

A.W.#3, Artificial Walk #3, Tokyo 20191019
Operation Indigo: Ritual, the best way to wash all.

In the afternoon, Belgian artist Marie creates her performance " A.W.# 3, Artificial walk #3. I went down to the studio, and I couldn't believe that the originally messy house had been converted into an art gallery only in one day. The video, the installation, the exhibition, points in place, and even the windows are wiped to super transparent. I turned my head and said: " This is totally professional!"

Marie invited 8 Japanese residents to join her, to wear a blue tarpaulin and walk from Iwamotocho through the most lively Akihabara, up to 3331 Arts Chiyoda, make a U-turn around the big Camphor tree and then come back along a different path, and have an artists conversation.

Why would it be 8 participants? Marie said there would be a total of 9 people including herself. And 9 represents a complete beauty.

I had to admire her powerful vibe. Everyone was excited about the exhibition, but when Marie appeared in her blue woolen garb, she suddenly brought a sense of solemnity. She first dressed up the performers with a blue tarpaulin mantle, like some kind of ritual, and when it was finished, the whole atmosphere was transformed into a realm of silence and light.

Led by Marie, the team first walked through the residential area, up the flyover, across the bridge over the Kanda river, then through the raging flow of people. Pedestrians were curious to see. Some people quickly take selfies with the blue team in the background, some take a sneaky look and then quickly hide. A hurried bike racer is crossing the team gap. The tourists asked their companions, " What is this?". Partner back: "It looks mysterious, it's supposed to be the making of a movie?"

Because the walk is really long distance, Marie is moving a little faster than she did in the previous editions of the performance. In my opinion, her velocity corresponds to the urban rhythm of Tokyo.

Interestingly, although Marie has accelerated slightly, Tokyo's human flow, pedestrian reactions and running speed, the entire performance came into being like a miracle. Photographers and cameramen are in charge, there are always people that run in and out, it was an extremely difficult operation!

Even more interesting, the blue flow is flowing undauntedly and calmly through the Akihabara district. Marie says the blue tarpaulin is like an artificial extension around the human body. When a group of people walk together they generate "A.S., Artificial Spirituality " that is even more necessary than " A.I., Artificial Intelligence".

As the performers walk, the blue mantles drag over the tarmac. I saw a few times people almost stepping on the tarpaulins, but they always realized its presence in time, without ever causing accidents, as careful as they treat another soul.

Finally, the blue artificial spirituality- team returned to the studio, and the participants took off their tarpaulin with the artist's signature on it, they put in their handbag and carried it home. Marie went in to undress and hung her indigo-blue dress in a corner of the gallery, with her according woolen shoes. Some rituals seem to be completed, but the footprint of the action is revealed in the corner.

The question why I came to Tokyo arose and wanted to be explored this time, I got an implicit answer. But the shock is still too heavy, and it needs to precipitate again.

After the artist's conversation, we went out to eat ramen together and went to the 3331 Art Chiyoda Center for an exhibition opening. Probably too excited by what happened this afternoon, Emily gave me a glass of white wine, before I finished it a relaxed feeling of exhaustion hit me. Having a little chat with an artist, I feel like going home to sleep.

And at this time, in the sea of people, I could feel a pair of eyes gaze. Once back, my Tokyo white rose was glowing in the night, making people want to get closer, but holding back.

In a city with no hidden and unseen objects, the strongest feelings are hard to say. The mind can only be fully expressed in the "distance". The art of distance is the way to love the city. Cling it to your heart tightly, with (between your eyebrows) a layer of glass. We stepped out of the art center and walked. The four of us suddenly were speechless. No one wanted to break that silence. It wasn't until the light passed that Marie started another topic. And I, in this time of silence, found that my love for Tokyo is real and huge. My heart overflows. This moment, I'm going to remember forever. I won my love back.

Eric Chi-Puo Lin, October 19, 2019

林奇伯 Eric Chi-Puo Lin

is a journalist and a writer, based in Taipei, Taiwan

He was writer in residence at AIR 3331, in October 2019

<https://residence.3331.jp/en/artists/004945.html>

His new book is called 'Room for Life':

<https://www.kobo.com/tw/zh/ebook/WsOSjkOTmzy9S2Wf-Y94zA>

<https://www.books.com.tw/products/E050055621>

Automatic + free translation from Mandarin to English

《湛藍行動：儀式，是洗滌一切最好的方式。》

下午，比利時藝術家Marie進行她的行為藝術「A.W.#3, Artificial Walk #3"（人工步行三部曲）」。

下樓到工作室，簡直不敢相信，原先凌亂的屋子，才一天時間已被改裝成專業藝廊形式。錄像、裝置、展間，點點到位，甚至落地窗都擦到超級透明。我轉頭跟筱琪說：「這是完全是專業級的！」

Marie邀請8位日本在地居民，和她一起披上藍色蓬布，從岩本町，一路穿越最熱鬧的秋葉原，步行到千代田的大樹下繞一圈後，再循不同路徑回來，並進行一段藝術家對話。不得不佩服她強大的氣場，原先展間內大家還吱吱喳喳微興奮，但待Marie穿著湛藍羊毛連身裙出現時，突然有一股肅穆感。她先一一幫參與的民眾著裝，就像某種儀式一般，著裝完畢後，整個氣氛轉換為隱隱冷靜又輕快流動的力量。

為什麼會是8位參與者？Marie說，因為加上她，一共會有9人。而9代表了一種完整的美麗。

Marie帶領下，隊伍先走過住宅區，上了天橋，穿越河流，穿越洶湧人流。路上行人紛紛好奇觀望。有人趕快以藍色隊伍為背景自拍，有人抿了抿嘴閃躲過去。趕時間的自行車族穿越隊伍空隙。觀光客好奇地問同伴：「這是什麼？」

「看起來很神秘，應該是在拍片子吧？」同伴回。

因為距離不短，Marie以比先前兩次同系列行為藝術還快一點的速度行進，在我看來，頗與東京都兩倍速的城市節奏相應和。

有趣的是，雖然Marie已稍微加快速度，但東京的人流量、行人反應、運行速度，仍讓整個行為藝術變成繁物紛紛亂入的奇觀。負責記錄的攝影師鏡頭內，總不斷有人頭竄入、竄出，難度超高。

更有趣的是，這道藍色人流，仍鮮明而冷靜地從秋葉原慾望漩渦中穩定流過。Marie稱，藍色防水蓬布就像是人體周圍的人工延伸物。一群人走在一起，行為藝術者會集體表現出一種「人工靈性（Artificial Spirituality）」，比「人工智慧（Artificial Intelligence, or A.I.）」還具體有形的存在。

走路時，防水蓬布發出沙沙聲，幾次我看到有亂入行人幾乎踩到蓬布，但總是能意識到它的存在，而未曾踩踏，像對待另一個靈魂般小心翼翼。

最後，藍色人工靈性隊伍返抵工作室，參與者才脫下，把有藝術家簽名的蓬布整齊折疊，放進手提包內，各自帶回家。

Marie進去換裝出來，把她藍色斗蓬內的連衣裙掛在展間一角，毛毛鞋擺妥。某種儀式性才似乎被完成，卻仍隱隱在角落透露著它剛有過的行動足跡。

我感覺到，這次前來東京探究的問題，隱約有了答案。但震撼性太強，需要再沉澱。

藝術家談話後，我們一起外出吃拉麵，並前往千代田藝術中心參加一場個展開幕。

可能下午太過興奮，愛蜜莉給我一杯白酒，我還沒喝完，一股放鬆的疲憊感來襲。和個展藝術家小聊幾句，就覺得想回家睡覺了。

而此時，人海中，我隱約感覺到一雙目光注視。一回頭，我的東京白玫瑰在夜色裡泛著光澤，讓人想走近，卻又躊躇忍手。*

在一個沒有隱而未顯物件的城市裡，最飽滿的感情就是欲言又止、難以言喻。如此，心意才能在隱約與曖昧間，以「距離」被完整表達出來。

距離的朦朧，是繁物之城愛的方式。緊緊揪住你的心，卻又(在眉眼之間)隔著一層毛玻璃。

步出藝術中心，小走一段路，四人突然無語。沒有人想打破那段沉默。直到過了個紅綠燈，Marie才又開啟了一段話題。

而我，在這段沉默裡，發現我對東京的愛，真真實實又巨大地回來了。攪滿我的心田。

這一刻，我要永遠記住。我贏回了我的愛。