



TEHCHING HSIEH

DM2009 Performance and Interaction | Artist Presentation

Born on 31 December 1950 in Nan-Chou, Taiwan

He left Taiwan to pursue his passion for art in New York

An illegal immigrant in the States for fourteen years

“

My language is not about 'is it Chinese' or 'is it English'.
Art is the best way to give me a kind of language to talk
about what I want to say.

”

In the late 1970s, he began a series of five **One Year Performances**

- About life and deals with time
- One year is a circle, a human calculator of life
- A good unit of real life

“

Life is a life sentence,
Life is passing time
Life is free-thinking

”

You consume time until you die.

ONE YEAR PERFORMANCE

By Tehching Hsieh

HOUR ONE ~~YEAR~~ PERFORMANCE

By ~~Tehching Hsieh~~
Norafizah Normin

CAGE PIECE

1978 – 1979

Deprivation of contact

Spent a year in near-solitary confinement

In a cell-like cage with absolutely nothing to do

A bed, a blanket, a sink and a pail, some personal hygiene items

No talking, reading or writing; no radio or TV



CAGE PIECE

12AM – 1AM

Spent an hour doing nothing *without moving out of my bed*

No handphones, no TV, no music – absolutely nothing to entertain myself other than my own thoughts

Also, avoided playing with my cat, Socks, who is sleeping on my bed

“How hard can it be?” – a thought that I regret 10 minutes into the performance



TIME CLOCK PIECE

1980 – 1981

Deprivation of concentration

Punching a time clock every hour for over a year

8,760 photos!

Compressed each single frame into a film

Each day compressed into one second





TIME CLOCK PIECE

7PM – 8PM

Took a photo every minute for over an hour

Disruptive as hell

Can't do much, actions/task gets disrupted in order to take a photo

Almost missed it once!





OUTDOOR PIECE

1981 – 1982

Deprivation of shelter

Spent a year entirely outdoors in downtown,
New York

No entering buildings or shelter of any sort,
including vehicles, or tents

Takes on the identity of a homeless individual

All about surviving, and charting his movements



11:30 A.M.
Defecate

11 A.M. Buy lunch at
373 AVE of the Americas

8 A.M. Wake up at
120 Mercer ST.
11:30 P.M. sleep at
120 Mercer ST.

8:40 P.M. Buy dinner
at 117 Mott ST.

date: May 11, 1982
Tuesday

NEW YORK
MANHATTAN

7:35 A.M. Wake up
at 120 Mott
11 P.M. Sleep

4:25 P.M.
179 St

8 A.M.
at

date: May
Monday

9:10
at
NEW
MANHATTAN

ROPE PIECE

1983 – 1984

Deprivation of privacy

Tied by a 250-meter rope to another person,
Linda Montano, without touching each other

"This piece is about being like an animal, naked.
We cannot hide our negative sides. We cannot
be shy. It's more than just honesty—we show
our weakness."



NO ART PIECE

1985 – 1986

Deprivation of art

Spent a year without making, looking at, talking or reading about art.

Most abstract and hardest to detect or document.

Found it easier to execute by leaving New York

JULY 1, 1985

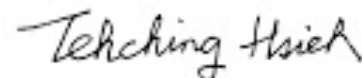
STATEMENT

I, TEHCHING HSIEH, PLAN TO DO A ONE YEAR PERFORMANCE.

I ■ NOT DO ART, NOT TALK ART, NOT SEE ART, NOT READ ART,
NOT GO TO ART GALLERY AND ART MUSEUM FOR ONE YEAR.

I ■ JUST GO IN LIFE.

THE PERFORMANCE ■ BEGIN ON JULY 1, 1985 AND CONTINUE UNTIL
JULY 1, 1986.



TEHCHING HSIEH

NEW YORK CITY

THIRTEEN YEAR PLAN

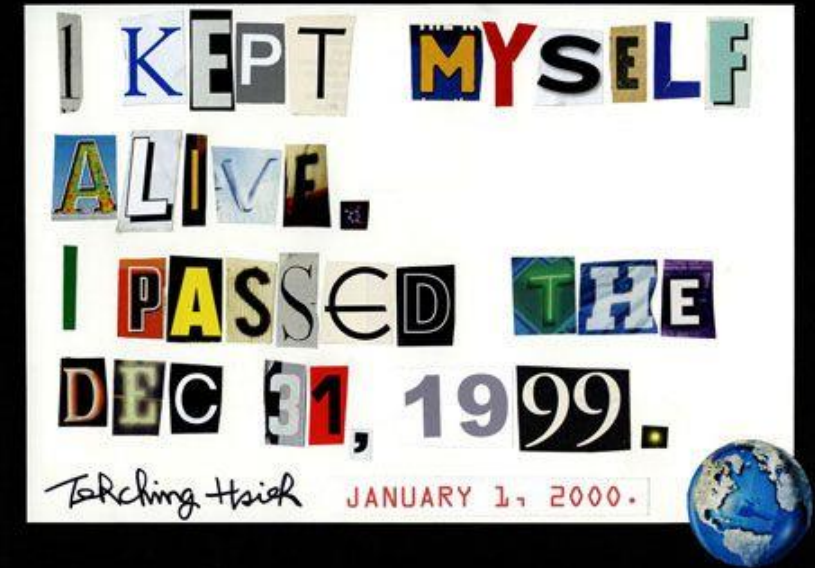
1986 – 1999

Did art privately without publishing anything to the public

Concluding report, 'I kept myself alive. I passed the December 31st, 1999.' using cutout letters pasted onto a single sheet of paper.

He then completely stopped creating art.

TEHCHING HSIEH
DEC 31 **1986 – 1999** DEC 31



1986 1987 1988 1989
1990 1991 1992 1993
1994 1995 1996 1997
1998 1999

EARTH

THANK YOU!

REFERENCES

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