

Gentle Threat

STATEMENT

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*You may conclude that we live in an accelerated time.
Sometimes time itself seems to threaten to disappear.*
-Matthew Goulish

Accompanied with a live performance at Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon.

Along with a live performance, this project Gentle Threat involves an installation and photographic prints.

When a lot of things and events are happening, time seems to go by faster. It is stressful, yet it is also blissful. The line is so thin. It is merely a difference in perspective.

We live in a time when visual stimulus is everywhere. One day as I was driving on a road, an image of strawberries flew by. I couldn't contemplate on the image, but I start thinking about the flashing image of strawberries after I got out of the car. I was almost late for a meeting.

As I recall my past memories, it seems that they are collections of fragmented images, sounds, feelings, emotions, thoughts and physical sensation. I wonder which fragment of the present will survive as past memories in the future.

Sometimes, I need a goggle to prevent me from crying.
Sometimes, I realize that even highly crafted bubble needs to be burst open eventually.
Sometimes, I ought to be aware of what kind of sunglasses I am wearing.
Sometimes, I need to be mindful of what kind of sunglasses I am imposing others to wear.
Sometimes, I realize that I cannot ever exist without any sunglasses on.
Sometimes, I come to term that those sunglasses are what makes each of us unique from others.

Gently, time occasionally threatens me with a voice and a slap: "wake up!" The level of intensity varies from time to time. Sometimes it is violent and alarming. Sometimes, it lifts me up to a state of being that prepares me to move forward with slight nervousness and a great deal of awareness.

I have been contemplating the role of performers and that of audience. Traditionally, the audience takes on the passive role of viewing and being entertained. From a perspective of looking at a performance event as a place.

Taking advantage of this performance site, this piece experiments on softening the traditional role of audience. The audience was situated to view my performative action as well as to experience being watched by the performers and others. The situation of being watched evokes a threatening state especially when it was unconscious. To enhance the idea of unconscious performance in the audience, I employed three other performers to join for this performance. They are performers as well as the conscious and active audience members. My objective was to evoke the sense of threat for the audience in the subtle and light way. My hope is that this gentle threat in the formal sense will echo with that of the nature of time, lingering effect of visual images and invisible sunglasses we own.

