

From the initial inspiration to a final outcome, most of what I set out for got realized – a performative piece indicating objective unpredictability while ‘manipulating’ the artist. With a motional installation that welcomes participants, I get to hand over the authority over my physical or mental condition to unknown – neither I or the audience is in charge. However, concepts like ‘self-operation’ from my first intention have been weakened for me to spare the focus. It’s a necessary concession to an accomplishment.

This does remind me of the need to narrow down more the concepts ahead of actual practice, or, start with something simple yet intriguing. As a matter of fact, my over-broad motif including first human passivity, then unpredictability and reality split, severely slowed down the progress with extensive research range and consumed much of my energy. Meanwhile, over-prioritizing the idea and research resulted in me being lost frequently, swinging between focuses without firm decisions. I tried to value the analytical and reflective process yet went too far, and eventually became easily influenced, lacking concentration on my own creative practice. This has led to another problem that I didn’t enough time for progressive experiments, indicating my bad time management. Consequently, the first outcome, a performance with a highly sensitive structure, failed partly for that.

I’ve also made mistakes of chasing things beyond my reach. Take the first installation for instance, it was designed to maintain a delicate balance with high sensitivity to external force. Nevertheless, without adequate testing and adjustment, it, unfortunately, collapsed and thus marked the end of my first piece.

However, I also learned the lesson and immediately turned to a second piece. Derived from my previous research, this one, also a performative installation, consists mainly of a neat box and pipes, one of which gets to control my breath via an oxygen mask. I attempt to depict a process from a small trigger to an inconspicuous yet essential incident.

Through all my practice, I am glad to witness a slight transition in me as I used myself as one object, generate my own natural response and emotions to render myself more devoted. It doesn’t only help accomplish the project, but also enrich my comprehension of the character of ‘artist’. The key concepts of mine also correspond to my experience, thus extending the boundary between the artwork and reality. This is seen as the biggest success by me. At the same time, the use of multi-medium has enabled me to explore through materials and formats, including fine wood and plastic handcraft and displaying via digital equipment, which absolutely expands my artistic skills.

To further develop the project based on same ideas, I would love to look more in-depth into mechanical culture from my research about self-operating system. It can be regarded as one of the very threats to human society. Yet, it’s also the inevitable result of unlimited desires and overconsumption of natural resources. What human created might eventually destroy humans, serving an example of the ‘unpredictability’ to a greater extent.