

YES#11 Yiran Zhao

90 DEGREES for performer, videos, and voice

The human body can easily bend its various limbs into 90-degree angles. Taking this as a basic premise, I wrote a “visual composition”, exploring the musicality of these movements as a live performance, combined together with different types of video as well as performance and voice.

In this piece, 3 scales of body movement (hands, forearm, whole arm) are positioned in 3 levels of distance. They dialog with each other as polyphonically visual and compositional material.

While retaining a very minimalistic stage posture, the piece is deeply worked out with the only visual material consisting of 90-degree movements and a whispering human voice relating to the bodily gestures. The piece builds a very concentrated situation with the slow looped arm motion of the performer; during the principal repetitions there are, however, many different small variations of finger posture, palm direction, and rhythmic models. Even through both video parts are at times fast and complicated interplays of combinations, the emotion of the whole work is kept at a relatively sedate level. The underlying idea has its roots in Buddhist philosophy, to train to have a sober mind in diffusive surroundings, and maintain singular focus on the specific events being worked out despite surrounding distractions of the quotidian and ephemeral that work to dissipate one's concentration. The first version of this piece was developed with the voice from Claudia Cervenca. It could be performed live with the vocalist with stereo amplification, or the voice as a recording with stereo speakers. It was presented in AGORA ARTES Evening Event at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin (Germany) on 28.04.2018, and MusikTheaterLabor at the Landestheater Linz (Austria) on 19.06.2018. The second version is with recorded voice of Stellan Veloce and Yiran Zhao, which they present at *Y-E-S Fest* during 29.& 30. September 2018 in Berlin.

Duration: ca. 12 minutes

Setup: video screen (1 big on the floor for projection and lighting of the live performance, 1 TV screen), stereo speakers with audio sample or live voice, performer,

Space: completely dark

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/GX83MCeWMeo>

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