

Zuni Icosahedron
Electronic Music Image Theatre
WITTGENSTEIN

Philosophy of No Language ◦ Endless Lights and Images ◦
Electronic Music without Sounds

Mathias Woo × **Steve Hui (Nerve)** × **Li Chi-tak** × **Tobias**
Gremmler

New Vision Arts Festival 2016



“The limits of my language means the limits of my world.”

“Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent.”

“In art, it is very difficult to do is: to speak, and do not say anything.”

“Lying is a language game, like any other language, it needs to be learned like any other one.”
~ Ludwig Wittgenstein

Wittgenstein's philosophy of no language Experimenting on the relationship of language and the world

Who is Wittgenstein ?

Wittgenstein was born in Austria, the son of a steel tycoon, an aeronautical engineer, a student of Bertrand Russell, a soldier, a primary school teacher in a mountain village, a gardener in a monastery, a professor in Cambridge University...one of the greatest philosophers of the 20th Century. He laid a solid foundation for the philosophy of language and analytic philosophy, and he believed that language is a tool to help us understand and know the world. What kind of chemical reactions would there be if Wittgenstein were to come to the 21st Century, and his philosophy is applied to today's technologies, when our language has become encoded messages, likes and emoji ? Do we have to redefine language, its function and structure ?

Mathias Woo collaborates with three outstanding artists to manifest Wittgenstein's world of language and logic with modern technologies. Steve Hui (Nerve) composes and arranges sounds with electronic music in response to Wittgenstein's philosophy of language, symbols, shapes and images as tools of philosophy; Li Chi Tak uses drawn images to recompose Wittgenstein's classic quotes; and Tobias Gremmler combines images of thought with concepts of philosophy.

Entering the world of Wittgenstein's philosophy from an artistic perspective, where one finds metamorphosing new audio and visual experiences, and texts of philosophy encrypted as digital messages.

About the Performance

Wittgenstein is one of the most influential philosophers of the 20th Century. In his work *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (Latin for "Logico-Philosophical Treatise"), he puts forth that if we could understand language, then how the world was created could be explained. Mathias Woo, in collaboration with cross-disciplinary artists, would recreate Wittgenstein's world of the logic of language; with comic master Li Chi Tak's unique images and symbols restructuring Wittgenstein's philosophical treatise; Steve Hui's new language of electronic synth music for theatre; and German image artist Tobias Gremmler's overlapping reality and imagination with severed, twisting and collaged images...entering the world of existence and eternity in the next century.

This new work is commissioned by Zuni Icosahedron in 2016 with partial sponsorship from CASH Music Fund.

About Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889 – 1951)

Born in Austria, Wittgenstein is considered to be one of the greatest and most influential philosophers of the 20th Century. Topics of his studies include the philosophy of mathematics, the philosophy of mind, and the philosophy of language. There are two phases to his philosophy: the early Wittgenstein and the later Wittgenstein. The early Wittgenstein is epitomised in his work, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, which is a classic on analytic philosophy and logical positivism, while *Philosophical Investigations*, the definitive work on the philosophy of language, is representative of the later Wittgenstein. Wittgenstein laid a solid foundation for later studies and developments of logics, the philosophy of language and analytic philosophy, and Bertrand Russell described him to be a genius and the greatest philosopher of his time.

Creative Team

Scriptwriter, Director & Designer : [Mathias Woo](#)

Woo's theatre works explore subjects as wide-ranged as literature, history, architecture, religion and current political affairs. His multimedia music theatre series on architecture, *The Life & Times of Louis I Kahn*, *Looking for Mies* and *CORBU* were pioneers in the scene of Hong Kong theatre. In 2009, Woo initiated and curated "Architecture is Art Festival", the first of its kind themed on architecture in Hong Kong.

Music Creation/ Live Performance : [Steve Hui \(Nerve\)](#)

Steve studied composition and electronic music at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. His recent works include: digital opera *The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci* (2010), *The Four Infinities* for the opening of the Run Run Shaw Creative Media Centre (2011), live soundtrack of the 1950's film *Family, Spring, Autumn* with Kung Chi-shing, and also as Music Director for the online project, *DECADE* presented by the West Kowloon Cultural District, and *1984 – A Cinematic Opera* (2014).

Visual Creation: [Li Chi-tak](#)

Li Chi-tak is now a freelance comic artist and painter. In 1987, Li self-published *Tong Men Shao Nian*, which catapulted him to fame. His works include *Assassins*, *Tian Yao Ji*, *Spiri*, etc. Li became widely acclaimed in Japan, with works published in Japanese magazines, such as *Posh!* *The Gang*. In 2016, his work *The Beast* was published in French, and his solo exhibition "Li Chi-tak, Hong Kong Wizard" was held in Angoulême International Comics Festival in France.

Digital Image: [Tobias Gremmler \(Munich\)](#)

Tobias Gremmler is a media artist and designer. His works have been shown at numerous art festivals and exhibitions, including *ARS Electronica*, *Transmediale* and *Red Dot Design Museum*. Tobias Gremmler always travels around the world to give lectures and workshops at universities in Europe, America and Asia.

Zuni 2016 Theatre Season "The Strength of Emotions"

www.zuniseason.org.hk

Programme Information

Venue: Studio Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre

Date: 17 – 19 Nov (Thu-Sat) 8pm

Tickets: \$240, \$100 (Student Tickets)

Programme Enquiries : 2566 9696

Ticketing Enquiries : 3761 6661

Running time approximately 70 minutes with no intermission

Media Enquiries :

Mr. Luka Wong

Tel : 852-2893 8704 | Mobile : 852-6301 6569

Fax : 852-2838 7527 | email : luka@zuni.org.hk