

體腔中的炙熱聲響：洪禎佑《呼吸》

藍仲軒（藝術家、獨立策展人），2023/05

神性，這是洪禎佑的 2023 年個展《呼吸》給人們的第一印象。我們不禁去推敲藝術家與信仰的關係與其中的引經據典。然而當試圖循著知識去解密這些畫作的時候，我們應該會感到不知所措。洪禎佑將其中的信仰賦予給了自己，使一切回歸於藝術家本人：與妻子的遠距離相處、疫情期間的隔離、消防救難的過往等生活經驗，都被他巧妙的轉換成了只屬於他的神蹟。另一個有趣之處在於洪禎佑並不試圖以抽象繪畫來表現內在精神，而是以具象而曖昧的形體呈現。換句話說，我們仍舊會在畫中看見許多具有信仰暗示的符號，但神的偶像化被藝術家移除了，僅剩下能與自己產生共鳴的部分，也是洪禎佑看待自身靈魂與世間萬物的方式。

我們已無從判斷〈鋼鐵男子〉中的聖母像角色，只能欣賞兩個精神體的相互連結與依偎；〈等待回應〉中佇立的某種聖器發送著信號，性器般的體態流露出對生命根源的告白；另外兩個精神體在〈流暢〉裡孵化著某個宇宙，藝術家與其伴侶即為作品的造物主。許多光體也在這些作品中反覆出現，然而當我們細看時，就會發現它們更像是一種時而黏膩、時而清澈的有機液體，或許是淚水，或許是體液，也或許是意識的具象化，皆為平日裡最能去感受自我存在的載體。

試圖感受一下呼吸吧：氣流從鼻孔吸入，經過鼻腔與氣管進入了肺部；接著另一股氣流從相同的路徑排出，使我們得以活著。在呼吸的同時，我們也呼吸著現場的氣味，並時常在鼻腔中揮之不去，成為記憶的重要部分。《呼吸》中的許多絨毛狀物體像極了隨著氣流舞動的鼻毛，觀眾順著氣流進入了藝術家緊湊構圖的體腔之中。在體腔裡，絨毛狀物體似乎變成了腸絨毛，吸收著世界，也使藝術家得以感性地建構極具精神性的私密風景。原來，絨毛狀物體實為洪禎佑於廈門隔離期間所見的窗外景色——椰子樹。在那段只有單一窗景並與自己相處的時光之中，一顆椰子樹可以在心裡幻化為任何事物，無論是對隔離結束的渴望，以及與妻子見面的期望。

最終，一幕幕風景在洪禎佑的體內油然而生，成為了藝術家的顛內高潮與白噪音。大幅作品〈起源〉是獻給女性的詩意崇拜，也是展覽中唯一有著多種色彩的作品。婀娜的椰子樹女神孕育了後方的山景，巨大的粉月照亮了山谷中的湖水，成為了洪禎佑的精神依託；另一件大幅作品〈夏夜晚風〉提名來自歌手伍佰的知名歌曲，交織的黑、白兩株椰子樹是藝術家透過觀察環境並與之相融的心境，彷彿脫離了隔離狀態並在精神上達到自由與解放；幽藍色的〈撫摸〉躍入了〈起源〉中的湖中，享受著自身靈魂的包覆與安撫。不過，《呼吸》中的其他黑白畫作其實並不使人冷靜，我們能感受到極為神聖的生命力在藝術家的體腔中運作，光明、潔淨，實為一種非常炙熱的人性。

對藝術創作來說，《呼吸》或許是較為單純的那一種。無論人們如何辯解，藝術似乎難以擺脫服務性。我們姑且先不談早期的宗教與民族藝術，也不去追究普普藝術是如何向資本與政治靠攏。在充斥著商品的當代藝術裡，我們會看到大量為特定群體而做的作品。這並不代表它們全數嚮往市

場與否，而是反映了現代社會的多元現象，藝術開始為歸屬與立場服務。從某種層度上來說，這是必須的發展，但隨之而來的是各群體的劃界與排他，私密的自我表述也似乎變得不重要。

那麼在這樣的洪流之下，洪禎佑的《呼吸》跳脫了藝術家自認的身份責任，回歸到高我的坦誠傾訴，也就顯得更為難得珍貴了。

Blazing sounds in the body cavities: Breath by Hung Zhen-You

LAN Chung-Hsuan, artist and independent curator, 2023/05

“Divinity” is the first impression given by Hung Zhen You’s 2023 solo exhibition *Breath*. We are compelled to contemplate the relationship between the artist and his faith, and the allusions to the sacred texts. However, attempts to decipher these paintings with knowledge will prove futile. Hung Zhen You’s faith remains within him, while his works can be attributed to the artist’s personal experience: being away from his wife, isolation during the epidemic, and his career as a fire fighter, all of which have been cleverly transformed into divine miracles that belong only to him. Interestingly, instead of expressing his inner world with abstract paintings, Hung Zhen You’s art is embodied with concrete yet ambiguous figures. While symbols of faith abound in the paintings, the idolization of the divine has been removed by the artist, leaving only what resonates with himself. This is the way Hung Zhen You views his own soul and everything in this world.

We have no way of identifying the Madonna figure in *Man of Steel*; instead, we are left to ponder the mutual bond and embrace of two spiritual entities. In *Awaiting Response*, a sacred instrument sends a signal, and the sexual organ-like figure reveals a confession for the origin of life. Two other spiritual beings incubate a universe in *Flow*, and the artist and his partner are the creators of the piece. Many objects of light also appear in these works. When we look closely, however, we will find that they are more like an organic fluid, at times viscous, at times clear. They are perhaps tears, maybe bodily fluids, or possibly the embodiment of consciousness, carriers which evoke the sense of self-existence in everyday life.

Let’s feel the breath: inhale from the nostrils. The air enters the lungs through the nasal cavity and trachea, and then expelled through the same airway – the mechanism that keeps us alive. While breathing, we also take in the smell of the surroundings, which often lingers in the nasal cavity and becomes an essential part of memory. The hair-like objects in *Breath* bear a striking resemblance to nose hairs that move with the airflow. The viewer follows the airflow and enters the body cavities signified in the artist’s compact composition. Within the body cavities, the hair-like objects seem to become intestinal villi, which absorb the world and allow the artist to construct a highly spiritual and intimate landscape. It turns out that the villi-like objects are in fact the coconut trees that Hung Zhen You saw outside the window during his quarantine in Xiamen. The view from the window was all he could see during that time of isolation. A coconut tree could be transformed into anything in the mind’s eye - the longing for the end of seclusion, or the yearning to see his wife.

Eventually, one after another, landscapes emerged from within Hung Zhen You’s body, and became the artist’s ASMR and white noise. The large-scale piece *Origin* is a poetic worship dedicated to women, and the only piece in the exhibition with multiple colors. The graceful coconut tree goddess gave birth to the mountainous landscape in the background. The looming pink moon illuminated the lake waters in the valley and offered Hung Zhen You spiritual support. Another large piece, *Summer Night Breeze*, was named after

a popular song by Taiwanese rock singer Wu Bai. The two coconut trees in black and white became intertwined, an image which mirrors the artist's experience of observing and becoming one with the environment, as if he had broken free from the isolation and attained spiritual liberation. In the faint blue Caress, he dived into the lake waters of Origin, delighting in the enclosure and comfort of his own soul. Yet, the other black-and-white paintings in Breath are by no means calming. We can sense the sacred vitality running through the artist's body cavities – bright, clean and pure, blazing humanity.

In terms of artistic creation, Breath is relatively simple in nature. Art always seems to serve certain ends, despite all justifications. Without mentioning early religious and ethnic art, or how Pop Art was closely tied to capitalism and politics, we can point to contemporary art, which is replete with “merchandises” – many works are created in service of specific groups. While this does not mean that all of them are merely serving the market, it is a reflection of the diverse phenomena in modern society. Art begins to serve specific purposes and positions. To some extent, this is a necessary development, but with it also comes the demarcation and exclusion of various groups, and the disregard for intimate self-expression.

Against this backdrop, Hung Zhen You's Breath is indeed a precious rare gem in the sense that the artist has gone beyond his self-defined identity and responsibility, and gave a candid outpouring of the higher self.