



WEERA IT ITTITEERARAK

Extending the Potential of Sensitivities:

The Interconnection of Individuals, Technology and Surroundings

## Biography

**Weera-it ITTITEERARAK** (วีระอิตต์อิทธิธรรม; 張國樑) is also known as itit Cheung (b. 1994) is a Hong Kong-based interdisciplinary artist. As Hong Kong-born-Thai, itit has a rich cross-cultural and cross-discipline background that allows him to develop unique sensitivities that nurture through his surroundings artistically and scientifically.

itit interests span in environmental, psychoanalysis and sustainability of the human and non-human relationships. He researches the interconnection between individuals, technology and surroundings, which is also revealing the environmental, climate change and post-pandemic era to bring awareness about identities and rights. He has a huge interest in art and science. He was diagnosed as in PDD-NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified) in 2015; he transforms his sensitivities of senses in his artistic practice by analytic and embodiment the states of emotions, the reaction of surroundings, the connection between gaps and triggering the human sensations through sound, light, and smell. His installation artworks gain recognition from the university and local government.

The ongoing research project, Sacrifice: Dabble (2019- ) and Symbiosis with Weeds (2020-) investigates the trace of human activities in the ocean and land. Aims to use technology to create an analog in Hong Kong by looking into the ocean waste or the weeds merged with architecture. And reconnect the relationship between humans and the environment. The project challenges the perspective on how artificial technology invades the natural environment and questioning the meaning of identity and sense of belongings. Using data collection and other science methodology combined with a broad discipline of photography, moving-image, installation, sketching computer programming and performative, itit seeks to find inner peace and provoke our understanding of the natural environment within our society.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Science (honors), New Media from the School of Creative Media at the City University of Hong Kong (B.A.S.) and is currently pursuing a Research Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Studio Art at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

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## *Access to the soma*

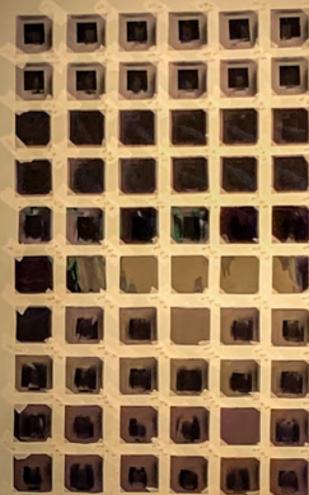
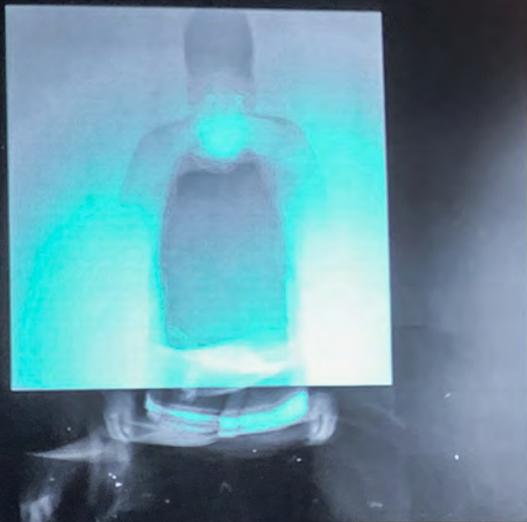
2021

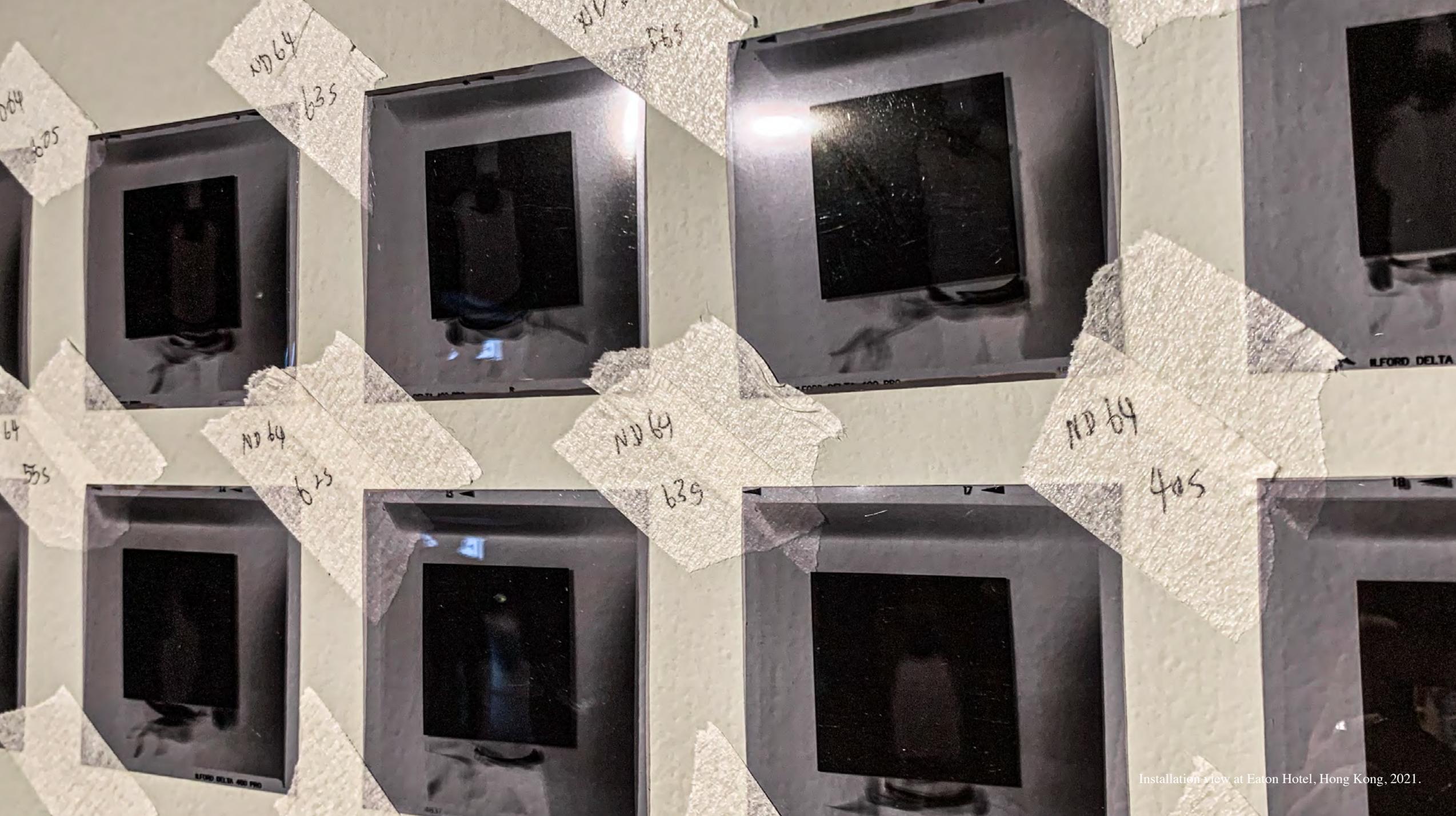
Digitized film photographs, single-channel video projection, live performance, analog camera

Commissioned by Eaton Hotel, Hong Kong.

*Access to the soma* is a performative proposition interacting between the artist and an analogue camera. A way of revealing the relationship of performative art and documentary, to open up and rethink this parallel connection and correlation. The photographer is also a performer being photographed; performing alongside the camera, body autonomous and react according to the mechanism of camera and chemical of film to reach the result similar to a photographic technique “chronophotography” which should be performed by electronic devices. It encourages the spectator to enfold their body, blurring the boundary between live performance and media, as a way of presenting the post-dualism in the middle and late 21st century, adopting technology to expand the notion of the human being.

To reveal the mutual responsiveness between the individual body and technology in the digital age -- memory and sight of mankind can be extended by new media gadgets. Photography is no longer only documentation for the performance, the awareness shifted along with breathing, blood flow and cell cycle. To show the different status of existence, *Access to the soma* captures and documents its process through selfie, compressing a duration of performance into flatten-negative-film; which is also an approach to connect psyche and soma (mind and the body) through breath hold increased the awareness of body, self counting to connect with the camera mechanism. The artwork exhibition for longer than a month, every weeks the artist (performer/photographer) is in-situ, performing and photo shooting on site, and specifically evolve along with the period of exhibition.





Installation view at Eaton Hotel, Hong Kong, 2021.



*Access to the soma, 2021.*



Close-up of the artwork

## ***Trigger the Lost Past Pass***

2021

Digital video, single-channel, 16:9 format, colour & sound (stereo), 8 fps

4 mins 01 sec

Thai & Cantonese with English subtitles

The New Territories (Hong Kong) was the first place lived with both my father and mother and the first place living after moving to Hong Kong in 2004. It has been 18 years after visiting the district again, and also at the beginning of the pandemic. The work was shot daily every morning when walking my dog. Started from 6 May 2020 to 22 December 2020, 228 days. With 1829 frames which 8 frames per second to become an animation.

I was no intention to create, but rather on a daily basis, this weed on a roadside and just attracted me. Every day I just shot a picture with my smartphone, to greet this little creature of being there every single day. And after I planned to move from the district, I combined the series of photos into a sequence in which I also discover my memories with my father before he pass in 2005.

To be an alien living in New Territories, and the only common language was English, but the place where I lived was not. I had no choice but to follow my parents' wishes and needed to adapt to the new environment which totally different from Thailand. After moving back again to the New Territories in 2020, it reminded me a lot. The blurry boundaries of identity. Memories of my father. There was a lot of conflicts, hates and uncomfortable mixed feelings between the inner self and the environment.

Published in:

VIDEO ZINE #2 : THE ULTRA-REALIST, THE EXTRA-ORDINARY,

*5. L'automatique: hickory dickory dock*

2021.03.31

Preview link:

<https://youtu.be/MP7Dw-YI2OY>

I always saw my dad saluted to the tree which hanging red rope

## ***Dabble in Water***

2020

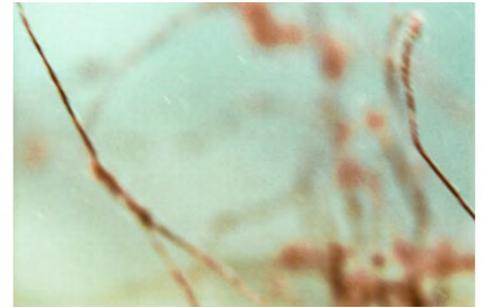
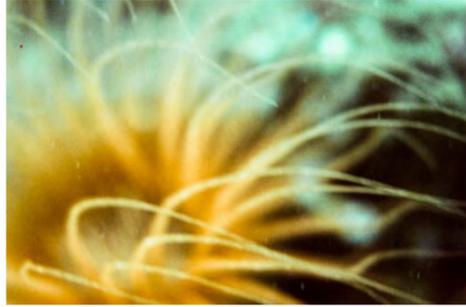
Inkjet print

- (i) 162.56 x 111.76 cm
- (ii) 70 x 50 cm
- (iii) 162.56 x 111.76 cm
- (iv) 70 x 50 cm
- (v) 162.56 x 111.76 cm
- (vi) 70 x 50 cm
- (vii) 162.56 x 111.76 cm
- (viii) 70 x 50 cm
- (ix) 162.56 x 111.76 cm
- (x) 70 x 50 cm

The series of analog photographs capture the movements under the Hong Kong ocean, recorded the how marine life and human made wastes merge into one. With Eastman Kodak 500T color negative film vision3 5219 (35mm) extended highlight latitude gives a greater flexibility when lighting extreme situations, especially under the water where red defused according to its depth, and lets pull even more detail out of highlight with the reaction to red. The photos shot as one with macro lens closeup, one with macro lens far back 1 meter.

Hong Kong is an Islands District, we live here, but can't leave here. We swim hard, swim fast, and still... Abandoned fishing gears, nets, and hooks become tighter when days pass. It grasps the soil, it grasps the corals and turns into sorrow. And just light can penetrate it.

This series has been archived in *Image Archive* at WMA:Open. and *Image Series* at Life Farmer 2020.



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## ***Personal Ocean with Ultramarine Light, Light up the Blues***

2020

Fish Tanks, speakers, sand, water, water pump, monitor, 435nm light bulb

100 x 100 x 300cm

*Personal Ocean with Ultramarine Light, Light up the Blues* offer an opportunity for audience to entre a short-wavelength 435 nm space which create a nudge affect to release pressure and reduce depressed emotion (seasonal depression / bipolar II). The color of light in between the cyan and violet in a spectrum of visible light can be discover underwater. By studying through self-experience from a third-person perspective, I see the relationship between myself and the surrounding. The environment underwater affects me in different senses; sight, hear, and touch. And it changes the reactions and emotional status of mine.

The project results from dive underwater for more than 150 hours in Hong Kong and transforming dive experience into the physical installation, privatising the ocean, and recreating the experience of staying underwater by reproducing human senses. From reviewing my dive journal and reflecting on myself, I discovered how the sea affects physically and mentally while staying in the underwater becomes a safer and comfortable personal space, which seems to be an infinite and unpredictable open space. At the same moment, to be below the surface is a contradiction and struggle when seeing the ocean wastes. I feel healing when researching by observing the movements, but the fact they have become a part of the ocean.

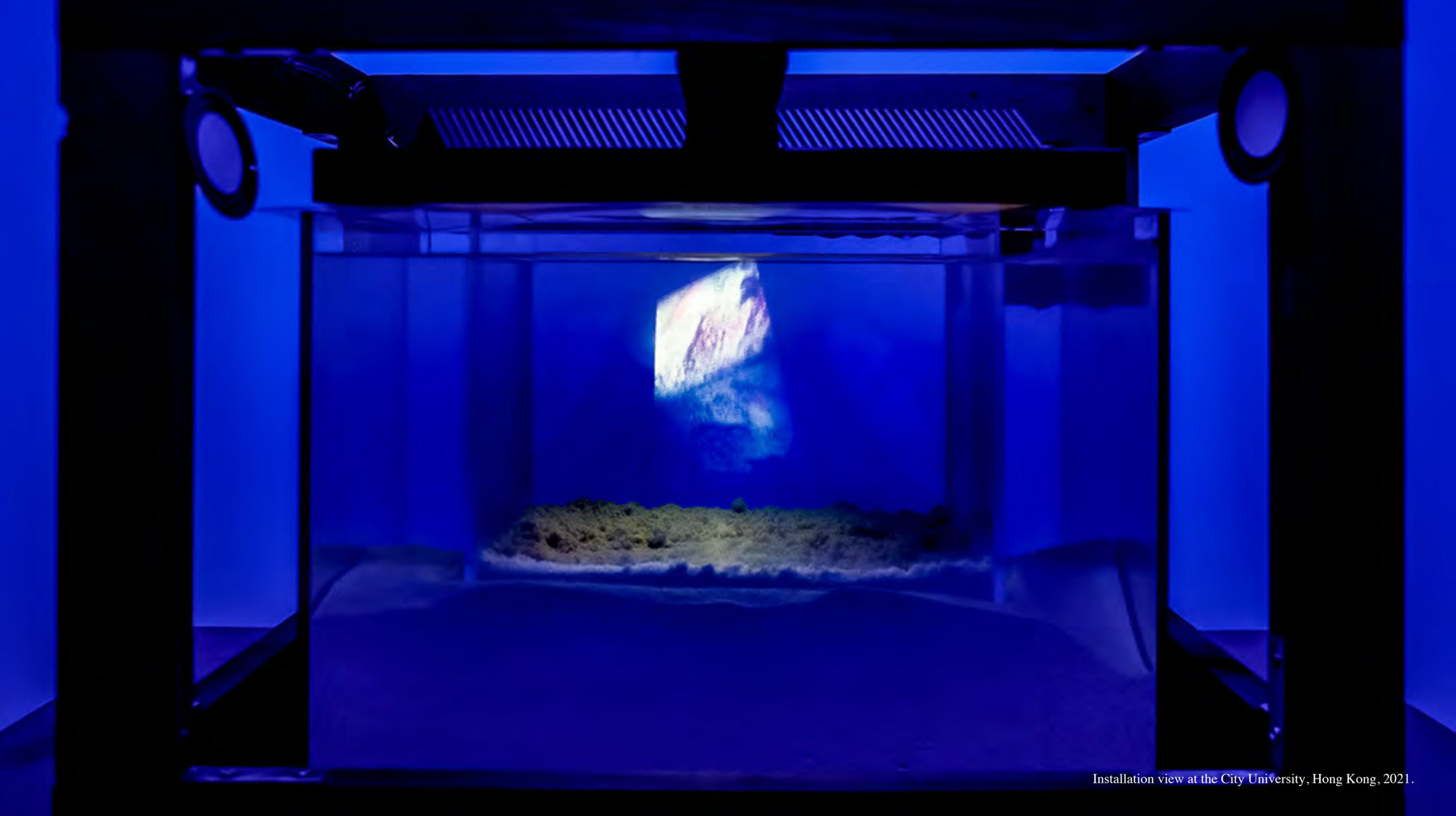
A careful control of exhibition environment to let the audience stay, and only one participant can see the hologram projection at the same time. A programmed cube with video looping, it floating and turning reacted to time and water speed sensed with sensory devise. A sound need to be sit near the front of the tank to hear. A temperature and humidity changed can be sense. The result of relieving physical intense, and psychological stress, I used the nudge techniques of influencing behaviour that, although subtle, can have significant impacts.

Preview link:

<https://vimeo.com/425763822>



Installation view at the City University, Hong Kong, 2021.



Installation view at the City University, Hong Kong, 2021.

## ***Loneliness Blue***

2019

Digital video, single-channel, 16:9 format, colour and sound (stereo)

5 min 20 sec

### Manifesto

- Video is a tool  
A tool that takes dimension pioneers like humans to take the road out; unfolds human feelings like arm extensions; reconnects me with the environment, life reconnecting to WIFI; and regroups the mind and body. If I don't have tools, or if I'm still piecemeal, pure emotions, pure flesh, although I am still me, they are not me.
- Video is an object  
An object can possess any qualities, be able to emit light, be able to make sound, be active, be of quality, be of taste, be of affection, be of soul.
- Video is anything, but also nothing

There is a kind of loneliness when you experience in deep water, no lights, no creatures, but just yourself, your breath, and the sound of water.

### Exhibition

“Right Here, Left Now, Out There” ,Floating Projects, Hong Kong, 2019

### Publication

*Our Manifesto 2: Videography, Documentary Impulses*, Floating Projects, Hong Kong, 2021

ISBN: 978-988-75664-0-3

### Preview link:

<https://vimeo.com/334844085>







Installation view at the City University, Hong Kong, 2019.

## *A Bridge Impersonation the PX-RICS*

2017

Digital video, single-channel, 16:9 format, colour and sound (stereo)

1 min 02 sec

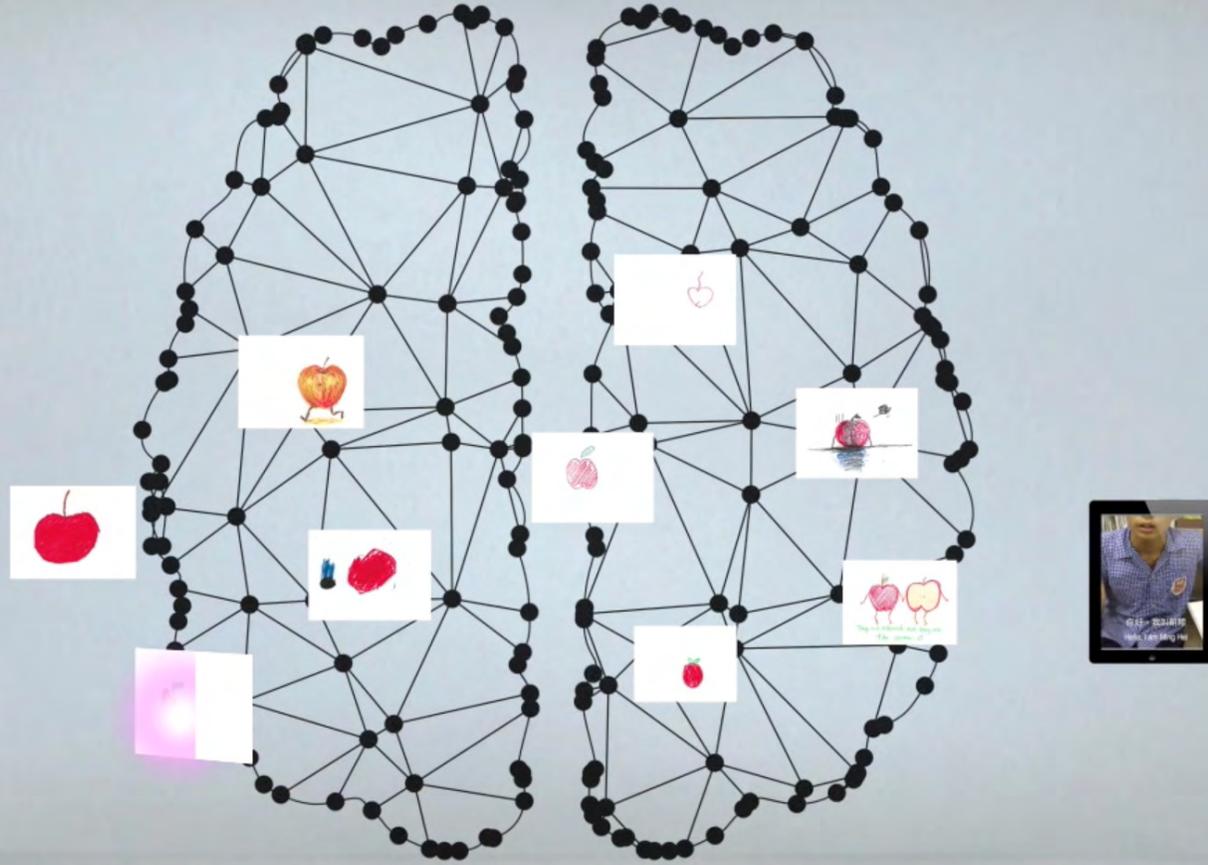
Preview link:

<http://vimeo.com/247336678>

PX-RICS is a kind of proteins which discover terminal detection of the long arm of chromosome 11. And it is also main function related to cognitive neuro performance of the brain system only. Moreover, there is a receptor called “GABA(A)”( $\gamma$ -Aminobutyric acid) which mainly a Aminobutyric acid to reduce or balance the information (sound, image) from the outer world (physical environment). The problem occurred in Autism brain or the nervous system is lack of or disappear of the PX-RICS. PX-RICS just like a truck, help our brain to carry the receptor GABA(A) from one nerve to another one. As between nerves, there are some gaps called “synapses”. To transfer the receptor through synapse, there must be something could carry it. And while Autism do not have the PX-RICS, their brain would get overload, lots of information goes into their brain in the same time. This problem make them could not get the exactly information at that particular moment.

It is to understand the specific relationship between genes, nerves, brain system and the communication strategy. Then using another way to mimic the way of communication. Perhaps in the project could see something out of expectation and cannot predict the final result. Bring the Autism and strangers together by using digital media to share their thoughts and have a common topic to communicate with each other. Then express their respond by drawing the same topic.

The project is working on a large but also specific area. The main purpose is to study on the Autism Spectrum Disorder communication and interaction behaviours. Yet, to have a well understanding of how Autism people have the communication problem is to study on neurobiology in the brain system and the chemical reaction inside the brain, gene and chromosome.



*Weera It ITTITEERARAK, 2021*

*iticheung.com*