

Hsu Che-Yu

Zoo Hypothesis

Opening: 16 November 2023 from 6.00 to 8.00 pm

**Exhibition of the Han Nefkens Foundation, Loop and Fundació Joan Miró videoart production grant
Room 20 of the Fundació Joan Miró
From 17 November 2023 to 14 January 2024**

Press release

The Fundació Joan Miró, The Han Nefkens Foundation and Loop present *Zoo Hypothesis*, by Hsu Che-Yu (Taipei, Taiwan, 1985).

- **Hsu Che-Yu, winner of the 2020 Video Art Production Grant awarded by the Han Nefkens Foundation – Loop Barcelona and Fundació Joan Miró, will be presenting his exhibition *Zoo Hypothesis* in room 20 of the Fundació Joan Miró.**
- **The Taiwanese artist explores the reconstruction of personal and collective memories in collaboration with a forensic team that specialises in the 3D scanning of crime scenes.**

Barcelona, 16 October 2023. Che-Yu Hsu's work on video focuses on researching and re-examining historic moments and on the reconstruction of personal and collective memories. In *Zoo Hypothesis* (2023), the artist presents a dialogue between a scriptwriter and an actor while they are preparing a performance that explores the connection between certain gestures and the horror they evoke.

This dialogue is accompanied visually by **digital reconstructions of the oldest zoo in Taiwan** and its taxidermy workshop, architecturally generated using **3D scanning technology**.

The conversation revolves around two events that took place during **the Japanese occupation of Taiwan during the years of the Second World War**: one is the ceremony held in a zoo to honour the animals that died during the military operations. For this tribute, animals such as elephants and orangutangs were trained to kneel in a

symbolic gesture of grief. The second event was the mass execution of animals at Yuanshan Zoo when it was feared the US army would bomb the city in 1944. The slaughter was intended to prevent civilian injuries and deaths caused by the accidental escape of these animals. The animals' bodies were subsequently dissected, preserving their movements and postures.



Hsu Che-Yu, *Zoo Hypothesis*, 2023. Single-channel video, 31 min 33 s, sound. Image courtesy of the artist.

About the artist

Hsu Che-Yu

(Taipei, Taiwan, 1985)

Hsu Che-Yu is an artist based in Taipei and Amsterdam. He completed a master's degree at the Graduate Institute of Plastic Arts of the Tainan National University of the Arts (Taiwan). He has participated in the **Higher Institute for Fine Arts** residency programme (Ghent, 2019–20) and at Le Fresnoy - Studio national des arts contemporains (Tourcoing, 2020–22). In 2022, he began his two-year art residency at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. Hsu Che-Yu **creates animations, videos and installations that present the relations between memories and the media. What interests the artist is not just the history of events traceable through audiovisual media, but also the reconstruction and visualization of memories, be they private or collective.**

Hsu Che-Yu has presented solo shows at the SAT (Society for Arts and Technology; Montreal, 2012), the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts (Taipei, 2012), the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (2015), the Taishin Annual Grand Prize (Taishin Bank Foundation for Arts and Culture, 2016), the Asian Art Biennial (Taichung, 2017), the Shanghai Biennale (2018) and the London Design Biennale (2018). He was a finalist for the Hugo Boss Asia Art Award (2019) and has shown work in the Vanguard Gallery (Shanghai, 2020),

the São Paulo Biennial (2021), the Seoul Mediacity Biennale (2021), at *Techniques of Becoming* (Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, 2021), VIDEONALE.18 (2021), the Liang Gallery (Taipei, 2022), the public programme of the quadrennial Sonsbeek20>24 (2021) and more recently the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève (2023). In addition, he has participated in the Theater der Welt (Frankfurt, 2023), as well as in international film festivals such as the International Film Festival Rotterdam (2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023) and the New York Film Festival (2020). He was awarded the Videonale Award of the Fluentum Collection (Kunstmuseum Bonn, 2021). In 2020 he won the **Video Art Production Grant awarded by the Han Nefkens Foundation – Loop Barcelona 2020, in collaboration with the Fundació Joan Miró.**

Press material and images: Zoo Hypothesis

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