

Exotic Dreams and Poetic Misunderstanding Project - Performance Dinner

Tårnsalen, KODE.4 Bergen, Norway. 14th May 2018



by artist: Lin Wang

**Report of
The Performance Dinner**

KODE.4 Museum, 14th May

Exotic Dreams and Poetic Misunderstanding - Performance Dinner aims to create a platform for communication where new and old social issues can be brought up in a courteous yet effective manner. The project constitutes of porcelain artworks inspired by the Eurasian Maritime Silk Road, food and a thematic concert.

The curiosity and imagination of “the other side of the world ” is universal to human beings in ancient and modern times. Maritime activities shaped the histories of the East and the West. Ocean was the first mediator that bridged cultures and connected people.

The guests come together for a friendly meal during which the dinner table becomes a platform for the exchange of thoughts. When the food is eaten, the symbolism and expressions of the artworks on the gigantic dinnerwares are discovered.

The project started in 2015 and since then, new concept and artworks have been continuously developed and expanded through performance dinners and exhibitions. The project aims to reach out to groups or segments in our society that are not necessarily familiar with visual arts. Throughout this project I also like to examine and

experience the use of *Soft Power* in both a cultural and political exchange.

Exotic Dreams and Poetic Misunderstanding

Project description:

1. My Personal Experience and Understanding of ‘Exotic dreams’ and ‘Poetic misunderstanding’

Through my upbringing in China, I considered Europe to be an exotic world, partly due to the political dichotomy that separated the West from the East. It was during that time my ‘exotic dreams’ and ‘poetic misunderstanding’ of the West fermented and grew. I formulated the concept of ‘poetic misunderstanding’ as a result of attempting to explore the theme of ‘imagination’ and the cultural curiosity the West and the East had about each other. Herein, the histories of the West and the East as embodied in the production, export and interpretation of porcelain are treated as complex cultural-cognitive processes intertwined with my own subjective place-to-place experiences. Practically, I wish to elucidate these histories through contemporary art. My project seeks to illuminate and transform the concepts of ‘exotic dreaming’ and ‘poetic misunderstanding’ through metaphoric imageries of sailors’ tattoos of the West, and blue and white paintings on porcelain of the East. The project also depicts the moment when poetic misunderstanding from both West and East cross over each

other simultaneously and cultural exchanges occur – often at a subliminal level.

2. World of Metaphors and Reconsideration of History

Imagery of the ocean embodies idealization of the unknown. People relate to the ocean in various ways. The color blue, which is alluding to the ocean, is prevailing in both tattoos and Chinese porcelain. Europe encountered China through porcelain. However, elements of ideology and symbolism associated with the East were not easily accessible through the familiar cobalt blue pigments and hand-painted imagery. As the porcelain market grew in Europe from the 16th century onwards, the production and exportation of porcelain facilitated a form of cultural transaction between China and Europe. European importers would bring European made sketches or models of tableware forms over the Atlantic, around the Cape of Good Hope and across South-east Asia to Guangdong harbour and then further on to Jingdezhen, where they requested Chinese artisans to replicate the designs in porcelain and decorate the final products with Chinese patterns. Although Chinese artisans did not have any knowledge of the western table culture that this tableware was a product of, for instance not knowing how a sauceboat functioned, they took up the challenges to create moulds and to paint patterns based upon these models. This cultural exchange based on the cultural appropriation of physical models and selected Chinese patterns took place in such

a way that the exported items embodied the Europeans' interpretation of China's 'exoticness' rather than creating a cultural and social insight.

Through my experience of living in Europe, I noticed that this "selected exoticness" is still very present in the mass media. The two different ideologies from the East and West are often still present in our daily life in invisible ways.

It is from this interchange of cultural fragments I derive the concept of 'poetic misunderstanding'. In my point of view, the artist actively engages in the social life of the place he lives in. I kept considering the relations between myself and immediate society and culture, in addition to how an artist should come to terms with these relations. I also thought about how I experienced the differences and similarities of both cultures and how these can be bridged through the art practice. I look forward to discovering new perspectives on related topics through the performance dinner, which go beyond the horizons of my own cultural epistemology.

The program of the performance dinner at KODE:

You are cordially invited to a Dionysian dinner party where Bacchus will pour his heart out with flowing wine and whisper stories of a drunken sailor. We come together for a friendly meal and exchange of thoughts looking at the maritime activities that shaped the history of the East and West. Like the ocean, we will bridge different cultures

and people. During the dinner, Cape Horn Shanty Choir will sing shanty and share some Nordic myths that we may remember from our grandparents in our childhood. Through the tunes and beats of Linni Ygmg we will float deeper into the Dionysian atmosphere and emotional magnitude.

Following the main ports of the old Maritime Silk Road, audiences will get three kinds of food experience during the performance dinner: European, African and Asian. Rewi and F will use local ingredients, including exclusive seafood from Norwegian fjords, to make the dishes from their hometown with love. The food will be presented on porcelain sculptures which Lin Wang created in Jingdezhen in China. With your stomach full of food, and hospitality from Bacchus and the merman, you'll be ready to meet the abstractness of contemporary art. The symbolism and expressions of the artworks are discovered when the food is eaten.

Exotic Dreams and Poetic Misunderstanding - Performance dinner is developed by artist Lin Wang. Presenting a platform for communication where new and old social issues can be brought up in a courteous yet effective manner. The project contains porcelain artworks, food and music. The line-up is in collaboration with Espen Horne, whom will DJ and play exotic tunes with Stig Paa throughout the evening. Also, Maria Øy Lojo is invited by Lin Wang to make a video installation as part of Wang's performance. The installation is

Øy Lojo's manifest of the dialog between her own project Stilleben and Wang's sculptures and performance.

The Performance dinner is co-produced by Prøverommet - BIT Teatergarasjen, in collaboration with KODE, and supported by Bergen Kommune and Norsk Kulturråd.

Participates:

Photography: Bent René Synnevåg

Rehearsal



Cape Horn Shanty Choir (Shantykoret Cape Horn)

Cape Horn Shanty Choir will sing shanty and tell us some small stories in between. When I was a MA student at Khib, I used to listen them singing seamen' Shanty in there rehearsal house. This experience evokes the memory of my grandfather telling me the Nordic myths when I was a child.

Cape Horn Shanty Choir founded in 1975. The purpose is to preserve and sing the sailboat songs Shatner, and present them to anyone who likes to listen.



Linni Ygmg

Linni is a Norwegian rapper from Bergen. From autumn 2015 until autumn 2017 he released the album trilogy Minimum, Maximum and Medium at Oslo Records. He was nominated for the Spellemann Prize 2017 in the class urban for the Medium album. He is a member of the rap-collective Yogutene.



Bacchus – Tomas Brudvik

Tomas is a respected tattoo artist who founded tattoo studio Let's Buzz in Bergen. He has tattooed countless people in his career in Bergen and all around the world. Once he told me, sometimes people who come to him asking a tattoo would tell him stories that they may not tell to others during the process of the tattoo making.

In the performance dinner, Tomas will impersonate the wine god Bacchus, and serve wine beside the wine fountain. He will let the “hearts” and flowing wine to whisper your stories and mine.



production & exhibition

coordinate work

Exotic Dreams and Poetic Misunderstanding - Performance Dinner

Mandag 14. Mai

KODE 4 (Tårnsalen), Rasmus Meyers Alle 9

Antall seter: 80 publikumsplasser (+10 i dørsalg)

Antall i kompani: 25 personer

Varighet: 2,5 timer

Forestillingstart: 19:30

Det er avtalt innslipp med kompaniet kl. 19:30

Funksjon	Navn	Telefon	Kommentar
Produsent kompani	Lin Wang	451 73 383	
Produsent	Kristina Melbø Valvik	45298902	
Produksjonsleder	Sverre Vik	464 25 634	10:30 -
Teknikker	Kristoffer	93693639	12:00 -
Vakt	Maria	40013374	19:00 - 23:00
Billetter	Thea	96225590	18:00 - 22:00
Frivillig	Live	93271313	19:00 - 23:00
Frivillig	Tonje	47904021	19:00 - 23:00
KODE	Andrea	951 58 806	

Kjøreplan

	Varighet	Kommentar
Opprigg		
10:30	Sverre plukker opp Lin for å kjøre utstyr/kunst	10:00 - 13:00 Car
11:00	Ankommer KODE	
11:00	Get-in: Installasjon, PA-anlegg, dj utstyr	4 t
15:00	Videoinstallasjonen settes opp	
16:30	Lydsjekk Linni	45 m
17:00	Make-up/kostyme Michael	1 t
17:30	Fotograf ankommer	dokumentasjon
18:30	Filmteam ankommer	dokumentasjon
18:00	Sverre plukker opp mat, ankommer ca. 18:30	food (ca)
18:00	Billetter starter vekten	4 t
18:30	Lydsjekk Cape Horn Shanty Choir	
18:30	Mat anrettes på proselenet	
18:50	Make-Up/kostyme Tomas Brudvik	15 m
19:00	Vakt og vertskap starter vekten	4 t
19:30	Dørene åpner	
Program		
19:30	Dje	
19:30	Performance	Forran bordet
19:30	Cape Horn Shanty Choir	Synger når publikum kommer inn i rommet
19:30	Mat og drikke	Inviteres til måltid gjennom performancen
21:00	Linni Ygmg	
22:00	Performance dinner slutt	
22:00 Nedrigg		
	Pakke ned installasjon	Vakt er satt opp til kl.23:00
	Pakke ned utstyr	
	Kjøre kunst og utstyr tilbake til studio/kontor	22:00 - 01:00
	Vaske over gulvet	
1:00		

+ BAR: LYSVARVET (kr 2000)
(EVNT. KJOPER VI VIN FOR DEN SUMMEN)











































