

# NEWSLETTER

Issue XIX

January . 2017

## Submission #1:

VAGA Body & Multimedia Experimental Group

### 1. Project theme

"Shape"- Embodying Places

### 2. Motivation and methods of artist group creation

This project is a nomadic platform of artistic research exploring the possibilities of impromptu dance as a tool to analyze the social fabric in different contexts. Through observations and social experiments in different places in the past few years, our group produced improvisational, site-specific creations focusing on body as a tool for local realities and social spheres.

A field research will serve as a base to gain deeper insights into local realities and get into a dialogue with different local agents, A documentary film with philosophical exploration will be produced in this phase. (Field research: We might visit local artists and NGO groups, conduct interviews with artists, activists and local people, to know more about the social context, history and memories.)

The field research will be focusing on the following questions:

How to define "Environmental Impromptu Dance"?

What is the possibility of the impromptu dance in the field, and interaction with local people?

What is the relationship between body and field, and what is the influence in the place?

What kind of social experiments can be done with "Environmental Impromptu Dance"?

How can videos capture the body and social interaction in the place?

### 3. Expected creative production of the artist group

(1) Live/ theater performance

Physical theater will be our main medium to present our work. We believe that feeling and understanding of each site/place are correlated to time and incidental occurrence of events. At the same time, the site/place and experience interact with and influence oneself.

During the process, the artist will record and thoughtfully explore events happened, as well as changes within the artist. Physical theater can reproduce the experience of the artist and social context, traveling deep into the inner world of the artist.

Does the “place in the moment” really exist? What kind of place can a theater represent? What is the meaning of “present” and “represent” to the place and to the artist? We will explore these questions during our final exhibition/ documentation.

## (2) Documentary/ Exhibition

Through researching the culture and field research around the art village, we are eager to know the social context, and discussing thoughts and viewpoints with local audiences. A documentary will be produced to present and to create discussions with locals.

## 4. Introduction of the artist group

Artist Group: VAGA Body & Multimedia Experimental Group

Team member: Yang Liu(Chinese), choreographer, body explorer, who graduated from Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, MFA in dance. Her recent works focus on body senses and performance exploration, seeking the personality in the body and sensational instinct. Meanwhile, she explores how to represent and create meaning of the body in field and time. In "Three ways of cloth fluttering" (2016), she explored the body's personality based on field and ideas. Besides dance, she is also a multimedia designer. She combines her interests to explore the possibility of cross-media dance. From concept design to multimedia production, she creates works from the viewpoint of a dance choreographer. Her multimedia dance works include "Field"(2014), "Gravity"(2014) etc.

Team member: Kuo Ying Hsiu (Taiwan), a transdisciplinary artist and a lecturer in the Department of Media and Visual Communication Design at Chang Gung University, during 2013-2016. In recent years, she's been focusing on social issues and the relationship between field and identity. She is interested in social interaction and symbolic interaction, both interpersonal and between people and field. Through observations and social experiments during the last few years, she created different

works in various field (including traveling and living in Barcelona, India, Zurich, Hong Kong and Taiwan etc.) Portfolio: <https://goingshow.carbonmade.com>

## 5. Reference Portfolio:

(1) Physical Theatre(site specific) : Living To Live \_\_Environmental Dance in Tai O(2016)  
( <https://youtu.be/65TAAaF6TVo> )

This is an VAGA Body & Multimedia Experimental Group project. Project theme: "Embodying Places". This project is a nomadic platform of artistic research exploring the possibilities of impromptu dance as a tool to analyze the social fabric in different contexts.

Dancer Yang Liu's site specific creative work, an improvisational dance that interacts with the environment in Tai O, Hong Kong.

Choreographer: Yang Liu  
Film Director: Kuo Ying Hsiu  
Location: Hong Kong, Tai O

(2) Physical Theatre(site specific) : SHAPED (2016) Place: Vietnam  
( <https://youtu.be/li7YjRi6B7U> )

This is an VAGA Body & Multimedia Experimental Group project. Project theme: "Embodying Places". This project is a nomadic platform of artistic research exploring the possibilities of impromptu dance as a tool to analyze the social fabric in different contexts.

This poetic video shows the artist group (VAGA Body & Multimedia Experimental Group) keep focusing the relationship between the place and body. From the site specific work "Living to Live" in Hong Kong, Tai O, this time they visit Vietnam, Mui Ne. They used the field object to creation, place their body in the field, to explore more possibility in the place.

Cast: Yang Liu  
Director: Kuo Ying Hsiu  
Location: Vietnam, Mui Ne

(3) Documentary Performance 「0.142921%」 (2016) Place: Hong Kong

( [https://youtu.be/\\_fZVTiIaXbg](https://youtu.be/_fZVTiIaXbg) )

A group project based on the refuse disposal problem in Hong Kong (2016). The group visited and observed garbage collection facilities and landfill, also interview cleaners. They presented a theater work to express the environmental problem caused by materialism of the contemporary society, which was inspired by the myth of Prometheus to represent the contemporary social parable.

Cast/ Director: Yang Liu /Kuo Ying Hsiu /Mbene Mwalimbunga /Andreas Mayer  
Location: Hong Kong

(4) Physical Theatre: Repeat Repeat (2016)  
( <https://youtu.be/E93RkPccfTo> )

The work expresses respect to poet Xia Yu. This instrumental film deconstructs body movements of dancer Yang Liu, Embodying philosophical process of the city, body and field. By adding repetitive body applications and background sounds of the city, it reflects the possibility of disconnection between body and city.

Choreographer: Yang Liu  
Film Director: Kuo Ying Hsiu

(5) Physical Theatre(site specific) : Nothing Should Be Abandoned (2016) Place: Hong Kong  
( [https://youtu.be/zh5\\_hquqBCA](https://youtu.be/zh5_hquqBCA) )

This work a 24-hour observation of garbage problem at a Hong Kong night market, with the dancer Yang Liu's performing in Temple Street, Hong Kong. The actions reflect body awareness of the garbage issue.

Choreographer: Yang Liu  
Film Director: Kuo Ying Hsiu  
Location: Hong Kong

## 6. More Information & Contact

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/VAGABody/>  
Email: [goingshow@gmail.com](mailto:goingshow@gmail.com)

Submission #2:

LOVE LETTERS

POP

AB-X

HISTORY

Die-Oh-LOG

INTIMACY

SUBLIMATED

LONGING

Semen

CABBAGE

9/18/11

WASTED

Formalism

Submission #3:

Band playing behind glass, smutty peep show, loud, freakish, raucous, twin cyster. Audience in peep room can only slightly hear the band behind the glass and is seated, wearing headphones. The band is fed into an "audio-to-text program" from inside the glass and then fed into a "text-to-speech program" and into the audience's headphones.

Begin portrait practice.

Balding man on train. Light grey sweatshirt, dark grey sweat pants, outdated chunky white reeboks with navy blue highlights. Wire framed glasses. Left leg splayed out. One hand in sweatshirt pocket, one hand on a Heineken. Stares out window.

12.29.16

Boulder, Colorado

Lady overshares about her dog's neuro-condition.

Chubby boy with blonde buzz cut, grey sweatpants, worn shirt with a grizzly bear on it, chews on a silver and red kazoo as he walks up the down escalator.

The importance of my father's 35 year old White Mountains sweatshirt.

Submissions

[#1. VAGA Body & Multimedia Experimental Dance Theater](#)

[#2. Santiago Chavez](#)

[#3. Jeremy Kiracofe](#)

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