extraction* are collected from more unusual

locations (namely, dust sounds from the British secret Atomic Weapons Research Establishment) and are combined into a complex sonic amalgam that evokes cosmic noise or apocalyptic cries.

Experiencing Sound and Ambience

In regard to creating acoustic ambience, whereas Su Yu Hsin explores in her work *hibernatemode* the alternative temporality of moss with the arrangement of image-sound-essay, the artists of *Abstract Extraction* focus on dust time. These "non-human" concepts of time greatly challenge our "human preconceptions of time" (linear or non-linear). The situation and the invisible air are now the foci of the experience, taking the place of the human voice.

Even so, we should still note that this sort of non-linguistic "situational experience" is very much in compliance with the neoliberal "experience economy." In the age of co-opted experiences, our feelings are constantly controlled by invisible situations, as we no longer consume visible, concrete objects (Deleuze's concept of "societies of control"). "Objects" are no longer exterior, but are transformed into the viewer's subjective experiences (when visiting a coffee shop, we are more often than not consuming the invisible experience itself). The difference is that, while neoliberal experiences are geared toward persuading people to consume feelings of self-satisfaction, turning experiences into commodities, artistic situational experiences are purposeless and directionless, encouraging people to contemplate their own existences and reflect on the world and the universe.

Dust Ambience in the Background

Abstract Extraction not only makes dust visible but also "makes it speak." It brings dust to the visual foreground and uses it as "perceivable background noise." Thus, the background is transformed from an inert material complementing the subject into vibrant life. The goal of Abstract Extraction is not to represent dust with imagery but to make perceptible the "information flow of dust" which had, until now, been relegated to the background.

Like noise, dust — suspended ambient particles that permeate the air — is endowed with a high level of "materiality" but often neglected or scorned by humans. While the modern code of hygiene and cleanliness prohibits artworks and commodities from being "contaminated" by dust (laboratories are likewise dust-free environments), artists strive to reverse this relationship by adopting the "environmental background" as their creative motives. This ethos can be traced back to Erik Satie's concept of furniture music in the 19th century, to John Cage's 4'33" and its move towards environmental sounds in the 20th century, and later to Brian Eno and his advocacy for ambient music.

From "Eschatological Dust" to "Vital Dust"

Ambience also has a close relationship with dust. From Man Ray's *Dust Breeding*, a photograph of Duchamp's *The Large Glass*, to the curatorial response to this work by David Campany, the photography exhibition "A Handful of Dust: from the Cosmic to the Domestic," artists have often tackled the question of invisible dust. Building on Bataille's theory of the ontological amorphousness of dust (cosmos), they indicate that "it [dust]

embodies a cosmic time beyond human scope or hope. Returning eternally, dust will humble civilization." [3] Compared with the speculative history of dust, the history of human civilization, while seemingly great and magnificent, is, in fact, only a drop in the ocean of time. [4]

Both Bataille and Campany consider the relationship between human impermanence and cosmic dust from the Christian eschatological perspective (ashes to ashes, dust to dust). By contrast, I would like to borrow the Buddhist concept of "huan chen" (幻塵, illusory dust) to propose a different perspective. Unlike Christian eschatology, fatalism and its view of human's inherent impermanence, or Buddhism's disapproval of earthly illusions, the illusory dust of art reappraises the phenomenal world, often taken for granted, to affirm the reality of virtual illusions and encourage us to reflect on the circulation, interweaving, and movement of dust particles. If, for Bataille, dust is a symbol of death, then "huan chen" is a symbol of circulation, life, vitality, ecology, and flow.

The stable world we perceive is limited by the scope of human speech. The amorphousness of "huan chen" reveals the underlying and true nature of things. It is not the romantic subject of idealism, nor the materialism of science, but the fundamental materialism that is "both materialistic and idealistic" — the cosmoses forever colliding with each other. The cosmoses in constant movement and the memories of dust in the air bring to mind a conjecture that the scientist Charles Babbage made in 1828, which prefigures and becomes the operational reality of *Ambient Extraction*:

"The air itself is one vast library, on whose pages are for ever written all that man has ever said or woman whispered. There, in their mutable but unerring characters, mixed with the earliest, as well as with the latest sighs of mortality, stand for ever recorded, vows unredeemed, promises unfulfilled, perpetuating in the united movements of each particle, the testimony of man's changeful will."

The "We" of the Story

We, become dust everywhere.

We, lurk imperceptibly in the dark.

We, are like dissonance disowned by the melody.

We, are mixing into messages.

We, collide with air particles, merging with human dander, cat fur, viruses, saliva, and other suspended, inorganic matter.

We, morph into ambience and formlessness, no longer being the stable human subject, but the heterogeneous "we".

We, are no longer a community created by excluding others (anthropocentrism, xenophobic, stable communities such as the Nazis or Trump supporters), but the "we" that endorses the Other and changes with it, an unknown we.

We, are made by superimposing the dust of the past and the future. No longer the stable subject of linear time (only humans) but the "we" that incorporates various elements: dust from the big bang, meteorites, dinosaur bones, pollen, cellphone materials, the dead, and the unborn.

We, are the swarm, the flow, the field, the force, the meow, and the universe.

Notes

- [1] Georges Bataille, 'Poussiere', Documents no. 5, 1929, p278-279.
- [2] Furthermore, in his essay "Proxy Politics: Signal and Noise," the artist Hito Steyerl discusses this operational system of faces and anuses. Like dust, anuses are also noise that exists but is often obscured. https://www.e-flux.com/journal/60/61045/proxy-politics-signal-and-noise/
- [3] 大衛·卡帕尼(David Campany)(陳珮瑄、李欣潔 譯)《塵與時:從宇宙到居所》。 台中市:國立臺灣美術館,2020。 頁174。
- [4] The art historian Yve-Alain Bois once used Bataille's concept of dust to discuss how human architecture is doomed to extinction. Later, he also adopted the concept of "formlessness" by Bataille as the central motive for an exhibition he co-curated with Rosalind Krauss at Centre Pompidou. "Formlessness" is also a key concept of Mi Mi Mew Mew. Bois, Yve-Alain, and Rosalind E. Krauss. Formless: A user's guide. New York: Zone Books, 1997.
- [5] Charles Babbage, The Ninth Bridgewater Treatise. 1828. https://victorianweb.org/science/science_texts/bridgewater/intro.htm

Reshaping the Landscape of the Afterlife: "Sketching That Head, and the Stories of Its Body - Hsu Che-Yu Solo Exhibition"

譯|張新

"The phenomenological 'becoming aware' of the body has turned into the uncanny: the production of the double, the membra disjecta, the fantasy of suffocation tied to the fear of being buried alive, and the split into two of the ego, which no longer gathers its organs together but looks at them as though from outside." - Rosalind E. Krauss [1]

How can we represent reality in the contemporary world, where the excess of images in the media and the overabundance of composite images have blurred the line between reality and fiction? What is the relation of violence, death, and darkness to reality? How can we reconstruct a "crime scene"? Or invoke memories unstable and irregular like the land and shatter the illusion of continuous memory (the media and history)?

With the endless barrage of media images, a damp, vague, dejected, weary, and ominous sensation lurks beneath the surface of our times. Wars, pandemics, and planetary crises today are mostly mediated by the media. We seek out different "mediums" (from news media to the metaverse) to "represent" reality as best as we can, but are confronted with the dilemma of media "representation" being always "a distortion of reality."

The media landscape has also undergone significant changes recently. While the mass media once played a substantial role in shaping our memories, the emergence of social media platforms has undermined our ability to construct "collective memories." We have lost our common ground, as tribes are becoming insulated thanks to big data analytics. If, in the age of television, our memories had more or less been based on a shared foundation, then online platforms today have deprived us of this foundation, compensating for it only with what they provide, and we are left with fragmentary memories that are dispersed, ambivalent, and irreconcilable (truth is irrelevant, efficacy is everything).

Memory and Forgetting in Media Representation

Having lived through the transition from the "age of television" to the "age of computers," I have noticed how our collective memories have rapidly been erased and forgotten. We continue to externalize our memories (writing, uploading posts and photos, and producing news stories) and contribute to the process of forgetting. Plato once wrote about the paradox of the relationship between writing and forgetting. Nowadays, it is the relationship between "representation" and "forgetting" that is amplified. Representation and forgetting are frenetically intertwined with each other; it seems that we have documented everything, but nothing is actually remembered. How can we overcome this paradox and restore our memories?

Ever since the radical deconstruction of "reality" by the postmodernist movement, we have been trapped in the realm of relativism: nothing is real anymore; we are left with infinite simulations and "representation after representation after representation..." (e.g., the cycle in which we take a picture of a living cat, upload it, and reproduce it in the real world). To

confront this dilemma and tackle the problem of "post-truth" exacerbated by the rise of internet platforms, I wish to reaffirm the importance of "alternative truths"; alternative truth no longer asserts that "reality is superior to fiction"; instead, it stands in relation to "fictional" feelings such as affect, death, noise, impurities, unstableness, the uncanny, and impossibilities — fragmentary and dismembered realities: posthuman techniques of affect movement.

Brief Notes on the Exhibition Scene

The camera cuts to the exhibition "Sketching That Head, and the Stories of Its Body - Hsu Che-Yu Solo Exhibition," a collaboration between artist Hsu Che-Yu and writer Chen Wan-Yin. As we enter the dark exhibition space, we are greeted with a screening of The Making of Crime Scenes; large-scale, coarse 3D model images, somber, desolate wuxia film sequences, and casual scenes in a karaoke bar meet us head-on. Soft cushions on the floor hint at a laid-back viewing experience, but the images displayed are hardly laid-back or heartwarming; instead, it is an act of remembrance filled with brutality, darkness, and fissures.

We turn left and enter the next room, which showcases the work Lacuna. A whispering, bleak, and dark narrative sweeps over us, with hand-drawn human figures pasted onto realistic settings; scratch, distortion, eyeball movements, and idle chit-chat take the protagonist's nerdiness to the extreme, accompanied by unsteady handheld shots from private home movies. Ominous intentions of murder lurk beneath the seemingly innocuous everyday conversations; heads detached from their bodies are inadvertently invoked in the narrative.

In the gray, dark space located further inside is a "material installation," the first work from the exhibition that is not a video projection: a gray severed leg leaning against the wall, a slanted television, and a vague, abstract picture painted in a gray-white hue. Reality seems to have been stripped of its colorful and alluring exterior, smeared over with a layer of gray with a suspenseful, fragile, and broken tone.

At the farthest end of the exhibition space, we see Rabbit 314; its intense, eerie rabbit images of terrible clarity strike us in the face: a rabbit's corpse performs the movements of a living rabbit (scratching and licking its fur). As the puppeteer reenacts the rabbit's gestures, the camera draws closer to the dead rabbit's fur, inducing a sense of tactile-visual dizziness in the viewer; the rotten stench of death oozes out of the moving images, a striking example of synesthetic experience created by visual stimulus. On the other side of the room lies the distorted projection of The Unusual Death of a Mallard. Ducks, animals, and children wander through the physical environment with stunning verisimilitude; yet their scanned models on screen are imperfect, coarse images constantly breaking apart, metamorphosing, and displaying their flaws.

Filth and Fractal Surfaces

If the images of the mass media and historical representation (modeling) are primarily visual, like the impeccable, plastic skin of internet celebrities, the technological models in Hsu's work are wrinkled, scarred, and mutilated, resembling geological landscapes with their ragged, rough, and fractured surfaces. If mass media content, official histories, and collective memories, as well as scientific records and criminal archives, are "Earth images" — the "Blue Marbles" of cleanliness and order — which are "observable and controllable",

"planetary images" move along the ground, infiltrating the muddy, filthy, damp, vague, and textile surface, which causes us to remember our daily lives in a completely different manner.

Bodies are no longer whole; they are severed and decapitated. The viewers, like detectives, gather hints in the exhibition rooms and actively piece together their own fabrications. We come to realize that the mass media, scientific specimens, criminal archives, and collective histories all seem to minimize the complexity of life. However, Hsu does not shy away from the mediums; instead, he manipulates them in a private and everyday fashion and is not afraid to expose his own position. [3]

The Collective and the Private: Entangled Geological Skins

As to self-disclosure and private sensibility, in the recounting of the assassination of Henry Liu in The Making of Crime Scenes, we not only see the assassinator, Wu Dun, enthusiastically reminisce, as well as the graphical modeling of his memories, but we also witness the artist interviewing a 3D scanning team in a karaoke lounge, and hearing them talk about how they perform forensic scanning at gruesome crime scenes. After the camera does a 360-degree survey of the lounge, we see him on stage ferociously singing the chorus of Dave Wang's "One Game, One Dream." [2] Coincidentally or not, in The Unusual Death of a Mallard, during a transition in which the camera pans over an uncanny coat of stain on the floor in a karaoke bar, the female protagonist is, similarly, singing Amei's "Can't Cry It Out." The violence, trauma, and fissures concealed in our past intersect and intertwine in our collective memory of '90s pop music.

Hsu's camera movement reconstructs the scenes as he transforms real-life scenarios into 3D models. In The Making of Crime Scenes, the artist abandons his trademark "handheld perspectives" (with its authentic home-movie texture) in favor of "non-human perspectives," like model shots that continuously glide, scan, and reconstruct reality (even the camera movement of the live wuxia sequences look like 3D models). In the last shot, the floating, spectral perspective surveys the geological surfaces and brilliantly "penetrates" Wu Dun's 3D-modeled head, blurring the line between the inside and the outside; we are no longer watching Wu Dun's memories from the outside but seem to have folded into the narrator's interior. The viewer is forced to wear the "skin mask" of the protagonist; our memories become entangled in the collective memory of wuxia movies, bloody news reports, and karaoke lounges.

Embracing the Afterlife! - Beyond the Representation of Nightmares

Our camera cuts back to the "alternative truths" mentioned earlier. While mediums, scanners, and modeling distort our reality, is it not better for us to take back the scanners instead of letting the media, private corporations, and ideologies control them and manipulate reality? To reconstruct our own models? To thrust the scanners inside Putin's head? Or to "reduce" the clarity and integrity of the modeling? Why are we content to live in a tribalized present controlled by internet platforms, unwilling to quit and reactivate alternative collective memories offline?

Hsu often "shapes" his images into menacing, decadent, gloomy, violent, and sardonic compositions; he also aims to reconstruct the impossibility of "death" by inducing a liminal state that verges on the "afterlife." What stops us from creating our own jovial, cheerful, crazy, divided, and chaotic models in order to take part in the afterlife? So let us gladly

pledge alliance with the animals, skins, severed limbs, specters, digital noise, and festering geological pores of the planet! But don't forget to stay close to the ground, as well as the interweaving hybridization of inverted realities and Mi Mi Mew Mew, because we still need to re-excavate the vestiges of our dark collective/private memories buried within our island strata, in order to receive the alternative truths of the afterlife.

Notes

- [1] Bois, Yve-Alain, and Rosalind E. Krauss. Formless: A user's guide. New York: Zone Books, 1997, pp. 160-161.
- [2] The song "One Game, One Dream" echoes Wu Dun's life experiences: the spectacle of life is but a game, a dream. But this does not mean that games and dreams are therefore fake; they are, to a certain degree, true in their own right.
- [3] In his work, Hsu often reveals the "camera position," which makes the reenactments more "reflexive" and prevents them from reinforcing the inflexible historical narrative.

Mi Mi Mew Mew Manifesto

譯丨張新

Human, all too Human? Mi Mew, Mi Mi Mew Mew?

Mi Mi Mew Mew is not only about cats. It's also a reevaluation of our past, a reform of our sensibility and imagination.

Mi Mi Mew Mew is not the (wholesome, funny, or cute) cat images that pop up incessantly on your Instagram feed, but the feeling we get caressing a cat: the irreducible intensity, the force of becoming, and sense of the whole.

"Information" on today's social media is constantly reducing this irreducible intensity. Social media is systematically weakening our complex feelings for cats into stickers, Cliff's notes, and infographics, to swiftly transmit messages easily digestible.

This information breeds binary oppositions that continue to infiltrate our everyday lives: conservatives vs. progressives, dog people vs. cat people, Republicans vs. Democrats, straight vs. queer, leftists vs. rightists, activists vs. art enthusiasts, the oppressor vs. the oppressed. Regardless of our preferences for pets, the political logic of binary opposition will ceaselessly shape our perception of the world.

Binary oppositions and superficial stickers are weakening our sensibility and reinforcing the existing world order.

It's not an easy thing to shape the existing world, because the content must be constantly challenged and updated at an increasingly rapid pace, like the iOS update messages regularly appearing, Elon Musk's Mars Mission, or Mark Zuckerberg rebranding Facebook as Meta. In place of the existing world, Mi Mi Mew Mew is concerned about "potential worlds" – ontological worlds, transcendental worlds, impossible worlds, emerging worlds. These are undoubtedly not the "metaverse" Zuckerberg is speaking about, which is controlled entirely by capital and data.

Today, we are often scorned by cultural studies scholars if we don't mention culture before discussing ontology, since metaphysics and ontology are both universal assumptions developed by white men, based on the exclusion of non-western perspectives, and neglect cultural and normative differences.

However, if we ignore alternative possibilities, we will often retreat into the "empirical world" and reinforce the existing world order.

The Mi Mi Mew Mew Universe eludes the empirical, existing world and escapes traditional, metaphysical frameworks.

In double dissociation, Mi Mi Mew Mew is closer to the alternative universe. It is a political stance. It is new as well as old, Western as well as Asian.

Mi Mi Mew Mew endorses paradoxes. It neither creates consensus by resolving conflicts nor adheres to the axiom of "new is always better".

Mi Mi Mew Mew applies "both/and" thinking, juxtaposing contradictions like dreams. It does not follow linear time (like the unwavering friendship and company of dogs) but is situated in the perpetual moment.

Mi Mi Mew Mew resists the governance of the state and capital on (cyber)space; it occupies existing space and allows people to dream. Like cinema, Mi Mi Mew Mew reinvigorates our weakened imagination that is ravaged by consumerism.

Furthermore, Mi Mi Mew Mew is also about "discourse". Mi Mi Mew Mew does not invent new words. Instead, it borrows, reinvents, and appropriates words. Mi Mi Mew Mew does not seek to invent new languages for new concepts (like "body without organs") but is always able to find cracks within the usage of existing language.

Mi Mi Mew Mew is not "interdisciplinary", "start-up", "new" or "technological", but is newer and more interdisciplinary than all of the above. Mi Mi Mew Mew not only reinvents words and images but also reconfigures our imagination of the world.

Mi Mi Mew Mew is not about the visible, but more about the invisible infrastructure, the underlying operative measures.

Mi Mi Mew Mew is virtual as well as material. It is the immersive, virtual images of the metaverse, as well as its material foundation.

Mi Mi Mew Mew makes laugh and cry, but also reflexively aware of the material conditions of its medium.

Mi Mi Mew Mew should not be the fabricated illusions of Hollywood movies and consumerist memes, or the solemn medial reflexiveness of contemporary art (making us aware of the manipulation of illusions).

Mi Mi Mew Mew is the illusion as well as its medium. It refuses to uphold the binary opposition of high culture and popular culture (the truth of art vs. the falsity of consumerism) and consistently merges contradictory elements together.

Mi Mi Mew Mew resists binary logic, "the law of contradiction" and "the law of excluded middle", which state that in case of contradiction there can only be one correct answer (either society or art is more important). Mi Mi Mew Mew rejects this tendency towards distinct conclusions. Instead, it returns to the state of chaos in which things are at once artistic and social, aesthetic and political, vulgar and refined, obscene and normal, retarded and brilliant.

Mi Mi Mew Mew lies beyond the constraints of all the disciplines, but is also their shared foundation; In modernity, academic disciplines tend to embark on a process of "purification", establishing exclusionary boundaries between one another. Furthermore, Mi Mi Mew Mew is also against the "interdisciplinary" craze, because interdisciplinarity is already part of the establishment, a "discipline" in and of itself, and co-opted by consumerism (leading to all sorts of co-branding frenzies). Mi Mi Mew Mew is the invisible

foundation of all the disciplines, an a priori infrastructure, rather than a product of experience.

The meeethod of Mi Mi Mew Mew is closely related to: Laaaatour's STS (science, technology, and society) Harman's Object-oriented Ontology Neeew Materialism since Deleuuuuze Haraaaway's Cyberfeeeeeminism and the approaaaaches of contemporary art.

And all of them utiliiize:
Non-human perspective
Biolooogical entanglement
Complex intersectionality
Viscous and vibrating methods
the blurring of the boundaries by

the blurring of the boundaries between the humananities (politics) and science instead of keeping them intact.

The difference is that:

Mi Mi Mew Mew is based on "voice" and therefore avoids the pitfalls of conceptual assumptions such as "art" and "STS".

Mi Mi Mew Mew is a return to the material vibration of the voice, the original reverberation of creation, the sound of "Om", but differs from this pure vibration in that it entangles more polyphonic siren songs. Mi Mi Mew Mew disenchants existing disciplines and re-enchants us with the sound, spell and magic of lips – vocal cords – the vibration of lungs.

However, Mi Mi Mew Mew is not a return to the natural and harmonious pre-modern condition that invokes nostalgia or assumes a peaceful, spiritual foundation of mankind, nor a return to the humanist tradition, championed by religious gurus or hippies.

The ontology of Mi Mi Mew Mew is: "specificity", "contradiction", "paradox" and "heterogeneity". Mi Mi Mew Mew embraces technology instead of our pure spirituality and challenges all of the basic assumptions that proclaim consensus and harmony (which are often exclusionary and violent in nature).

Mi Mi Mew Mew also exposes actively and forcefully the cracks of modern technology to recontextualize and reinvigorate our technological usage, disenchants us with our anthropocentric urge for control that is predicated on functionality, reason, goal-orientation and consumerism, and returns us to the accidental, heterogeneous vitality of technology itself.

Similar to big data operations, rather than focusing on meaning-based discourses, Mi Mi Mew Mew is concerned about "non-cognitive systems", attentive to constantly emerging relations and connections.

This allows us to distance ourselves from the Habermasian ideal of "intersubjectivity"; in the information society, we are all taking part in "interobjectivity". As you read these words, your unconscious activities – click behavior, dwell time, cursor movement – are being tracked and stored as data.

Mi Mi Mew Mew does not long to return to the humanist subject with its illusory freedom. Rather, it is fully aware of the inevitability of our interobjectivity and is deeply engaged in it.

Mi Mi Mew Mew is also closely related to Benjamin and his theory of technical media, because it rejects a return to the traditional aura of pre-modernity in the cyber age of mechanical reproduction, choosing instead to recontextualize and create its own aura.

Mi Mi Mew Mew affirms the ambiguity of human-machine relations, rather than celebrating traditional humanist values. Mi Mi Mew Mew is more machine than machine, more humanist than humanism, more scientific than science, and more consumerist than consumerism.

Mi Mi Mew Mew is the noise beyond the stable operating system and shows an affinity with Kusanagi Motoko of Ghost in the Shell, Neo of The Matrix, and Dolores of Westworld, blurring the human-machine distinction, deconstructing the discourse of man, and challenging the operating system as its exception. Mi Mi Mew Mew appears to adhere to the current rules of the information society, but has in fact existed long before its arrival.

If N. Katherine Hayles could proclaim in 1999 that "we are already posthuman", Mi Mi Mew Mew shall proudly raise the banner that reads, "WE ARE ALL MI MI MEW MEW"!