

1. THEME

WHEN I AM TALKING TO YOU I AM NOT TALKING TO YOU examines two main issues. The first issue refers to the deviation between our physical and virtual time and space reinforced by online media. If "I am not where I am" has been a philosophical issue in our spiritual life for centuries, online media makes it part of our everyday lives. The second issue refers to the conflict and negotiation between the native cultural identity of immigrants, and the culture of the society where they live their daily lives. The two issues are intricately intertwined. Our activities on social media (facebook, twitter, whatsapp, blog ...) create a second life which questions our identity and reality, especially for immigrants. When living in a foreign country and culture, the internet becomes a vital platform to get information and keep in touch with the native culture. In this way online social media can cause tension between the assimilation of the new culture and the native background. On the other side, social media creates possibilities and strategies to negotiate and integrate the different cultures in one's life. The same issue should be reflected both in theater and contemporary arts. An interdisciplinary expression is then well suited to deal with integration and parallel realities in a globalised world.

2. STRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Curation

The project will be held in a gallery 3.14 and build up a semi-closed space in 3.14. Audiences are invited to watch a performance where different elements and artworks meet, followed by the exhibition where the same art works are perceived differently. An overall aim is to let the performance part function as a coherent whole that will expand and transform when juxtaposed with the exhibition which presents the same artworks individually. The performance will last for 40 minutes as a preview to the exhibition, giving the chance for audience to contemplating the artwork and giving another perspective to see the artworks from usual exhibits. When the performance finish, the curtain will open, black box and white box will be integrated as a who exhibition space where the audience can closely approach artworks. The exhibition will last for three weeks, during the exhibition period, the performance will be given three times every week. The days without performance, the exhibition will be also open to public.

When audience enter 3.14, some artworks from artists will give a little tease and hint to the audience. Audience will also see some video artworks before the performance from the duo screen.

The exhibition has two layers: a central stage and video walls. On the central stage there'll be a variety of artworks such as sculptures, paintings, found objects etc. Bergen based artists from different cultures will be commissioned to create artworks based on the described theme and dramaturgical plan. The theme is open for the artists to interpret and to present in sculptures, paintings, found objects or installations. made by Norway based artists. However, on the surrounding walls there will be hundreds of video projections from another culture which form a big contrast to Norwegian.

The video wall will be duo screen which introduce the audience into the whole project even before they enter the exhibition and performance space. The video materials will be created by a Bergen/ Beijing based Chinese video artist. The material portray typical social issues of China from a native point of view. Everything will be composed from Chinese media and Chinese people's daily life such as news clips, online videos, movie clips, recorded FaceTime call etc - not what is transmitted in western media. The video clips will keep a raw, unprocessed quality, rather than being presented as refined video artworks. The purpose is not to show the contrast between Chinese culture and Norwegian culture, but to give the audience the feeling of alienation between the physical space where they are present, and the virtual space which surrounds them. The videos will keep changing and looping during the performance to make the audience feel surrounded, overwhelmed and intruded by an alien culture.

2.2 Performance

During the performance, the exhibition space will be separated into two rooms: by curtain to transform the space to make double spaces - a black box and a white box during the performance. Most artworks will be in the black box and other parts be placed in the white box, physically absent from the space where the audience seated - but through a live camera they will be transmitted to the screens in the performance, and thereby be integrated in the show. During the performance, video wall and artworks on stage will form two facade of the world: Video wall is virtual and realism world, Artworks on stage is physical and the surrealism world. After the performance, the curtain will open, black box and white box will be integrated as a whole exhibition where the audience can closely approach artworks.

2.2.1 Light and scenery

The lighting plays an important role in manipulating the audience's attention and competing with the other elements. The function of the light is not to highlight the details of the individual artworks, but to gradually reveal the carefully composed

tableaux the artworks form together on stage. The light establishes a slow rhythm on the stage which make a big contrast to the intensive rhythm of the video walls. This further a sense of deviation of space and time to the audience. However, the light on stage will suddenly flash or fade out at times to, ironically, pull the attention to the stage. Light will also be even give color to enhance the surrealism atmosphere. Some artworks artworks will be contained by big transparent box or ball, which reinforce the surrealism feeling. Before the light passing, audience will only see the contour of the transparent container around the artworks, however when the light pass by, audience will see the artworks clearly through the container.

2.2.2 Interaction screen

On the frontal wall, there will also be an interactive screen. Challenging the rules of the theater, audiences are invited to keep their mobile on during the performance. The audience will be given a number where they can send comments and texts relating to, or unrelated to, the performance. By sending texts and comments to a given number, their activity will be seen and wash over the screen in real time like bulletins. This allows the time and space of real and virtual life merge with the performance, and further interfere with the video walls and interactive screen. The stage and spectators are faced with distractions of other spaces and times, and the focus of the stage is decentralized. The screen will also display some scripted questions the audience are provoked to reflect upon.

2.2.3 Text

The text in the performance will be partly precomposed, and partly spontaneous input from the audience via the interactive screen. Some will be displayed on the interaction screen, some will be read aloud via a voice over. The precomposed text will mainly consist of questions written by the director, from very general pompous, philosophical questions, to more specific, private questions regarding cultural identities, gender issues and political views. Options with bias will be given to some questions which will make the audience feel limited to choose. This is to question the freedom of individuality which is actually framed in certain culture and social scheme. The dry, unfriendly political language will be read in a emotive, poetic way, which will add a comical and playful aspect to the performance. As well as giving a reference to the bureaucratic process of integration.