



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY

SEMESTER 1 (2017) ND1004 - 4D FOUNDATION (I)

Project 4: Poetics of Time Proposal Date Due: 06 Nov, 2017

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Tutorial Group: G09

1. Project Title

EAT - Put food into the mouth, chew and swallow it

2. Description of the Art Project

This project is an installation of performance art that creates the awareness of how individualization had changed our lifestyle in the modern industrialized society. I will be eating all my meals without company and any other items for entertainments for seven days. The performance is simply the repetition of putting food into my mouth, chew and swallow it. The purpose of this performance is to cause realization of the current issues.

There are two artists, Tehching Hsieh and Marina Abramovic, who inspired me for this project. Marina Abramovic, “grandmother of performance art”, known for her provocative performance artworks using her body. The performance happened in real time, space with her real life. She was even ready to die during her performance. For instance, in 1974, she had a performance art where she placed 72 items on the table and allow the public to use them on her. There are items like water, rose, but also a pistol with bullets, which almost been used to kill her. Marina also has other performance, such as counting

rice, slow walk to test out people's impatience. I personally respect her urge to execute, and how she pays attention to the basic things, such as drinking water, slow walk, sleep and etc. Further, Marina Abramovic called Tehching Hsieh as the "master". His artworks are time-based with strict rules that involve contracts and witnesses. He put himself through intentional pain and discomfort through his one-year project. For example, he punched an office timecard every hour throughout the day for his Time Clock Piece (1980 - 1980). Hsieh claimed that he was simply wasting time, and thinking as he did not know what he should create. He also has other extreme performance like living outdoor for a year. The two artists' discipline and urge to execute inspired me to do performance art for this project.

This project is also inspired by my 4D Foundation module project 2, Daily Life of Broom photo series, which tells the daily life of a broom. It started from the morning to the night. The broom was waited to be used in the morning when the light shined on it. Then it got dirty with dust and hair. At night, it stayed in the corner and is nearly invisible in the dark. This scenario is commonly seen daily, and nearly no one pays attention to it. This series is to bring our attention to the supernormal object around us and make its beauty visible.

For this performance, I intend to tell the audience that the risk of eating alone, and how the current society shapes our perspective of lifestyle. Also, to create anxiety and slight discomfort of the audience in Singapore. As Singapore is a fast-paced country where people are able to relate to this social issue.

3. Objectives and Activities of the Art Project

This art project will be an installation of performance art. I will eat all my meals alone for 15 days at the coffee shop or canteen, where most Singaporean visit on the daily basis for meals. I will dress up and eat as per normal, and the food will be what I want to eat at that moment. All the meals that I ate alone will be recorded, and those clips will be compound as a video and showed in measured time which is around 2 hours long. A camera will capture my movement, food and some other movement in the background at my eye level. Moreover, It will be an installation at level 2 outside 2D studio in Nanyang Technological University School of Art, Design. Table and chairs will be provided for the audience. Menu-like brochure will be with the information of this performance.

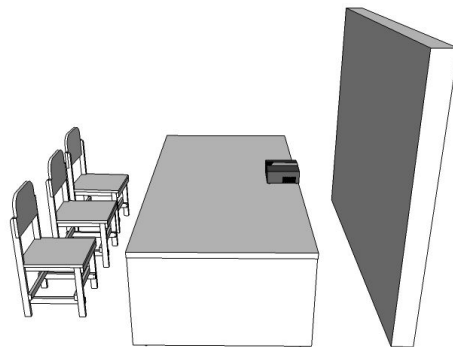
Lastly, The video will be projected on the wall with a table and few chairs for the audience to watch. It is like the performer is eating in right in front of them. The contrast of one person against the group will amplify the emotion even more than watching it on the conventional projection screen. The installation will take up area of 5x5x5 meter with a projector, table, and four chairs. It will run from 1230 pm to 0230 pm on 20 November 2017. The measure time video will play only once, and the audience is free to join and leave at any time.

4. Art Materials and Equipment for the Art Project

| | Materials and Equipment | Quantity | Remarks |
|----|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Gopro Camera | 1 | |
| 2. | Table Top Tripod | 1 | |
| 3. | Meals | 20 | Singapore daily cuisine |
| 4. | Table | 1 | |
| 5. | Chair | 4 | |
| 6. | Projector | 1 | |
| 7. | Menu | 2 | Performance information |

5. Mounting and Installing the Art Project

This project does not require wall or ceiling mounting. Projector and speaker will be placed on a bench or table for video and the soundscape.



6. Art Project Design

I recorded a mock-up video of me eating alone at a food court. The constant repetition of eating forms contrast with the irregular movement of the background. The background noise is also recorded and kept without editing.



Reference

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