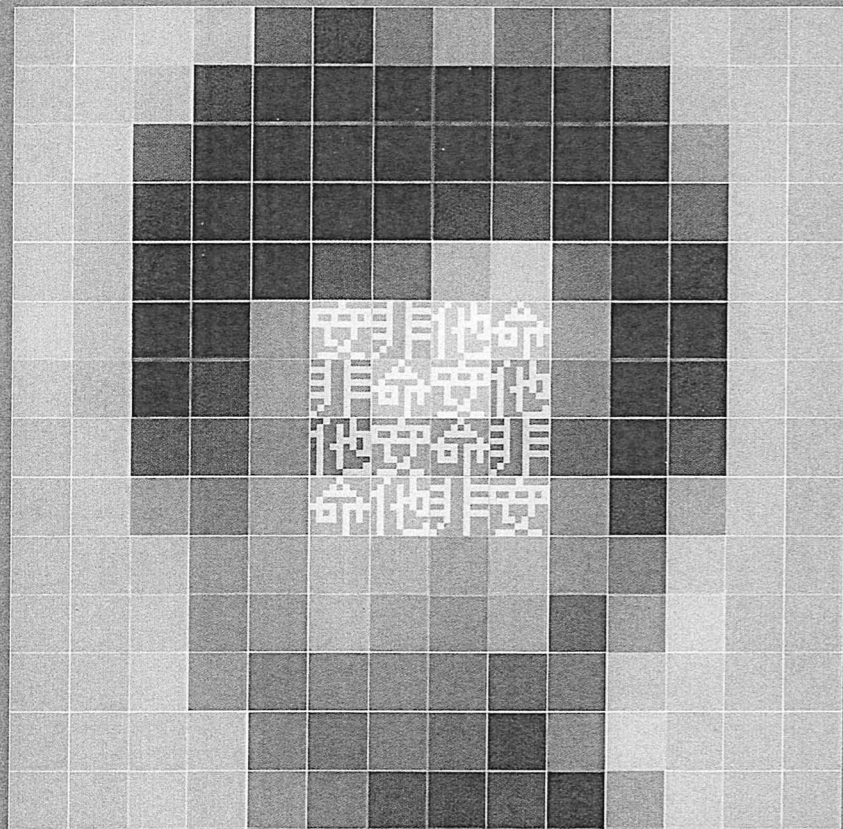


安 · 非 · 他 · 命  
P H A R M A K O N



余偉建個展  
A Solo Exhibition by Vincent Yu  
10.7-8.8.2021

JUL 2021

安 · 非 · 他 · 命

PHARMAKON

A SOLO EXHIBITION BY  
VINCENT YU

安 On

'On', seems to be one of the words in the name  
of a panda ambassador.

It, and members of its kind,  
have distinctive black and white.  
Yet they are close to extinction.

People say,  
they are living fossils, loaded with history.  
But is black and white the color of history?

Who is in charge of memory?  
When remembering is a crime, can memory stay  
intact?

Or, memory has taken control of life with new  
information and internet technologies.

From 2020 to 2021,  
a shade of green laid siege to the city of Victoria.

In the system it articulated, people  
surrendered the record of their traces  
for the peace of mind to hang around,  
so that dancing parties can go on, and horse  
racing can continue.

But the consciousness of the body,  
and the virtue of the soul,  
under the advent of techno-capitalism,  
will eventually be completely swallowed by 0 and 1,  
when big data becomes  
the secret police of 1984.

## 非 Fei

The binary of black and white  
has long buried under the gravestone named  
modernity.  
Normality and abnormality,  
in the days of pandemics  
have their boundaries blurred,  
like the people's faces,  
hidden behind masks  
as a result of the omnipresent tracking and  
surveillance  
and the fear that comes with it.  
The freedom of movement,  
disappeared in 2019.  
A collective  
dissolved,  
yet reborn in the mirror,  
albeit in the form of ERROR such as 404 or  
"mosaics"  
in its re-presentation.  
ERROR is not just a symbol  
or a vehicle of meaning.  
It is the name of the Times.  
A portraiture of the day.  
(Photo)mosaic –  
simultaneously functions as a vehicle of, and a  
resistant to, power.  
Like pharmakon, it's both curative and  
poisonous.

## 他 Ta

Together they were  
carrying torches and umbrellas;  
vast and mighty,  
lighting up the dark cave.  
But walls of the cave were a green screen.  
Those who were absent could become present.  
Those who were actually present could turn into  
disappearance.  
Light bearers from outside Plato's cave  
became chained prisoners facing the wall.  
The virtual and the real is swapped.  
But the cave into which light entered served as a  
camera obscura.  
Those who once existed,  
even though being erased or disappeared;  
in the long current of history  
remain immortal.

## 命 Ming

A community of shared destiny  
coalesced through imagining and shouldering of  
other's suffering and pain.  
In one summer,  
two million bare lives,  
under the scorching sun  
An Fei Ta Ming  
They breathed together, shared the same  
destiny,  
to pursue the infinite with the finite  
A photo of a sea of people under a held fist  
put the time and space of Hong Kong in 2019  
and Prague in 1968  
and their fate  
in parallel,  
despite of the absence of The Watch on the  
wrist.  
Yet photography itself is time.  
Even though civilization is collapsing,  
memory is interrupted by digitization,  
it is the evidence of "that-has-been".  
Photography is the embryo of mnemotechnics,  
When the grammar of (digitized) images are  
deconstructed,  
reality is challenged and blurred;  
through aletheia, the memory of justice ("dike")  
is reborn.  
Transindividuation across time and space  
in such alternate of the virtual and the real  
is made possible.

### **Carol CHOW Pui Ha**

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Tacitness: Asian Women Photography; A Room with a View:  
Her-stories-Hong Kong through the Lens of Six Female  
Artists; Photography as Method; The Wall 2019; Who Cares:  
Mainland Female Immigrants Photovoice Exhibition*