



PEI-YING LIN

VIROPHILIA

the virus scroll, with 5000 different virus names, 90 cm x 540 cm. cook book with virus imagery (2018-2020)

This project comes from a very simple question: Can we start to see the connotation of viruses differently, especially those that causes infectious diseases? The reason why such question is being asked has a very strong historical and scientific background. In biological definition, viruses, unlike bacteria, are not consider as 'living'. It is due to the fact that viruses themselves do not equip with essential components that can facilitate their replication. In other words, viruses cannot replicate themselves. They are doomed to be the 'parasites' on living creatures, and human is one of them. When viruses borrow our cells as their replication factories, our body system become unstable, our body immune system reacts, and at the macro scale we get sick. Though the interaction is much more sophisticated than how we commonly understand.

The biological world is vast and evolving. We as one of the biological habitants that share the same basic building blocks with other living and semi-living things, we are born to be included in the cycle of evolutions. We share the same genetic codes with viruses, and for their semi-living status, we have not yet develop a medicine to cure them but only merely stop them from further replicating. At the same time, not all viruses are pathogens. New discoveries of beneficial viruses are starting to reveal, some are even crucial for our survival. The amount of viruses surrounding us also vastly outnumber what we have known now. To make it short, human and viruses depends on the existence of each other. Evolution is a non-stopping competition and collaboration.

This project is to investigate the possibilities of human-virus encounter in the realm of culture through different facilitation of events, performances, and materiality to build up new discourse and sensible understandings.



Virophilia
Installation at Dancemakers,
Amsterdam



Virophilia
Installation, at Quasi-Nature. The
roll containing all the known viruses
mater species up to date (2019),
which very likely only contains 10%
of the viruses on Earth.



Pei-Ying Lin

Artist and designer from Taiwan and based in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. She focuses on exploring science and human society through artistic methods and is particularly interested in building a common discussion ground for different cultural perspectives regarding elements that constructs our individual perception of the world. Recently she has been focusing on manipulating the boundary of invisible/visible, living/non-living and finding ways to build tools and methods that facilitate such explorations.

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