



YIN-JU CHEN /// SELECTED WORKS 2006 - 2015

Notes on Psychedelics

Multimedia installation: 3 archival and new videos, numerous archival images, books, texts, and objects | 2015

Video Preview | Password for all: sandiago1

The Brain | 1'

<https://vimeo.com/127997206>

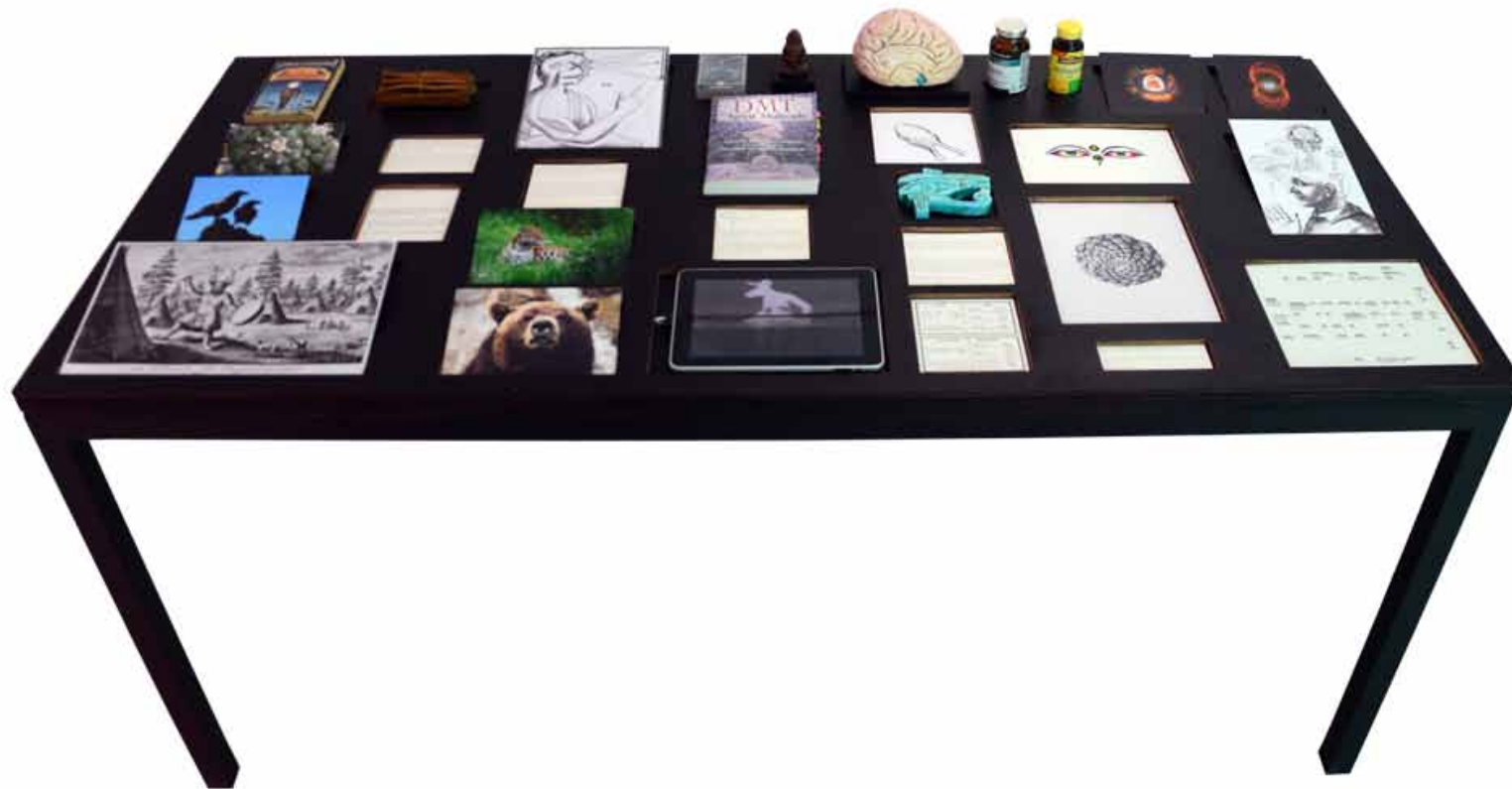
Interview with Shaman Don Roberto | 32'38"

<https://vimeo.com/127407628>

Removed TED talk | War on Consciousness |

Graham Hancock | 18'45"

<https://vimeo.com/127893857>





Installation view at The Cube project space, Taipei

*Although the soul is joined with the entire body, there is one part of the body [the pineal] in which it exercises its function more than elsewhere... [The pineal] is so suspended between the passages containing the animal spirits [guiding reason and carrying sensation and movement] that it can be moved by them...; and it carries this motion on to the soul... Then conversely, the body machine is so constituted that whenever the gland is moved in one way or another by the soul, or for that matter by any other cause, it pushes the animal spirits which surround it to the pores of the brain. (Descartes, René. The Inter-Relation of Soul and Body, in *The Way of Philosophy*, 1954, 357)*

Notes on Psychedelics is a survey of drugs, consciousness, and the soul. It investigates the motivations behind the consumption of psychedelic drugs and focuses on the substance called "DMT" (N,N-Dimethyltryptamine), which is biologically and naturally released by the pineal gland or "the third eye" within the brain.

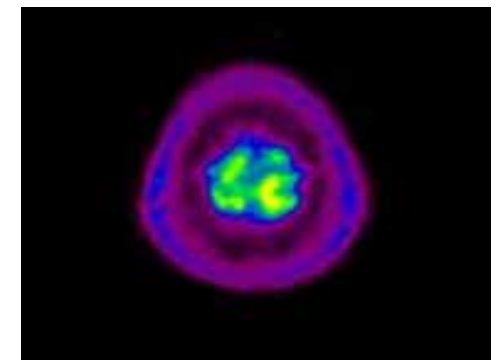
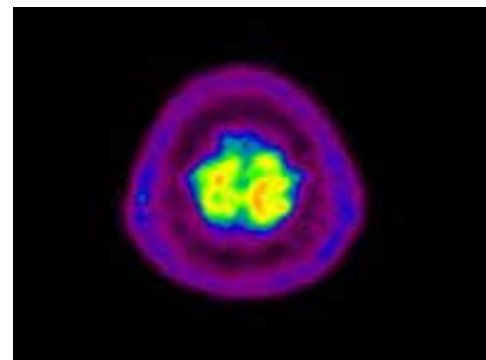
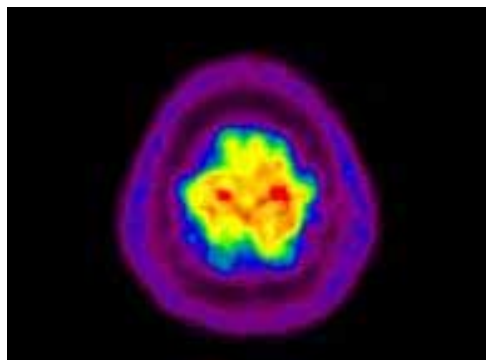
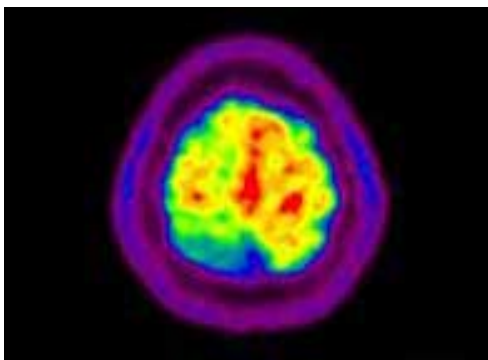
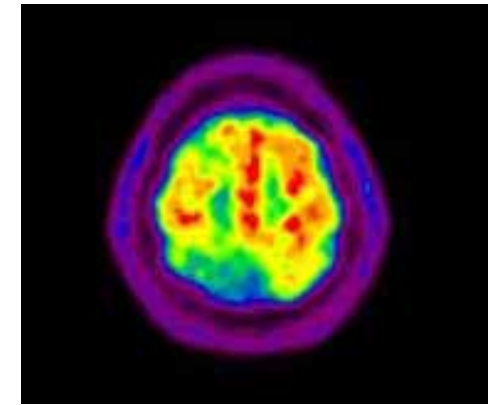
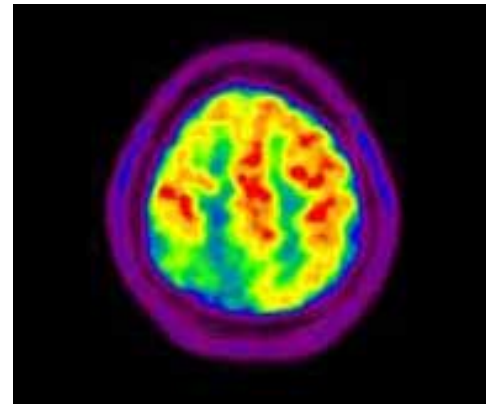
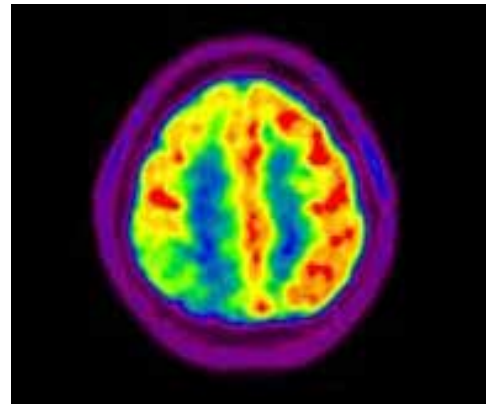
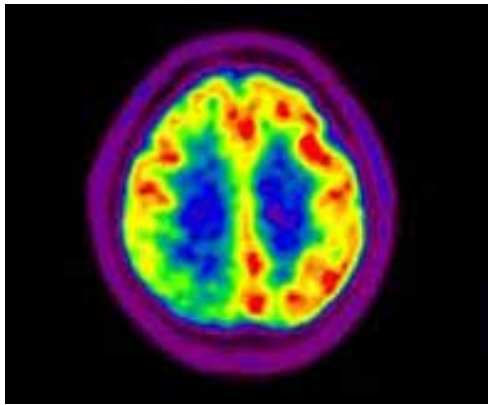
My brain is only a receiver, in the Universe there is a core from which we obtain knowledge, strength and inspiration. I have not penetrated into the secrets of this core, but I know that it exists. (Tesla, Nikola)

Encompassing philosophy, religion, medical science, art, and cults, my practice daringly and rigorously assumes that the universe has its own consciousness, and as human beings we all seek our own paths that seem ostensibly different, but eventually return to the universe.

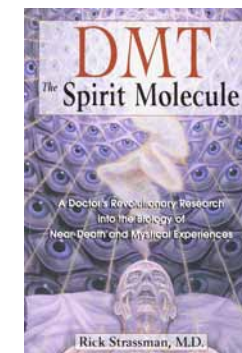
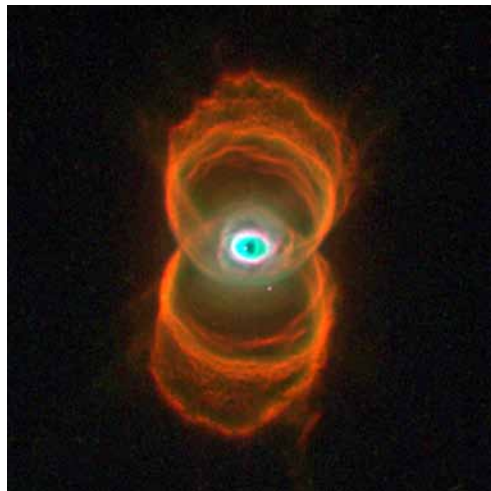
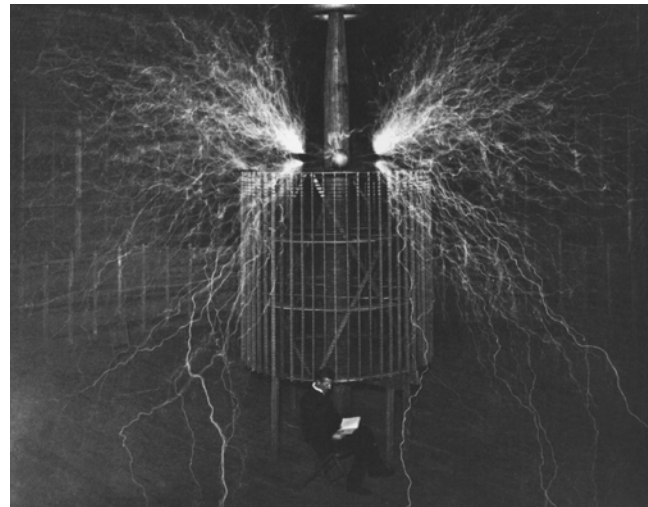
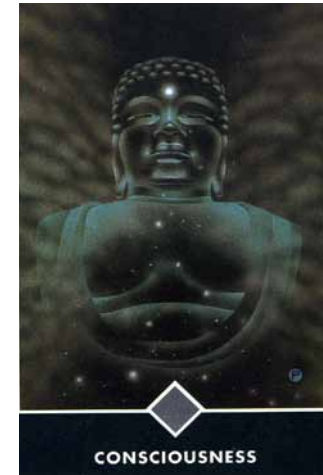
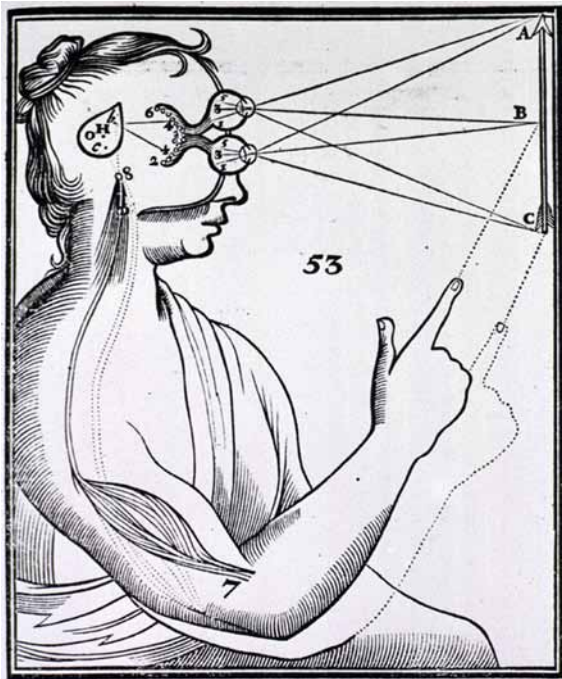
The eye, at the summit of the skull, opening on the incandescent sun in order to contemplate it in a sinister solitude, is not a product of the understanding, but is instead an immediate existence; it opens and blinds itself like a conflagration, or like a fever that eats the being, or more exactly, the head. And thus it plays the role of a fire in a house; the head, instead of locking up life as money is locked in a safe, spends it without counting, for, at the end of this erotic metamorphosis, the head has received the electric power of points. This great burning head is the image and the disagreeable light of the notion of expenditure, beyond the still empty notion as it is elaborated on the basis of methodical analysis.

From the first, myth is identified not only with life but with the loss of life with degradation and death. Starting from the being who bore it, it is not at all an external product, but the form that this being takes in his lubricious avatars, in the ecstatic gift he makes of himself as obscene and nude victim-and a victim not before an obscure and immaterial force, but before great howls of prostitutes' laughter.

*Existence no longer resembles a neatly defined itinerary from one practical sign to another, but a sickly incandescence, a durable orgasm. (Bataille, Georges. The Pineal Eye, in *Visions of Excess: Selected Writings*, 1927-1939, 82)*



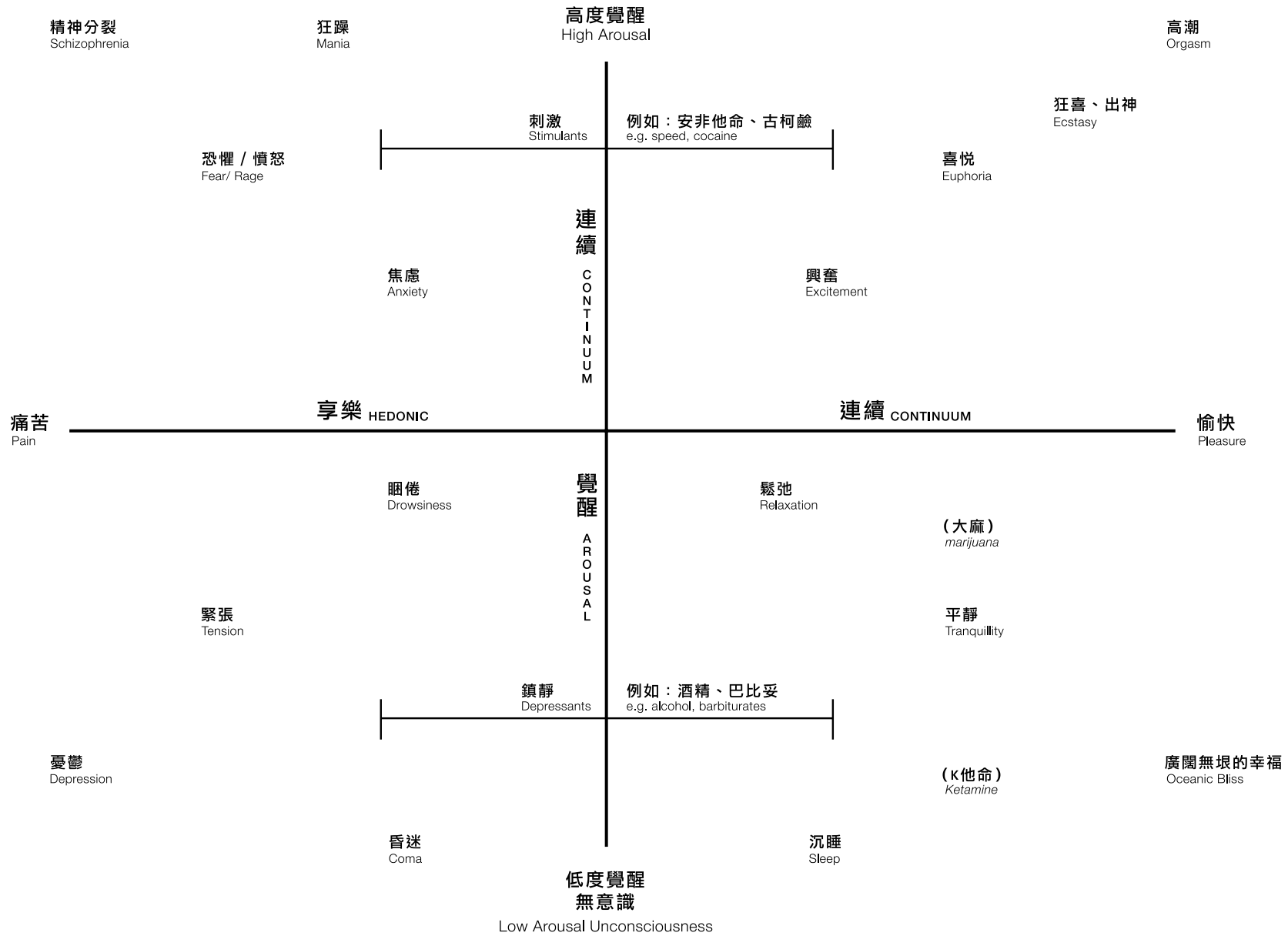
Video stills: [up-left] Interview with Shaman Don Roberto [up-right] Removed TED talk, *War on Consciousness*, Graham Hancock [down] *The Brain*



Samples of displaing objects. All found/ archival materials.

兩種維度的意識轉換

Two Dimensions of Altered States of Consciousness



Source/ Ralph Metzner, Ph.D.
PSYCHEDELIC, PSYCHOACTIVE AND ADDICTIVE
DRUGS AND STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Action at a Distance

3 channel video installation | 3 passages of texts

TRT: 9'16" | 2015

Video Preview:

<https://vimeo.com/115161982> | Password: sandiago1

Action at a Distance (2015) is the third chapter of my practices addressing the body, governments, and state violence. Like the previous chapters, *As Above, So Below* (2013-2014) and *Liquidation Maps* (2014), *Action at a Distance* expands and summarizes the metaphysical threads between invasive surgeries and instances of state violence.

In *As Above, So Below* and *Liquidation Maps*, I present mysticism and astrology as conduits for contemplating modern medical treatments and various massacres. *Action at a Distance* further elaborates the relationship between the macrocosm and the microcosm by exploring the philosophical consequences of quantum entanglement and the principle of correspondence.

Einstein called quantum entanglement “spooky action at a distance.” This chapter and its previous iterations ultimately describe a cohesive and interwoven universe, where science and pseudoscience are merely two complementary routes to understanding human life.



Installation view at IT PARK, Taipei

人可以做他想做的，
但不能要他想要的。

叔本華

*Man can do what he wills,
but he cannot will what he wills.*

Arthur Schopenhauer

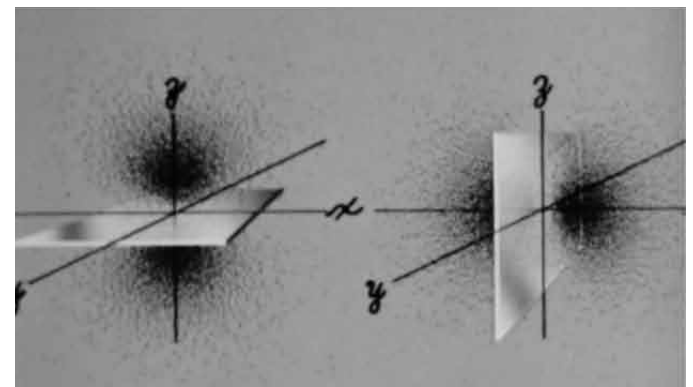
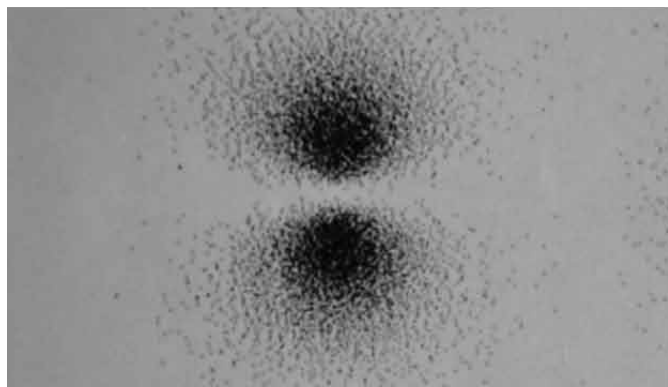
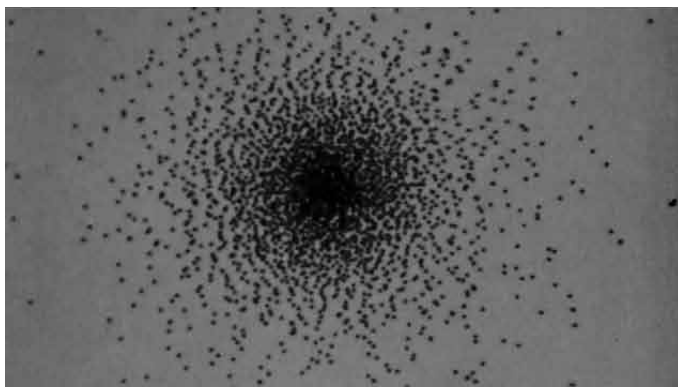
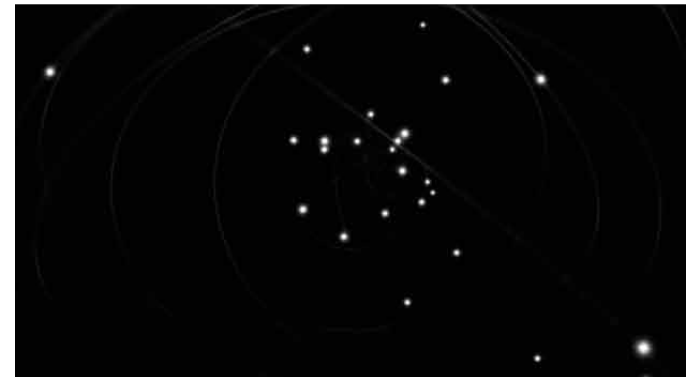


Installation view at IT PARK, Taipei

[up] 3 channel video in sync | TRT: 9'16"

Video Preview : <https://vimeo.com/115161982> | Password: sandiago1

[down] Installation view



Stills from *Action at a Distance*

Video Preview : <https://vimeo.com/115161982> | Password: sandiago1

《禮記 · 大學》

古之欲明明德於天下者，先治其國；欲治其國者，先齊其家；欲齊其家者，先修其身；欲修其身者，先正其心；欲正其心者，先誠其意；欲誠其意者，先致其知，致知在格物。物格而後知至，知至而後意誠，意誠而後心正，心正而後身修，身修而後家齊，家齊而後國治，國治而後天下平。自天子以至於庶人，壹是皆以修身為本。其本亂而末治者否矣，其所厚者薄，而其所薄者厚，未之有也！此謂知本，此謂知之至也。

Book of Rites — Great Learning

The ancients who wished to illustrate illustrious virtue throughout the kingdom, first ordered well their own states. Wishing to order well their states, they first regulated their families. Wishing to regulate their families, they first cultivated their persons. Wishing to cultivate their persons, they first rectified their hearts. Wishing to rectify their hearts, they first sought to be sincere in their thoughts. Wishing to be sincere in their thoughts, they first extended to the utmost their knowledge. Such extension of knowledge lay in the investigation of things. Things being investigated, knowledge became complete. Their knowledge being complete, their thoughts were sincere. Their thoughts being sincere, their hearts were then rectified. Their hearts being rectified, their persons were cultivated. Their persons being cultivated, their families were regulated. Their families being regulated, their states were rightly governed. Their states being rightly governed, the whole kingdom was made tranquil and happy. From the Son of Heaven down to the mass of the people, all must consider the cultivation of the person the root of everything besides. It cannot be, when the root is neglected, that what should spring from it will be well ordered. It never has been the case that what was of great importance has been slightly cared for, and, at the same time, that what was of slight importance has been greatly cared for.

Passage no. 2

Book of Rites - Great Learning

The ancients who wished to illustrate illustrious virtue throughout the kingdom, first ordered well their own states. Wishing to order well their states, they first regulated their families. Wishing to regulate their families, they first cultivated their persons. Wishing to cultivate their persons, they first rectified their hearts. Wishing to rectify their hearts, they first sought to be sincere in their thoughts. Wishing to be sincere in their thoughts, they first extended to the utmost their knowledge. Such extension of knowledge lay in the investigation of things. Things being investigated, knowledge became complete.

Their knowledge being complete, their thoughts were sincere. Their thoughts being sincere, their hearts were then rectified. Their hearts being rectified, their persons were cultivated. Their persons being cultivated, their families were regulated. Their families being regulated, their states were rightly governed. Their states being rightly governed, the whole kingdom was made tranquil and happy. From the Son of Heaven down to the mass of the people, all must consider the cultivation of the person the root of everything besides. It cannot be, when the root is neglected, that what should spring from it will be well ordered. It never has been the case that what was of great importance has been slightly cared for, and, at the same time, that what was of slight importance has been greatly cared for.

量子糾纏

在量子力學裡，已經糾纏的兩顆粒子，即便距離非常遙遠，也會影響彼此。

愛因斯坦為此現象所擾，稱之為「鬼魅似的超距作用」。

Quantum Entanglement

In quantum physics, entangled particles remain connected so that actions performed on one affect the other, even when separated by great distances.

The phenomenon so riled Albert Einstein he called it "spooky action at a distance."

亦是「清洗淨化」
but also to purify.

Passage no. 3

Quantum Entanglement

In quantum physics, entangled particles remain connected so that actions performed on one affect the other, even when separated by great distances.

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Liquidation Maps

5 charcoal and pencil on papers | HD videos (color, loop)
printed documents | 2014

Liquidation Maps is a series of works that reexamines and investigates political genocides and massacres in recent Asian history from an occult angle, fusing astrology and astronomy. Yin-ju Chen has chosen five historical events: Lesser Kinmen Massacre in 1987 (Taiwan), Sook Ching Massacres in 1942 (Singapore), Khmer Rouge genocide in 1975 (Cambodia), massacres in East Timor in 1999 and Gwangju Uprising in 1980 (South Korea). Chen has created star charts based on astrological permutations at the time when these historical incidents started, and extrapolated upon the circular nature of the star charts into mandalas for each incident. The star charts and mandalas are symbols of reincarnation and non-linear time. The circular shape bring to mind the circular design of wrist watches, and the Chinese title plays on the Mandarin homophones of “chart” and “wristwatch.”

By re-examining historical incidents through the lens of the occult, Chen is not only attempting to rethink the subjective awareness of history writing in textbooks from the past, she is also questioning whether such actions by humanity are inevitable under the predetermined and inexorable laws of the universe, whether these laws constitute a form of cosmic force majeure. Corresponding to the belief that purification and perfection are achievable through violent means, in the artist’s video work, the planet Mars represents the god of war and Pluto represents the utter persecution and destruction that precedes the reconstitution of order. This underlying concept is similar to Jung’s belief that one’s natal chart could represent a prototype of collective human consciousness. In critiquing Chen’s work, critic Rikey Cheng pointed out that “natal charts are a form of intellectual temptation for their audience, as their symbolic meaning only surrenders to the manipulation of the hand that draws the chart, provided that information is masked and phases are purposely made vague. . . And these sketches adhere more closely to the labors of ancient astrologers rendering natal charts by hand in the absence of computer technology. Rather than bringing audiences an instant chart readout with internet technology, they lead viewers on a voyage of discovery towards the soul.”¹

- Texts from *Shanghai Biennale 2014: Social Factory*

¹ From “A User Guide to Internal Maps”, Rikey Cheng’s commentary at Yin-Ju Chen’s 2014 *Dead Souls at the Test Drive* exhibition.



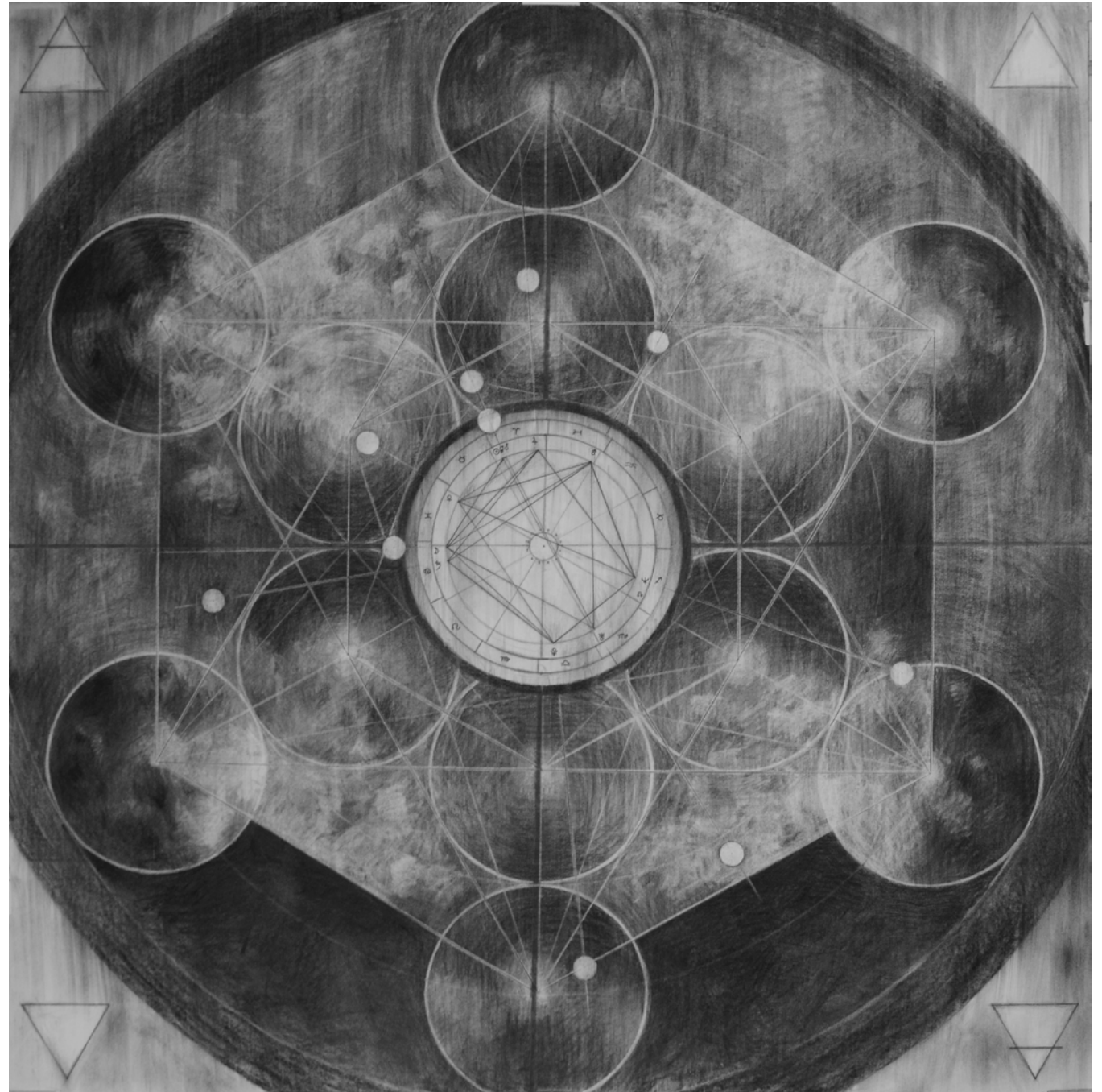
Installation view at *Shanghai Biennale 2014*



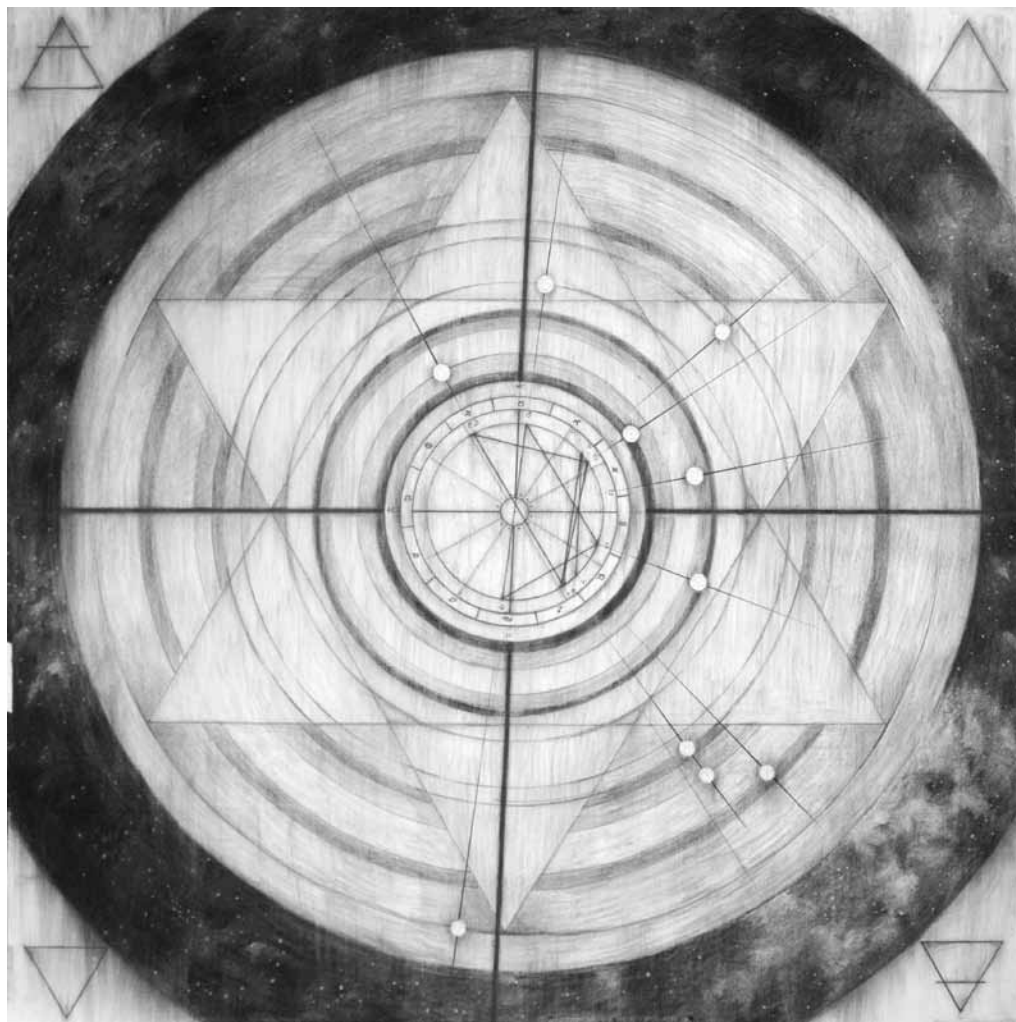
Installation view at *Shanghai Biennale 2014: Social Factory, Shanghai*

5 maps, 125 x 125 cm each

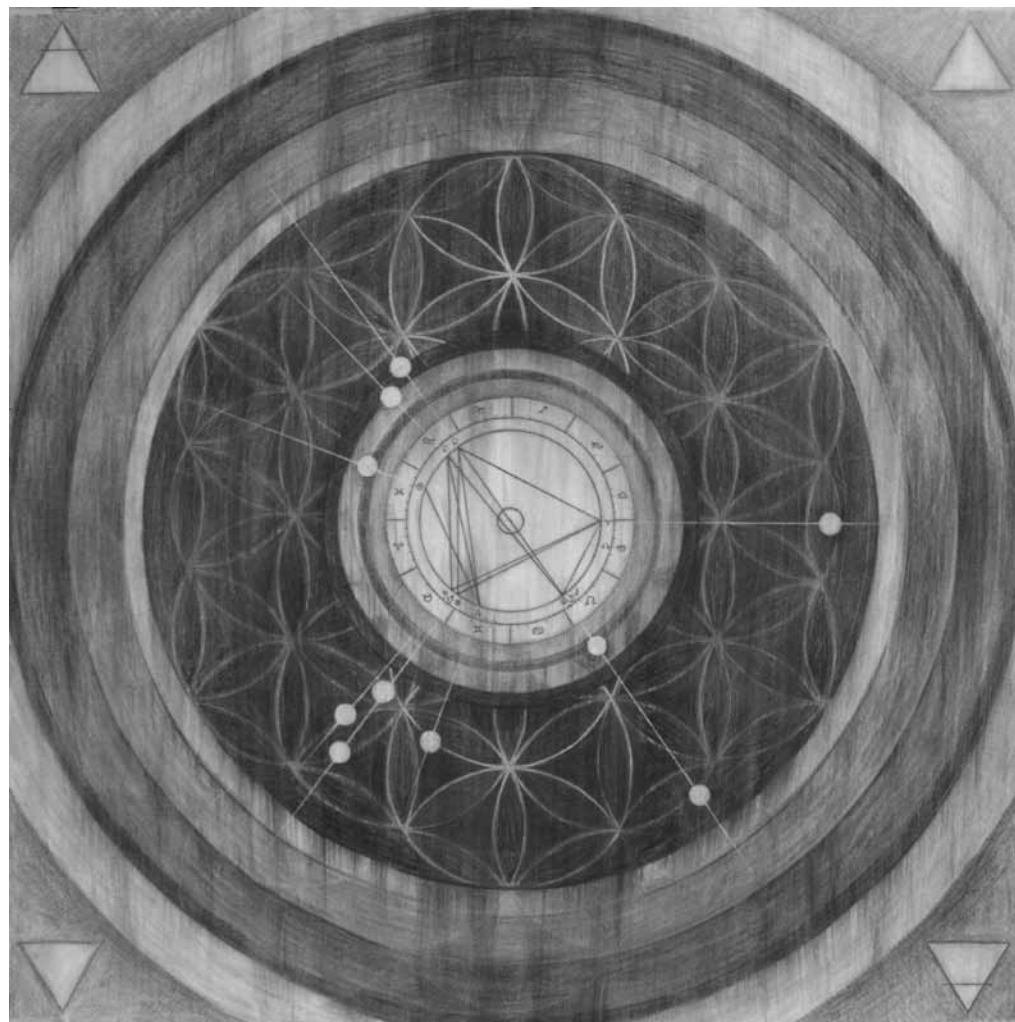
Khmer Rough, Cambodia, 1975-1978



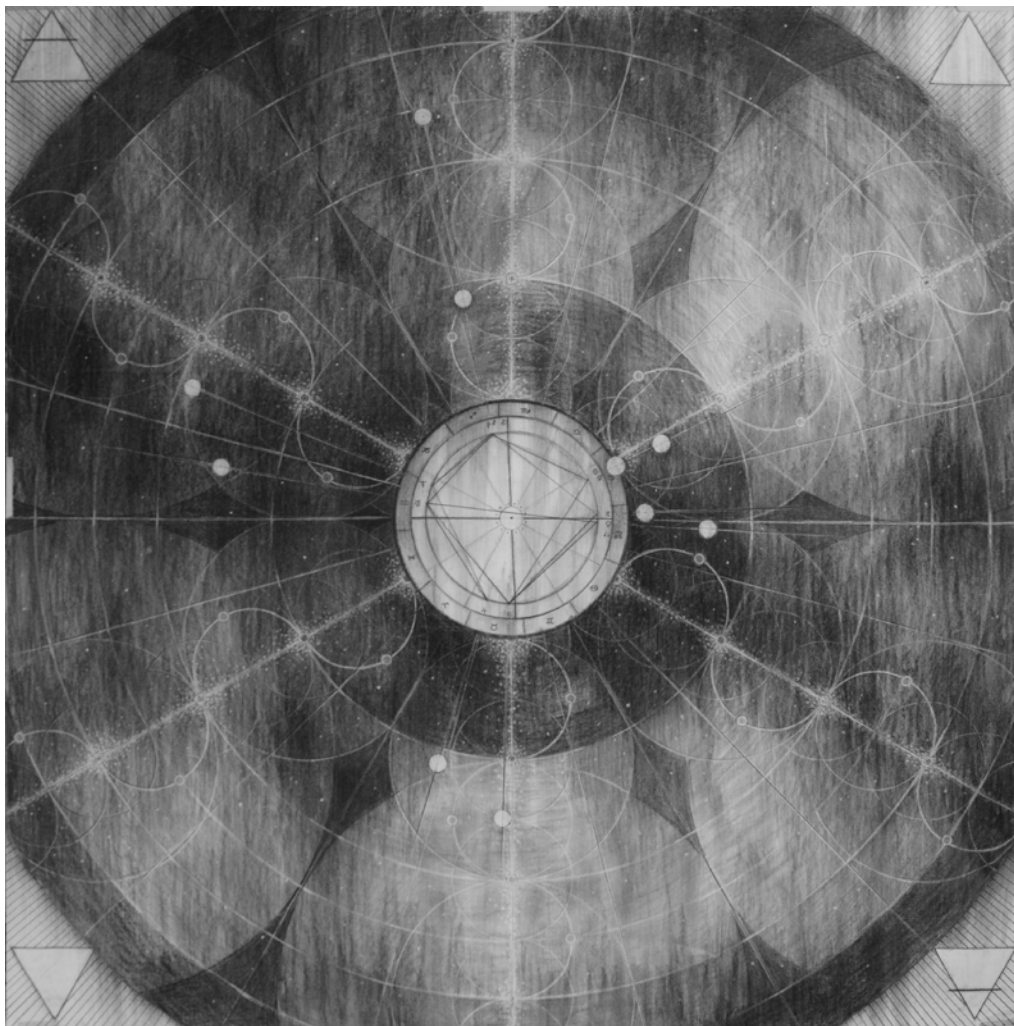
Leiyu Massacre, Taiwan, 1987



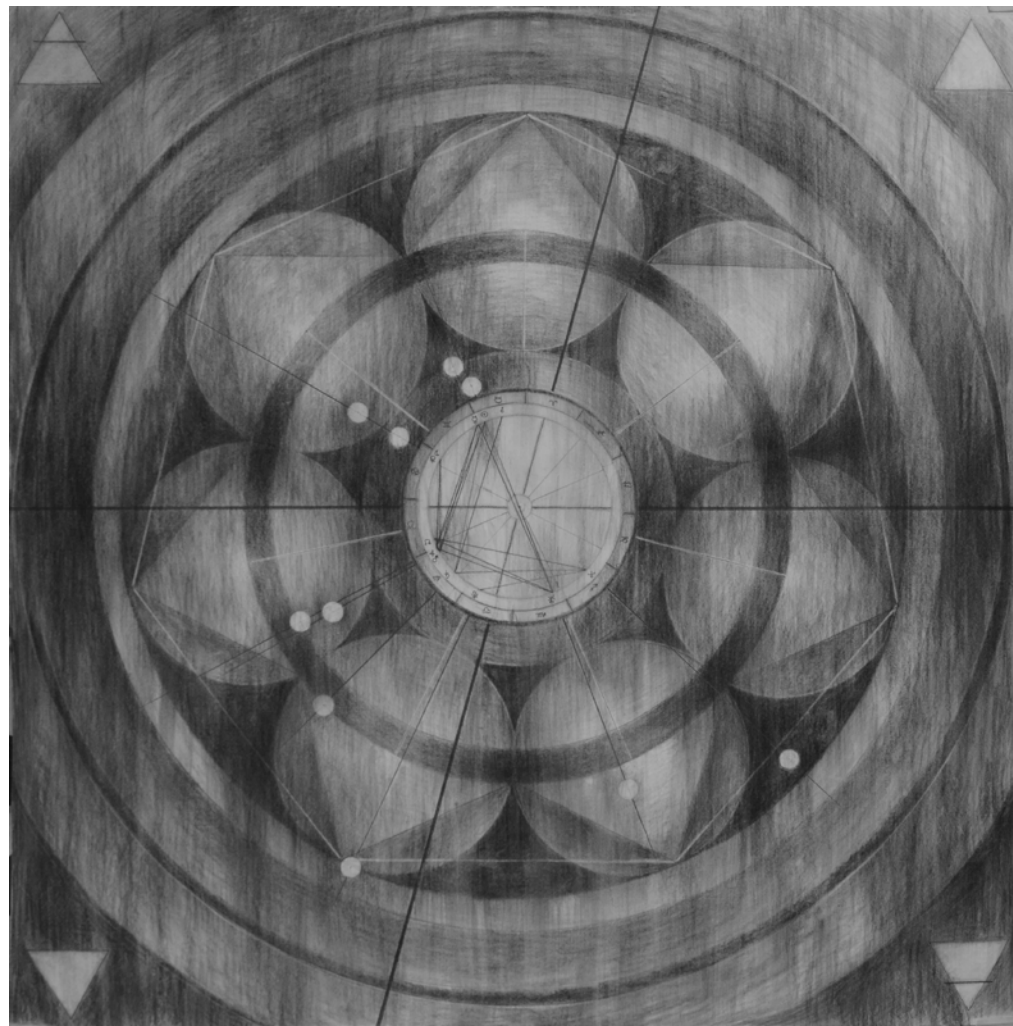
Sook Ching Massacre, Singapore, 1942

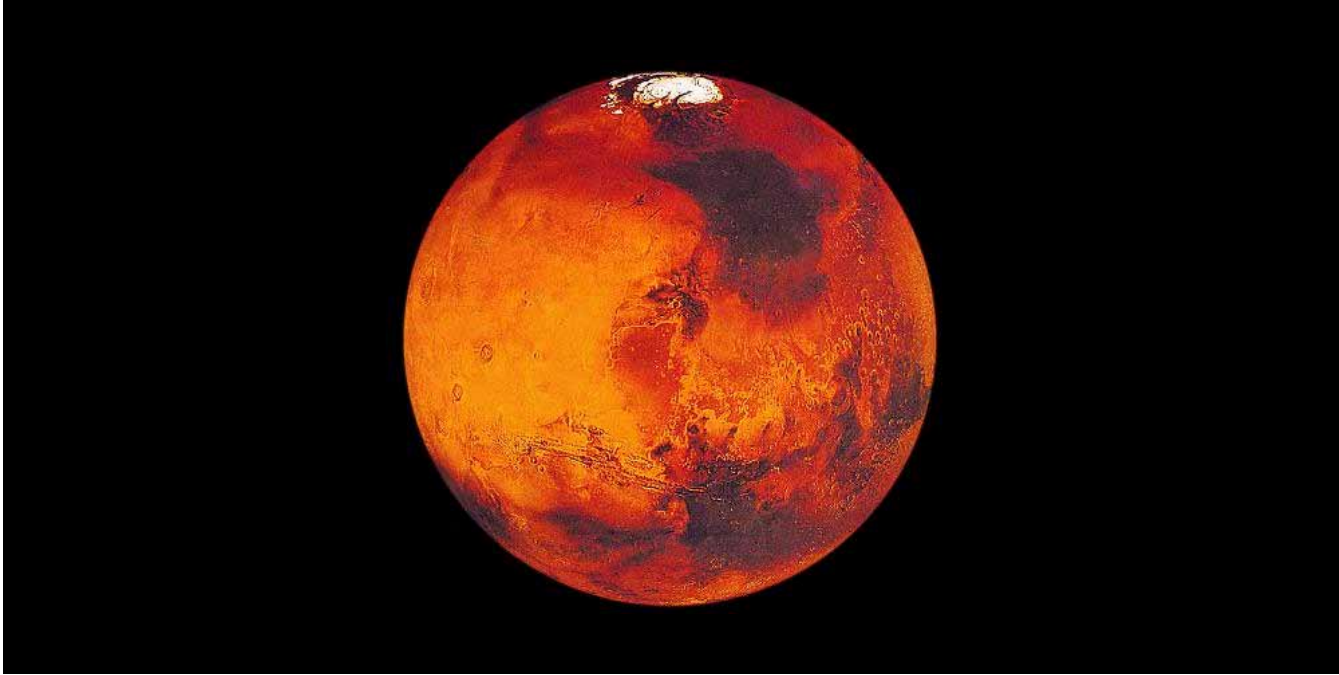


East Timorese Crisis, East Timor, 1999

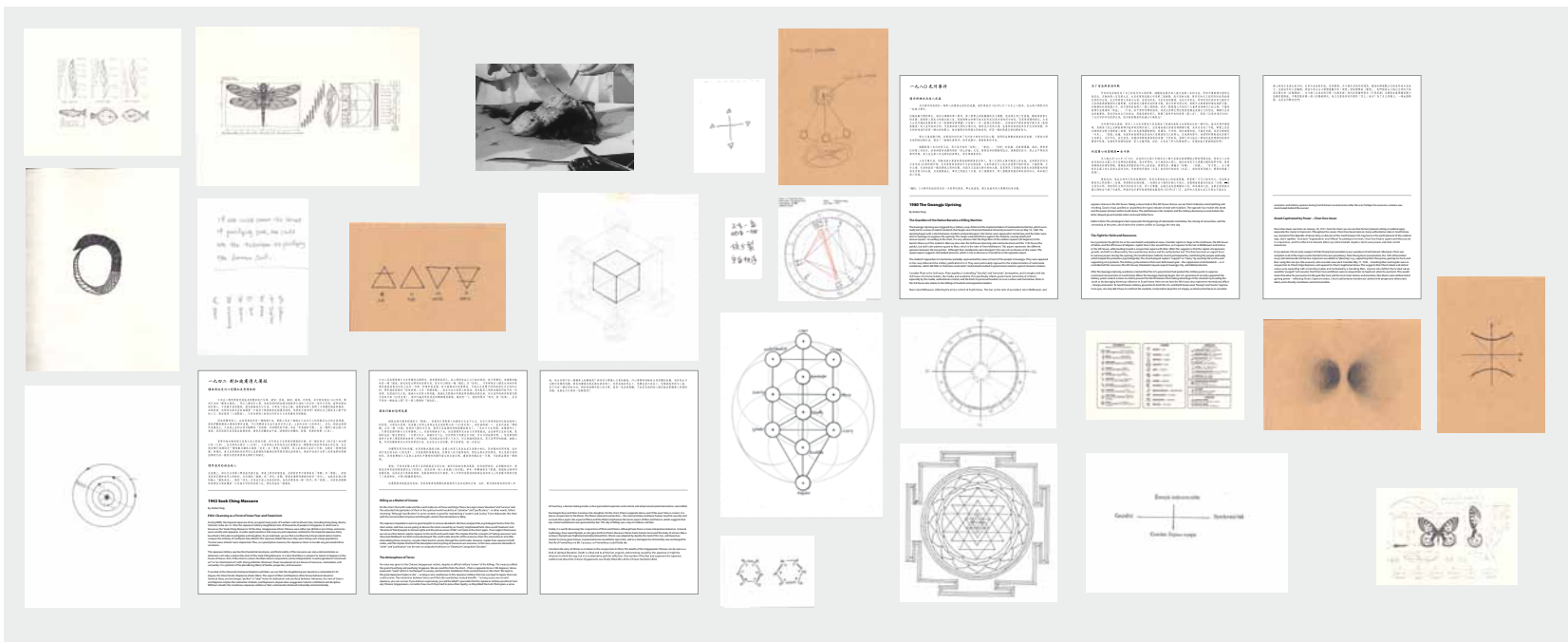
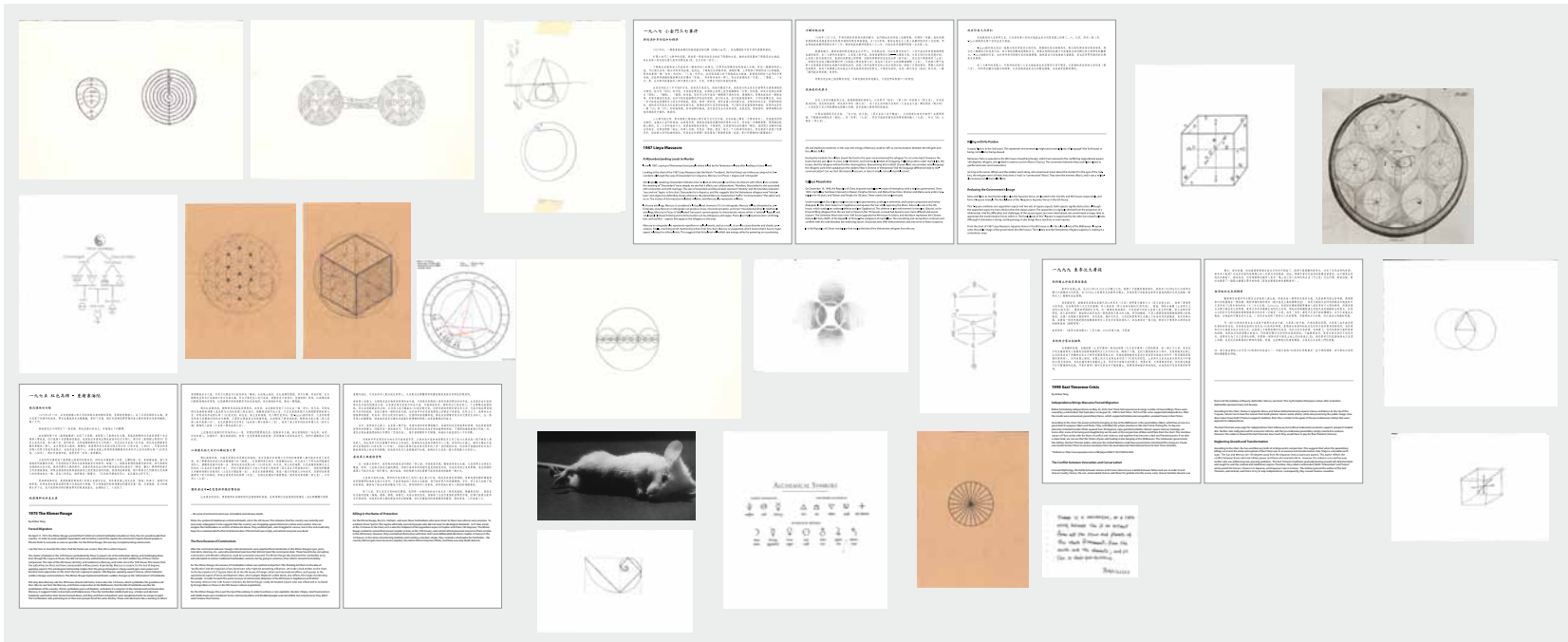


Gwangju Uprising, South Korea, 1980





[up] video 1, Mars | [down] video 2, Pluto



Small drawings collections & astrological texts written by astrologer Amber Tang, table 1 and table 2.

Astrological text example:

1999 East Timorese Crisis

By Amber Tang

Independence Brings Massacre Forced Migration

Before formalizing independence on May 20, 2002, East Timor had experienced a large number of mass killings. These were caused by a referendum that took place on August 30, 1999 in East Timor. 78.5% of the votes supported independence. After the results were announced, paramilitary forces, which supported Indonesian occupation, wreaked havoc in East Timor.

According to the chart, the power authority hanging on top at the Midheaven is the paramilitary (Mars), which has access to a great deal of weapons (Mars and Pluto). They controlled the whole situation in Dili, East Timor. During the 10-day riot, atrocities included murder (Pluto squared Sun, 90 degrees), rape, genital mutilation (Saturn square Uranus), beatings, etc. Scene after scene of torturing and slaughtering can be seen in the conjunction of Mars and Pluto from the chart. The merciless nature of Pluto unites with the Mars of conflict and violence, and together they become a dark and frenzied power. If we take a closer look, we can see that the Chiron of pain and healing is also hanging at the Midheaven. The Indonesian government, the militias, the East Timoran police, and even the United Nations could have prevented or minimized this massacre. It took one month for East Timor to receive assistance from the Australian-led International Force for East Timor (Interfet).

* Reference: <http://www.people.com.cn/GB/paper2086/7316/704952.html>

The Conflict between Innovation and Conservatism

In Greek Mythology, the battle between Uranus and Cronus (Saturn) was a battle between father and son. In order to end Uranus' cruelty, Cronus, the son, emasculated Uranus and threw his genitals into the ocean. Later, Uranus' testicles became sea foam and the Goddess of Beauty, Aphrodite (Venus), was born. This myth implies that peace comes after revolution (Aphrodite represents love and beauty).

According to the chart, Uranus is opposite Venus, and Saturn disharmoniously squares Uranus and Venus. As the tip of this T-square, Saturn has to bare the tension from both planets. Saturn wants reform, while also preserving the public image. How does Saturn

have both? If Saturn supports tradition, then this is similar to the goals of the pro-Indonesian militias that were opposed to independence.

The East Timorans were eager for independence from Indonesia, but without Indonesia's economic support, prospects looked dim. Neither side really planned for economic reforms, and the pro-Indonesia paramilitary simply resorted to violence. However, this violence showed the East Timorans how much they would have to pay for their freedom (Uranus).

Neglecting Growth and Transformation

According to the chart, the Sun and Mercury both sit in Virgo and in conjunction. This suggests that when the paramilitary killings occurred, the entire atmosphere of East Timor was in an anxious and transformative state (Virgo is a mutable earth sign). The Sun and Mercury are 150 degrees away from the Aquarian Uranus (quincunx aspect). This aspect reflects the conflict between those who had military power and those who wanted reform. However, the violence occurred because neither side was addressing real, pressing problems. The East Timorans had been gradually leaning toward self-determination and sought to end the colonial and totalitarian regime. Therefore, they called a referendum (Both "referendum" and "future" are keywords for Uranus. Uranus is in Aquarius, and Aquarius' ruler is Uranus). The militias ignored the wishes of the East Timorans, and instead, used force to try to stop independence; consequently, they caused massive casualties.

The other quincunx aspect is from Sagittarius Mars and Taurus Jupiter. Mars sitting in Sagittarius means that one would fight for one's beliefs, and Jupiter sitting in Taurus signifies the growth of resources. When these two form a quincunx aspect, this suggests that the situation in both areas is disturbed. Maybe East Timor could be self-reliant and did not need to economically rely on Indonesia or other foreign entities, but at that time, self-sufficiency did not seem feasible. So when the pro-Indonesia paramilitary struggled with independence supporters, not only did the civilians suffer, so did the East Timoran economy. Both sides had neglected it.

As Above, So Below

Mixed media/ 2 channel video installation

Drawings | Video#1: 6 min | Video#2: 40 sec | loop | sound | B&W & Color | 2013-2014

Video #1: <https://vimeo.com/72958271>

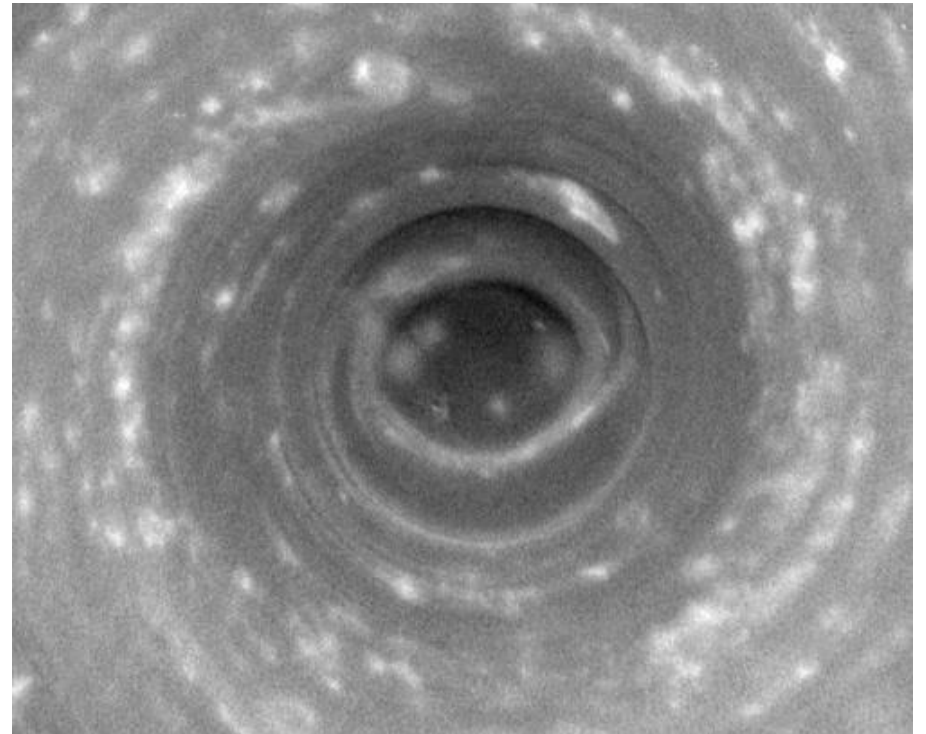
Video#2: <https://vimeo.com/73016815>

This is the first phase of my recent artistic practice from a long running project *As Above, So Below*.

Based on my recent operation and its accompanying medical issues, I am embracing science and pseudoscience, and exploring Paracelsus' idea of the mystery of the macrocosm (nature) and the microcosm (human).

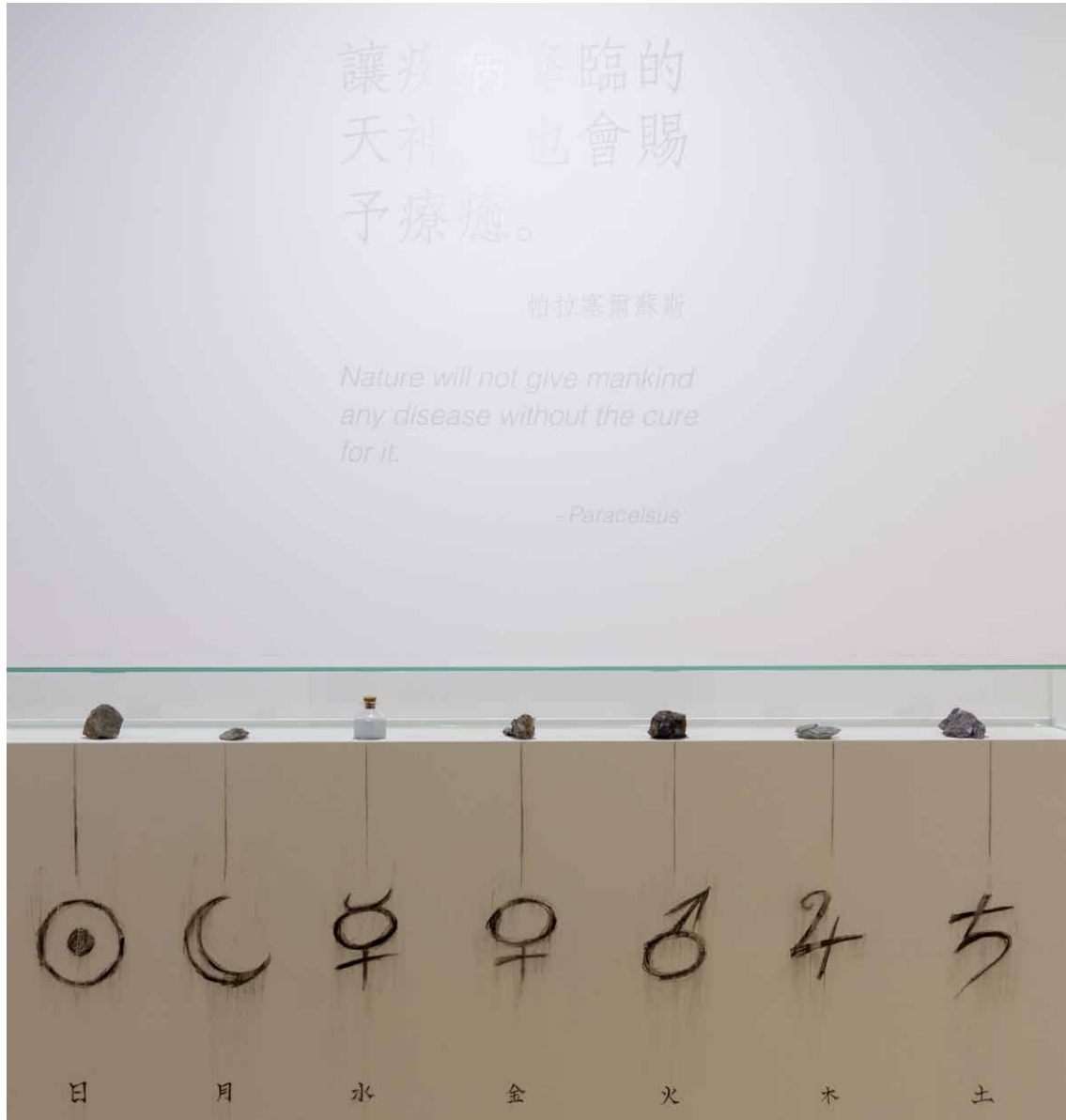
This practice is an extension of themes from my previous project as a continuing exploration of the notion of "cosmic/ human connectedness." Here the initial focus will be on the human body before widening the view onto the infinite cosmos.

As Above, So Below is presented as a video installation, supplemented with printings and drawings. This ongoing project integrates cosmology vs. astrology and modern medicine vs. alchemy, to discuss of the ideas of perfection, transformation, and the relationship between humanity and the cosmos.

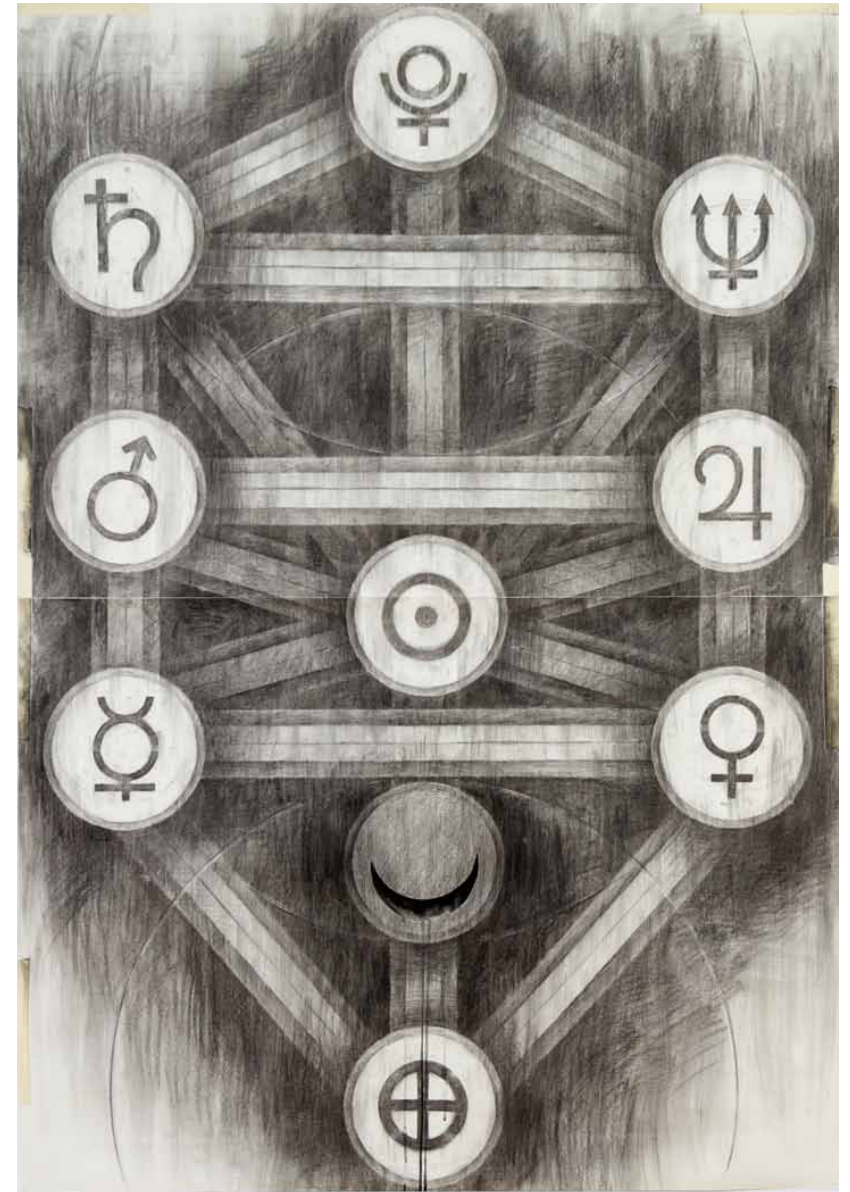




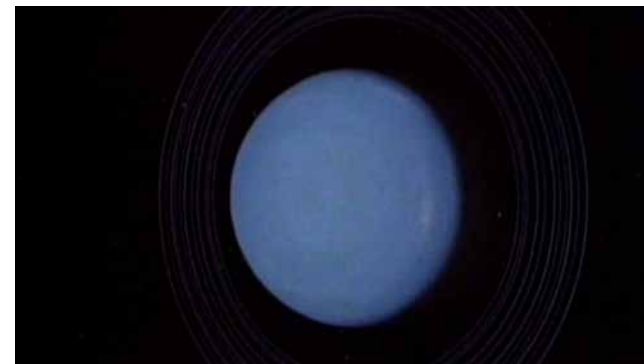
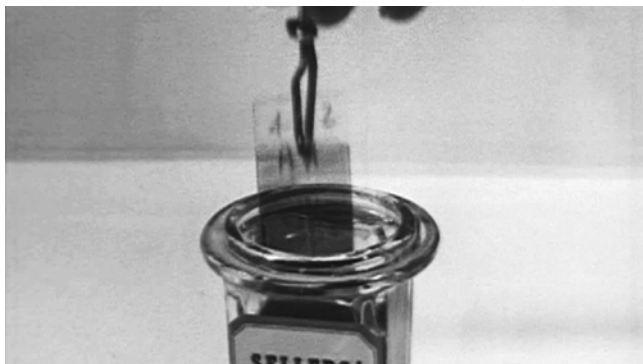
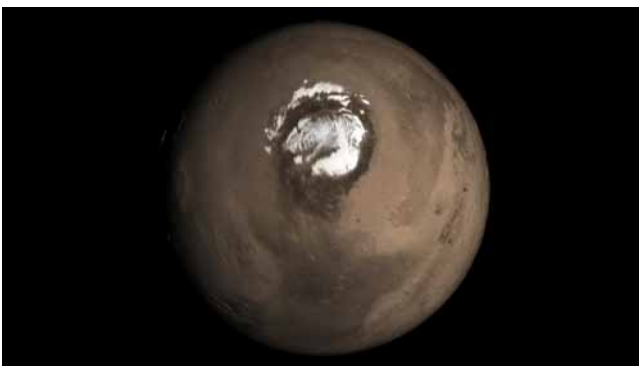
Installation view at Hong Gah Museum, Taipei



"Nature will not give mankind any disease without the cure for it." A quote from Paracelsus, a 16th century Swiss physician, alchemist, and astrologer. This text is viewable from the entrance.



The Tree of Life. Charcoal & watercolor. 109 cm x 158 cm.



Stills from video 1, 6 minutes, black/white & color, stereo sound. Video preview: <https://vimeo.com/72958271>

One Universe, One God, One Nation

3 channel video installation | 17 minutes loop | color & B/W | stereo | 2012

Video preview:

Channel 2 & 3: vimeo.com/57743629

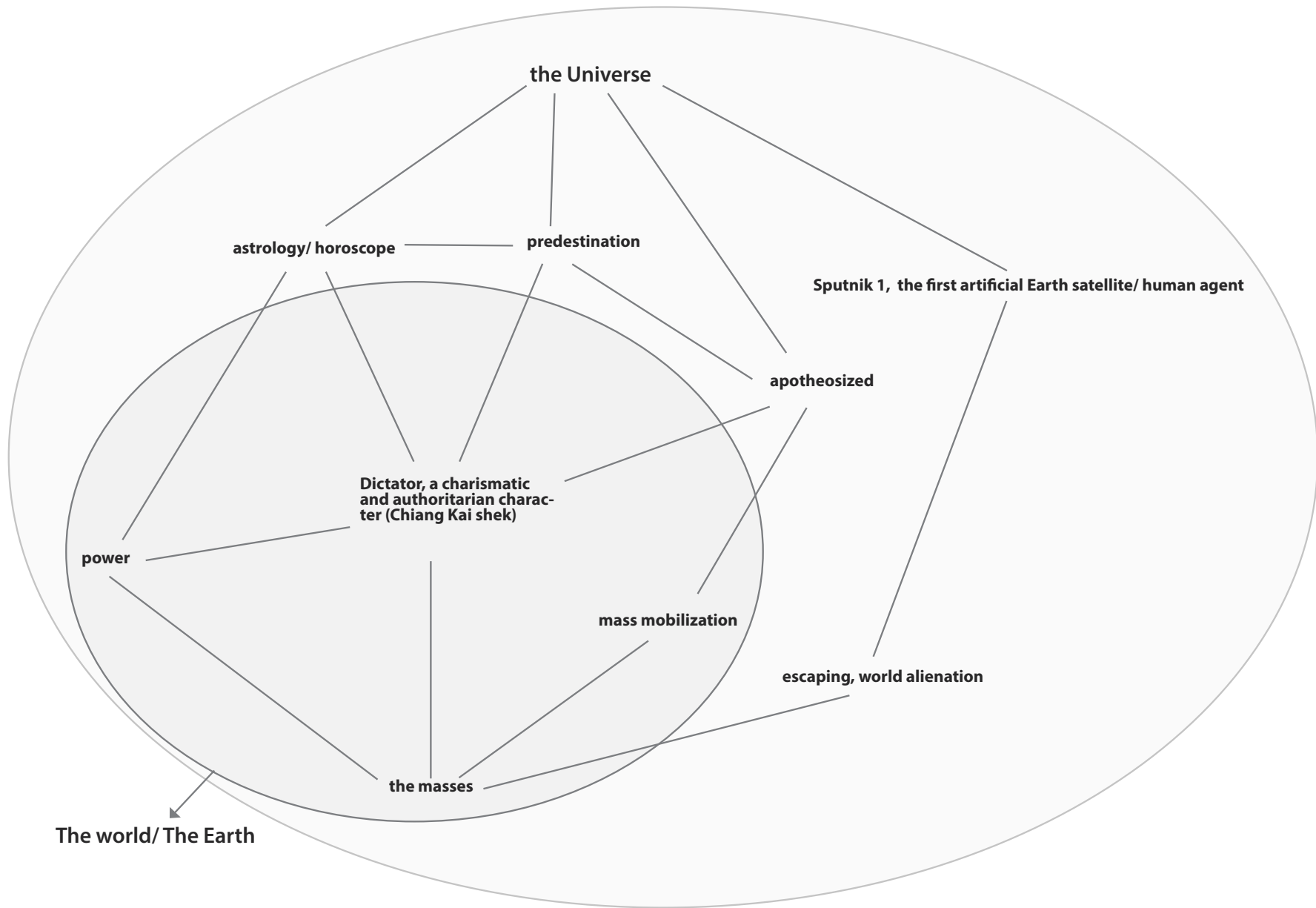
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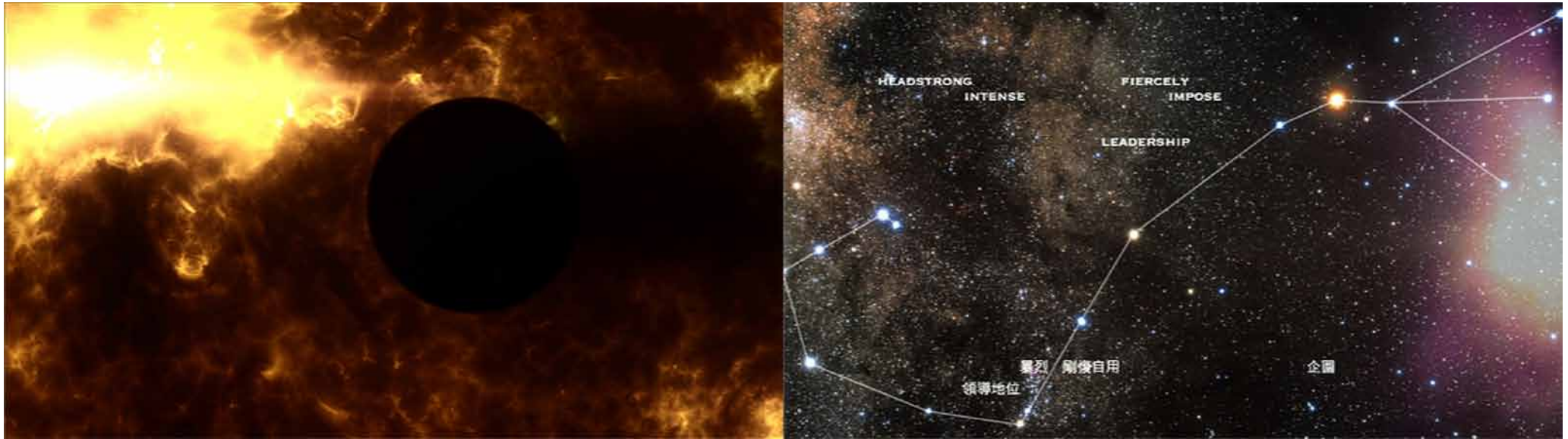
Channel 1: vimeo.com/58255942

One Universe, One God, One Nation seeks to evoke a sense of closure and despair in the face of the inescapable cycles of history. The particular moment evoked here is the age of space exploration in the 1960s, juxtaposed with the forms of imperial, ideological, and totalitarian power existing at that time. The inspiration for the work came from Hannah Arendt's analysis of space exploration as a form of "world alienation," and also from the astrological horoscope of Chang Kai-Shek, which predicts his charismatic and authoritarian character. How is it that most modern movements for a better future, and all attempts to break free from the chains of power, ultimately fall prey to their own mythologies? Here we enter the slippery ground between "science" and "collective dream image," between the knowledge and the fantasy of an epoch. *One Universe, One God, One Nation* is a visual meditation on power, modern forms of totality and totalitarianism, mass mobilization, devotion, the auratic, and the supernatural. It works through the juxtaposition of images taken in outer space with images of war and submission to power.

- Texts from *Taipei Biennial 2012: Modern Monsters, Death and Life of Fiction*

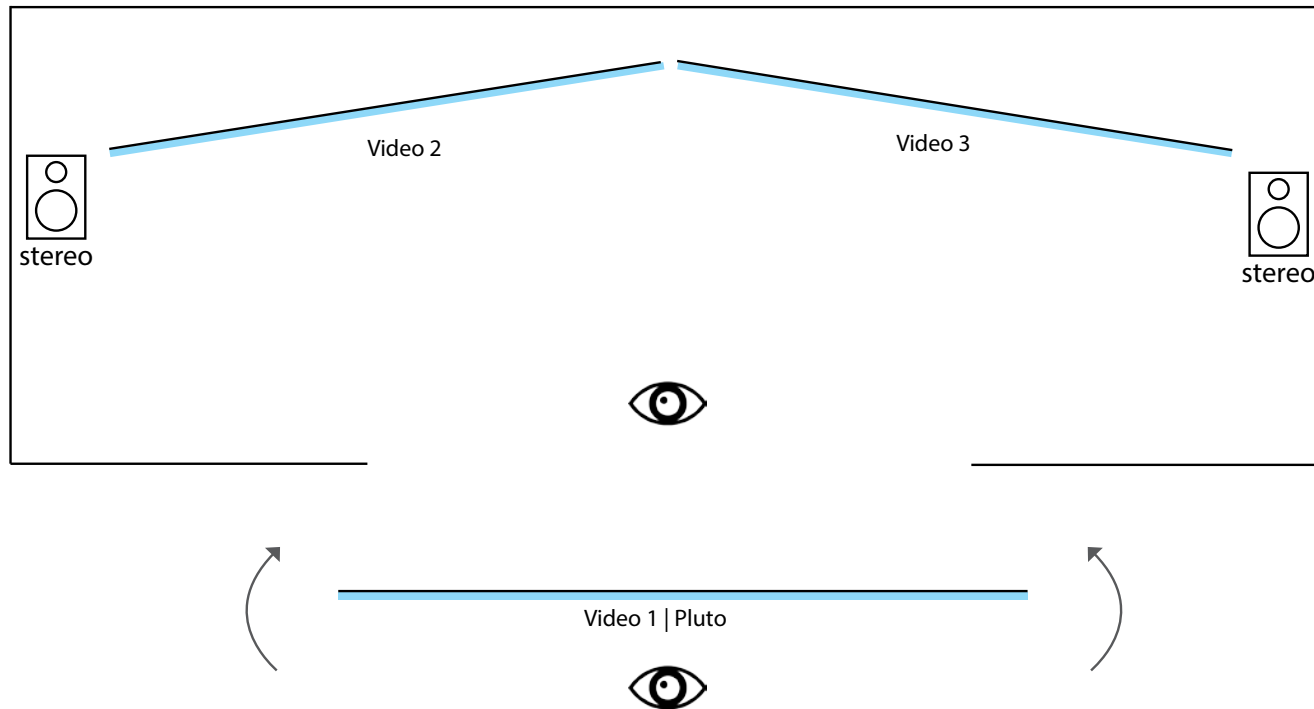






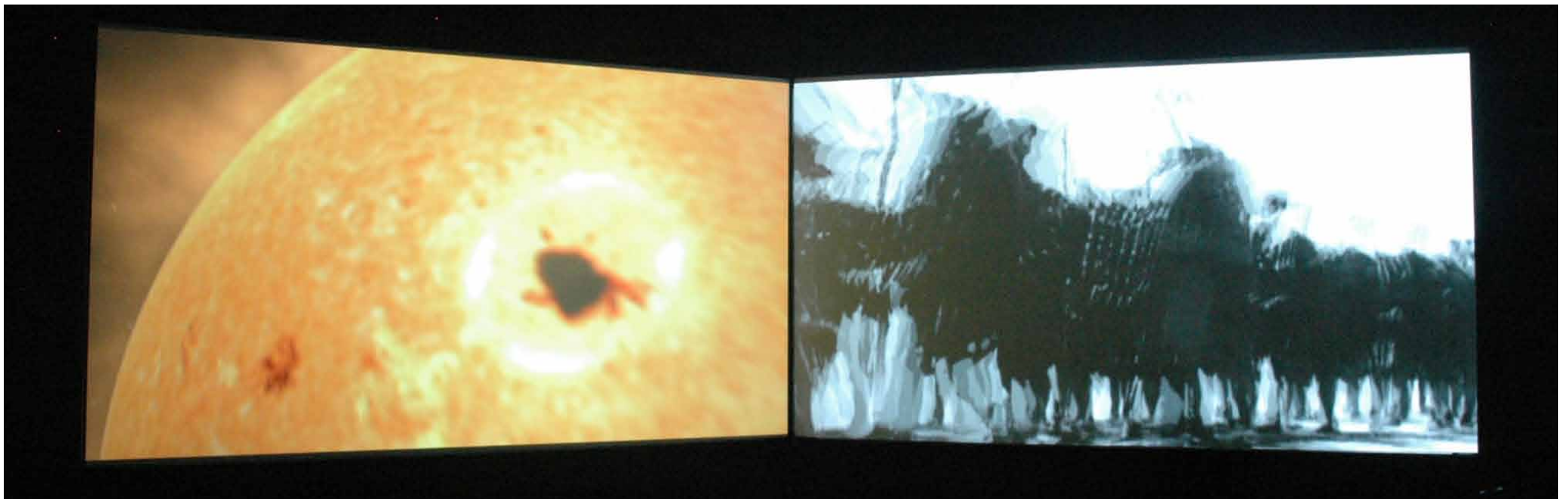
[left] the Sun [right] Scorpio constellation (Chiang Kai-Shek)

■ Floor plan





Installation View from *Taipei Biennial 2012: Modern Monsters, Death and Life of Fiction*
[up] Channel 1 [down left & right] Stills from channel 2, the Sun, and channel 3, Chinese Civil War 1927-1950





**PLUTO: TRANSFORMATION, DESTRUCTION, UPHEAVAL,
REGENERATION, CREATION, HEALING, POWER STRUGGLES
ORBITAL PERIOD: 248 YEARS**

Channel 1 is showing before entering the exhibition room with Channels 2 & 3. It only has one image of Pluto and its astrological interpretation.

Right before WWII reshuffled the world, Pluto was discovered in 1930. It represents destruction, transformation, and healing in the language of astrology. It orbits very slowly, so astrologers claim that Pluto affects generations more than it does individuals -- a generation that destroyed much of the Earth and then rebuilt again.

One Universe, One God, One Nation began as a series of fragments of thoughts:

I. Apollo 11 Goodwill Messages

The original title of my project is in Chinese. It was one of the 73 goodwill messages sent to the moon during the first moon landing in 1969. Chiang Kai-Shek (1887-1975, the leader/ dictator of Republic of China) wrote:

It is our sincere desire that the astronauts, upon the date of their landing on the moon, will have made a significant contribution to a world utopia and peace through the universe.

This literal translation is way too long for only 8 Chinese characters, so the English title became - *One Universe, One God, One Nation*.

II. Charisma Is the Power – Dictator or God?

There are very few truly charismatic individuals. These people attract us, bedazzle us, and inspire our emotions. They unite us and lead us toward a single faith, beyond good and evil.

We all share an inclination toward this authority, toward ideologies, toward representations of our fragile humanity. We create them, glorify them, destroy them, and revive them, again and again throughout the centuries, in the hope of reaching Utopia.

Chiang Kai-Shek was a key player in modern Chinese history, who participated in and led the Chinese revolution, the Chinese Civil War, and WWII in the Pacific Theater. Eventually he took the entire exiled government (The Republic of China) to Taiwan. He has indelibly shaped the destinies of China and Taiwan throughout the 20th Century.

If when I die, I am still a dictator, I will certainly go down into the oblivion of all dictators. If, on the other hand, I succeed in establishing a truly stable foundation for a democratic government, I will live forever in every home in China.

- Chiang Kai-Shek

Whether or not Chiang actually founded a truly democratic nation in “The Republic of China (Taiwan)”, he was nevertheless apotheosized by the Taiwanese people. The masses that mourned his death were also worshipping him.

Instead of showing too much of footage of Chiang Kai-Shek in the piece, I instead present the phenomenon of mass conformism. In other words, the video work shows Chiang for less than 10 seconds, as it focuses more on the crowd. I focus on how they created their own leader, either during the war or conflict, how they cheered him on, how they grieved, and how they kept their dictator in power, even after his death.

III. Sputnik 1 – World Alienation

This event, second in importance to no other, not even to the splitting of the atom, would have been greeted with unmitigated joy if it had not been for the uncomfortable military and political circumstances attending it. But, curiously enough, this joy was not triumphal [...] The immediate reaction, expressed on the spur of the moment, was relief about the first “step toward escape from men’s imprisonment to the earth.” And this strange statement, far from being the accidental slip of some American reporter, unwittingly echoed the extraordinary

line which, more than twenty years ago, had been carved on the funeral obelisk of one of Russia's great scientists: "Mankind will not remain bound to the earth forever."

- Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first human instrument into space – Sputnik 1. In Arendt's view, this action symbolized a desire to escape from the limited human world into the limitless sphere of the non-human. She called it "world alienation."

Rejecting being-in-the-world or the natural human environment, this artificial object takes humanity away from the world and into the self. This "flight into the self" becomes a form of "inner exile," according to Arendt – an inner world alienation that develops into a motive for the collapse of public culture and the subsequent rise of totalitarianism.

IV. Predestination and the Horoscope

World English Dictionary: Predestination (noun)

1. Theology

- a. the act of God foreordaining every event from eternity
- b. the doctrine or belief, especially associated with Calvin, that the final salvation of some of mankind is foreordained from eternity by God

2. The act of predestining or the state of being predestined



[left] The crowd cheering Chiang Kai-Shek | [right] Chiang Kai-Shek waving to his people



[left] Sputnik 1 | [right] Chinese Civil War (1927-1950)

If God exists, everything must happen for a reason, and nothing happens by accident. How does the heavenly sphere, or more scientifically, how do astronomical objects, look at human beings on Earth? How do they relate and connect to events and people on Earth?

Here we encounter Astrology, a different way of looking the reality. Perhaps a “pseudoscience” can explain predestination. In some parts of this video project, I analyze Chiang Kai-Shek through the perspective of his horoscope, and I also apply astrological interpretations to some historical events.

V. The Universe, Historic Recurrence, and Connections

According the resources page of the Buddhist Society, “The Wheel of Life is the context, the way Buddhists see the world and our human condition, the reason we do what we do.” The Buddhist sees life as a cycle, karma, or a chain of causality. The old saying “history repeats itself” has its own wisdom. Life is a cycle, as does history.

It is our destiny, and there is beauty in destiny. The idea of time passing in a straight line is efficient for civilization, but if we listen to a few simple religious and philosophical suggestions, we can imagine time flowing circularly.

* * *

A sacred power exists in the universe. It shapes our lives. We worship its many diverse forms. Beyond human history, this mysterious authority affects every single element, every occasion, and every cause on Earth.



The Turner Archives

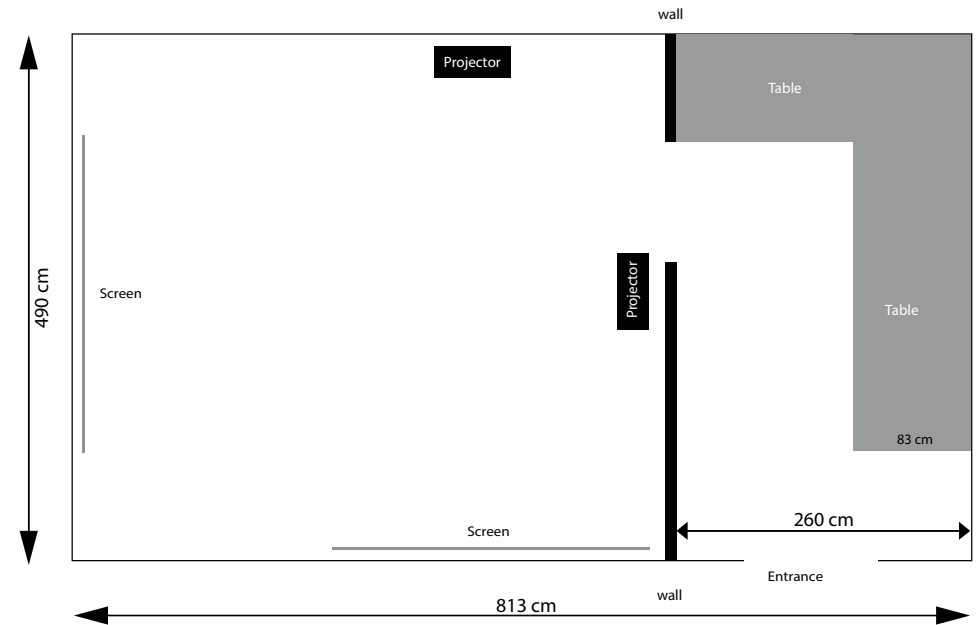
Multimedia/ 2-channel video installation, 2011
in collaboration with James T. Hong

Numerous displayed objects
Video Channel 1 & 2: approx. 5-minute loop
Sound: 20 minute loop

Video preview: vimeo.com/35361898



Floor Plan



This work functions as a critique through the process of “over-identification” with a particular ideological perspective. It presents a perfect and yet dangerous opportunity to meditate on ugly, racist ideological themes, while at the same time illuminatingly present racial conflicts within the United States and the developed West vis-à-vis immigration, terrorism, and ethnic nationalism. Hopefully this project will shed light on the racist prejudgments we “always already” understand.

*Photos: Willem Vermaase/ RijksakademieOPEN 2011

[Up] Closeup of the displayed objects [Down] Dual channel video room

[right] Turner's working table, displaying his equipment, notes, homemade bombs, and attacking plans.

Installation View from RijksakademieOPEN 2011



The Turner Archives presents the world of a fictional, American white supremacist named Earl Turner. Trained as an electrical engineer, Turner is a rabid racist who works to overthrow and destroy the multicultural, United States government.

This multimedia installation is presented from Turner's perspective. His main studio or bunker contains a long table, which displays pieces of Turner's tools, strategies, notes, and thoughts, which are all related to the white supremacist movement depicted in the novel *The Turner Diaries*, and to historical, racist movements, such as the Ku Klux Klan. The video room presents some of Turner's own film and video footage. On one screen, his lens captures images of racial and ethnic borders, with particular emphasis on the border between California and Mexico, which he sees as broken and needing a permanent solution. On the second screen, Turner's lens focuses on aspects of American life that Turner hates, such as multiculturalism, people of color, and typical "brainwashed" Americans.

Inspiration:

The Turner Archives reflects contemporary racist movements and combines the following ideas/ events/ elements:

1. The Turner Diaries

Written in 1978 by the late William Luther Peirce (leader of the National Alliance, a racist group), *The Turner Diaries* begins with a violent revolution within the United States, which leads to a global race war where all non-whites and Jews are exterminated by victorious American white supremacists. Widely read by far-right extremists, it is an ugly, racist book that nevertheless reveals some uncomfortable but all too real American race conflicts presented as bizarre, science fiction delusions. According to the book, the white supremacists/ terrorists begin the overthrow of the US Government in California, which eventually becomes the first state of the Union to completely “remove” all minorities. In its epilogue, the white supremacists eventually conquer the rest of the world and eliminate all “non-White” people.

2. Ku Klux Klan

The hate and terrorist group, the Ku Klux Klan, played an influential role in America’s history -- from its first appearance after the Civil War in the mid-1800’s, through 1915 -1944 (as the second revival), and from 1946 until the present as the third “Klan.” As an American institution, the KKK was initially opposed to African-American civil rights, but it eventually spread its intolerance and hate to all immigrants and “non-White” races.



3. Arizona SB1070 & Alabama HB56

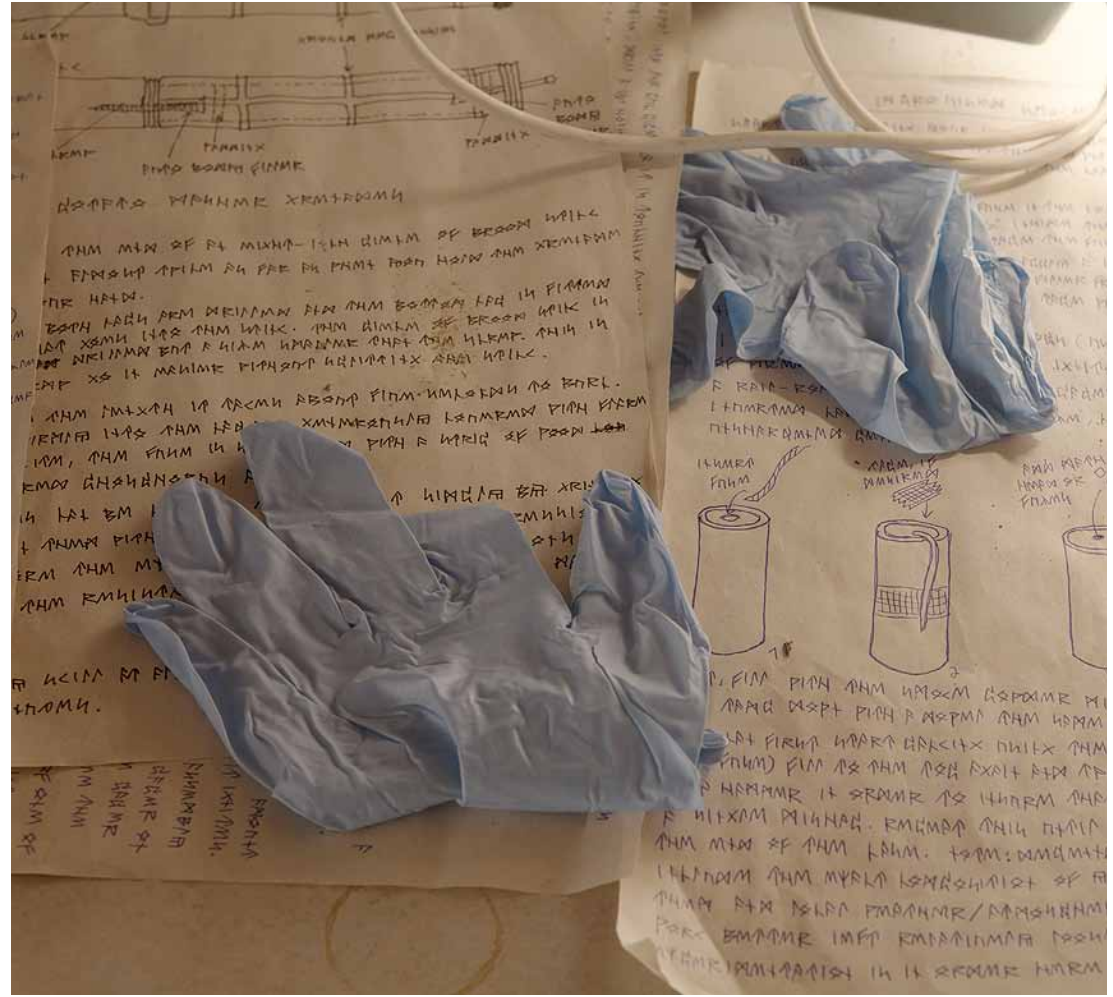
After Arizona enacted the first anti-immigrant state bill “The Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhood Act”, a.k.a. “Arizona SB1070” on April 23, 2010, many states throughout the US have also introduced SB 1070 copycat bills. The most controversial and harshest bill is the recent “Alabama house bill 56” (HB 56, June 2, 2011).

“Alabama HB 56” requires police to investigate immigration status during routine traffic stops upon “reasonable suspicions.” The main criterion for “reasonable suspicions” is race or ethnicity, so these bills are simply “racial profiling” put into law. Furthermore, HB 56 requires elementary and secondary schools to check the immigration status of students, and the bill makes it a felony for undocumented migrants to work.

Since most of these bills or provisions are unconstitutional and against civil rights, they are currently being challenged by the multicultural, US federal government.



Turner's working table: equipment, notes, guns, and military supplies. The upright portrait is the founder of American Nazi Party, George Lincoln Rockwell (1959). The photo on the left is Stone Mountain in Georgia State, US, a site of the founding of the second Klan in 1915.



All the notes is written in runic alphabets, representing White Suprematists' ideology.




The dual-channel video :

[left] A broken border between US and Mexico.

[right] The aspects of American life that Turner hates, such as multiculturalism, people of color, and typical "brainwashed" Americans.

Video preview: vimeo.com/35361898



END TRANSMISSION

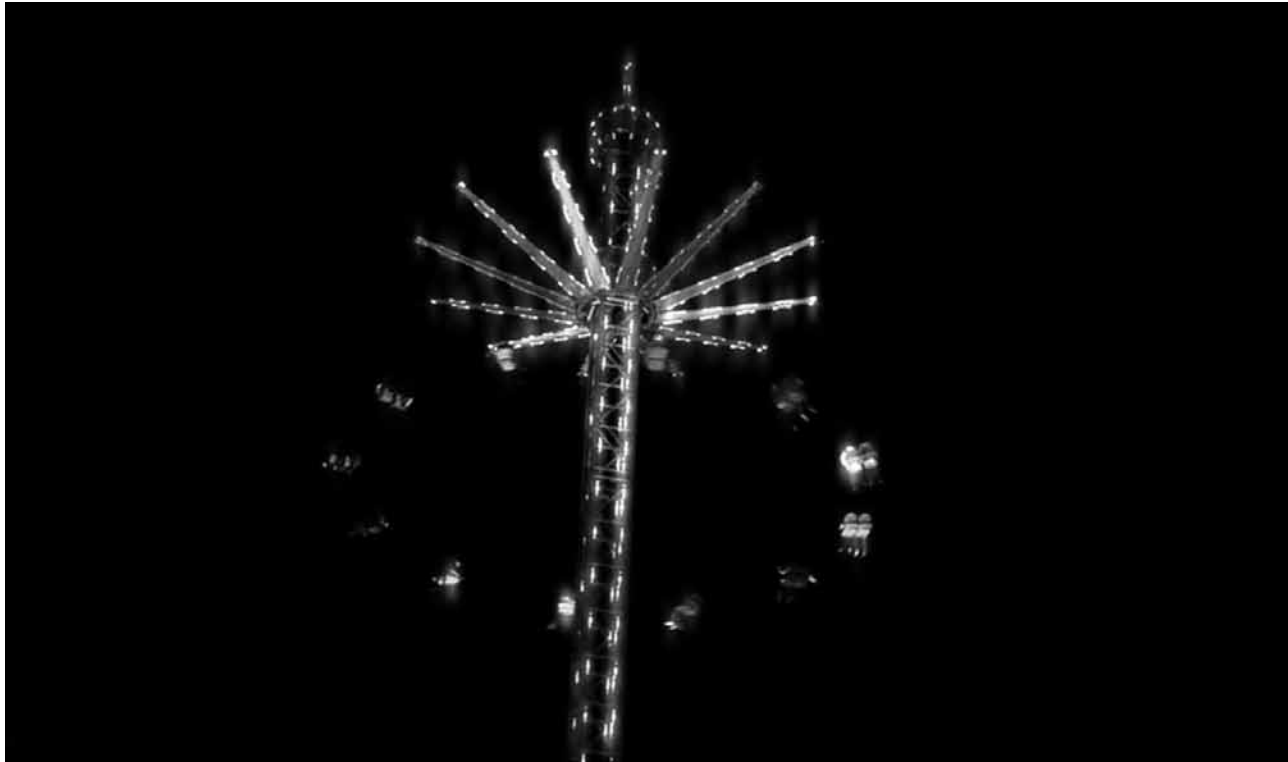
DECODED BY YIN-JU CHEN & JAMES T. HONG

AN ALIEN DOCUMENT

40th International Film Festival Rotterdam



Tiger Award nominee for short film



End Transmission

15 min. 40 sec. | DVCPRO HD | black & white | stereo | 2010
in collaboration with James T. Hong

Video preview: vimeo.com/62533465 | Password: sandiago1

A decoded, alien environmental message, structured as a hypnotic experimental film, forcefully and poetically warns us of their return and the planet's re-colonization.

Strange messages are sent to humanity. They are frightening and poetical at the same time; they report of a takeover and the end of it all. The messages alternate with ominous black-and-white images of lifeless cities under control, frozen industrial landscapes, sterile laboratory machinery and nature in an abandoned state. "We were here before you." "Fear is natural." A final warning: the planet is re-colonized, and human life only seems possible in the protected, artificial and enclosed environment of a large-scale indoor resort.

Stephen Hawking once wrote, "If aliens ever visit us, the outcome will be much as when Christopher Columbus landed in America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans". In this case, who are the colonizers and who are the natives?

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Transactions

7 min. 42 sec. | HD | color | stereo | Mandarin & Taiwanese dialogue
English subtitles | 2008

Video preview: vimeo.com/yinjuchen/transactions

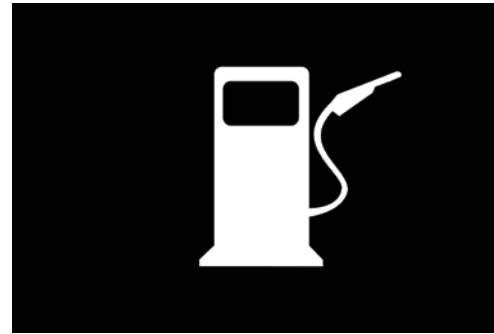
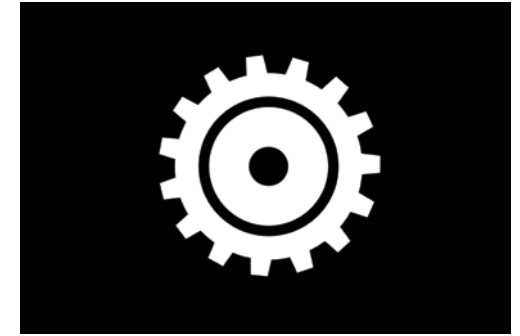


idfa
Official Selection 2008

In a sewing workshop, the making of a piece of clothing is filmed in detail while we listen to a phone conversation between a Taiwanese mother and her daughter, the director of this film. The mother spends her days and nights toiling away so she can afford to send her daughter to school in the United States. They are discussing the credit card bill. Not only their physical distance, but especially their emotional one manifests itself in an increasingly emphatic way. Their worlds are light-years away from one another, which leads to miscommunication and lack of understanding.

A talk between two people who love each other is reduced to a business transaction; after all, the language of the dollar is universal. *Transactions* is about the boundaries of a love that supposedly knows no bounds.

- Texts from *International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam 2008*



SUPREMATIST KAPITAL

5 min. | SD | color | stereo | No dialogue | 2006

in collaboration with James T. Hong

Video preview: www.ubu.com/film/chen_suprematist.html

A symbolic history of Kapital -- a symbolic history of the West.

Inspired by Kasimir Malevich's minimalist artworks and the struggles for resources in the age of peak oil, *Suprematist Kapital* was born of the want to create a visual artwork that could be displayed on many different-sized mediums regardless of resolution, e.g., theater screens, mobile devices, ipod's, etc.

When once technology as progress was an end in itself, it became the handmaiden of capitalist accumulation and war, and is now a form of capital itself in the age of peak oil.