

**“Subzoology: 2020 Taiwan Biennial” beckons, inviting all sentient beings to voice their views on art.**

Hosted by the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (NTMoFA), the 2020 Taiwan Biennial will be on view on 17 October 2020. Curated by Taiwanese artist YAO Jui-Chung and featuring a total of 49 artists/artist groups, the biennial will run in an unprecedented scale with a riotous profusion of art forms ranging from painting, installation, video and performance art. In addition, it is the first time for the Taiwan Biennial to stage a satellite event and collateral events in collaboration with art spaces outside central Taiwan. The NTMoFA holds the pre-exhibition press conference today, releasing the full list of participating artists/artists group as well as the pertinent information about the satellite and collateral events, and announcing the official countdown of the 2020 Taiwan Biennial by streaming the exhibition promo.

**An non-existing “zoo” will be staged at the NTMoFA**

Adopting “Subzoology” as its main theme, the 2020 Taiwan Biennial revolves around the international issues concerning the human-animal relationship addressed by the scientific, artistic and philosophical scenes. Based on the ten dharma realms in the *Diamond Sūtra* and treating the “Buddhist path of reincarnation into animals” as the point of departure, the curator seeks to encourage reflection on the long-term human plunderage and domination over natural creatures, stimulate public rumination about ecological and environmental issues, investigate the relations between humankind and other species in the post-pandemic era, and embody the spirit of the biennial, viz., treating the ecology and environment well.

The exhibition comprise seven sub-themes “Sacrifice and Salvation,” “The Sub-history of Wildlife Trade,” “Portrait of Unknown Heroes,” “Laboratory/Operating Room/Specimen Room,” “Festivals/Sandbanks/Green Coverage Ratio,” “Beast Mimic/Tortured Beastnoid,” “Habitat/Zoo/National Park” and “Performance & Live Art/Multimedia Installation & Performance.” The biennial configures the exhibition venue into an non-existing “zoo” interlaced by rational deliberations, visceral thrills, and sensory experiences, in which the visitors will have a unexpected to chance encounter with the species and ecologies of all stripes created by the participating artists.

**49 artists/artist groups who partake in the Taiwan Biennial for the first time, demonstrating the sheer creative energy of contemporary art in Taiwan.**

A total of 49 new-generation artists/artist groups who have first-hand experience of Taiwan are invited for the first time to the 2020 Taiwan Biennial. 96 out of the total of 201 exhibits

are newly created, a proportion larger than those in previous editions. The creative media involve painting, sculpture, photography, installation, video, animation, and new media. All these participating artists/artist groups have practical experiences in environmental protection and related social issues. They expand the new possibilities of their creative media, giving voice to the exploited ecology and environment by means of contemporary art vocabulary and forms such as visual arts, sound art, and performance art, which not only renders the 2020 Taiwan Biennial one of a kind, but also faithfully showcases the boundless creative energy and sui generis horizons of contemporary art in Taiwan.

“Sacrifice and Salvation” features the works by LIN Ju, WU Chi-Yu, CHI Kai-Yuan, ZHANG XU Zhan, TAN Kian-Ming, as well as Meuko! Meuko! & NAXS Corp., advocating the idea of great harmony that sentient beings are not indulgentia, and advising against the mentality towards sacrifice and salvation. “The Sub-history of Wildlife Trade,” “Festivals/Sandbanks/Green Coverage Ratio,” and “Habitat/Zoo/National Park” reveal the politicized and symbolized animals for economic interests, the wildlife going extinct due to deforestation, and the plaintive cries for the expenses arising from urban expansion and industrial development. The three subthemes shine a spotlight on the works by HSU Chia-Wei, LU Yu-Jui, CHU Chun-Teng, LO Sheng-Wen, Sheryl CHEUNG, LI Yi-Fan, LUO Jr-Shin, CHUANG Pei-Xin, CHENG Hsien-Yu, Jeff Chien-Hsing LIAO, YANG Shun-Fa, PENG Yi-Hang, HSIAO Sheng-Chien, HUANG Ko-Wei, SUN Pei-Mao, PAN Hsin-Hua, TSENG Chien-Ying, and YEN Yu-Ting. Against the historical background of the Second World War, “Portrait of Unknown Heroes” tackles the issues about war, life and death through the works created by LEE Li-Chung, AU Sow-Yee, OU Jing-Yun, and WU Chuan-Lun with different media such as video, painting, and historical material. “Laboratory/Operating Room/Specimen Room” takes a spatial perspective and alerts us to the facts that the human civilization thrives on the basis of rotting bones of innumerable creatures, and genetic engineering evolves in the technologically advanced contemporary society. This subtheme gives prominence to the works by KU Kuang-Yi, Paul GONG, WEI Ze, CHEN Mao-Chang, PENG Yi-Hsuan, CHANG ChenShen, TOU Yun-Fei, and CHEN Sheng-Wen. “Beast Mimic/Tortured Beastnoids” reminds us that we step in animals’ shoes to muse on the ultimate meaning of being human. This subtheme highlights the works in pluralistic forms (e.g., semi-figurative painting, mixed media, animation installation, and image) by LAI Chiu-Chen, KENG Hao-Kang, CHANG Teng-Yuan, HSU Yin-Ling, CHEN Yu-Kai, Martin TOKÁR+SUN Yi-Jou, and WU Ping-Sheng. WatdanWuma, YEH Tzu-Chi, SUN Yi-Jou, FU Ya-Wen+CHOU Shu-Yi, Ghost Mountain Ghost Shovel, and River LIN stage the “Performance & Live Art/Multimedia Installation & Performance” that express their common reflection on and lamentation over today’s ecological crisis through flash mob performances.

## **Pioneering the “satellite event” and “collateral events,” creating constructive exchange and dialogue in the Taiwanese art scene**

The 2020 Taiwan Biennial features the curatorial strategy of empowerment of the new new generation curators as a means to promote the development of Taiwanese contemporary art. Apart from the main venue at the NTMoFA, many emerging alternative spaces around Taiwan are invited to host the satellite event and collateral events organized by their respective in-house curators. Embracing their respective guiding philosophies, these events extend the contents of the biennial. They introduce the artists with international and Taiwan experience, attempting to broaden the biennial’s transdisciplinary horizons and increase artistic momentum with experimental curatorial strategies, so as to create constructive exchange and dialogue in the Taiwanese art scene and offer new options to art aficionados in the post-pandemic era.

As an extended venue of the biennial, the satellite event is scheduled on 26 September 2020 at the VT ArtSalon in Taipei, an art space dedicated to promoting the development of Taiwanese contemporary art and international transdisciplinary exchange. According to its curator YAO Jui-Chung, this event features various art forms (e.g., bio-art and VR) that seriously question the six Buddhist paths of reincarnation as well as the fate of humankind and all other creatures. Then the four “Collateral Events” will be held at four different venues, including the Waley Art (Taipei), the Zit-Dim Art Space (Tainan), the Acid House (New Taipei City), and the Henan 8 (Kaohsiung). The Waley Art has tried to connect local contexts with international ones. In “Zoo of Inverted Forms: The Ultimate Other for Imagining Humanity,” curators CHU Feng-Yi and PENG Tsai-Hsun juxtapose the animal-oriented works by seven contemporary artists from Taiwan and Russia. The Zit-Dim Art Space is co-founded by Taiwanese and Hong Kong artists. Curators André CHAN and Erica Yu-Wen HUANG propose questions through “Post-Anthropocene,” cogitating on the intervention in spaces, human activities, and relationships between humankind and other species. The Acid House is an art lab for young creators, and the event “Biàn-Tài Routes” is organized along the axis of its guiding philosophy. Curated by CHEN Kuan-Ying and by virtue of a concatenation of creative approaches and experiments, this theme to open up greater possibilities for artistic mutation beyond today’s rigid exhibition specifications. The Henan 8 utilizes quotidian actions to connect communities with contemporary art. Treating “Technological Metamorphosis” as the theme, curator LAI Hsiao-Ying follows the consistent revelry- and technology-oriented strategy of the venue, inviting Taipei and Kaohsiung drifters to give alternative discourses upon the places they dwell through metamorphosis according their corporeal experiences of migration. (For details please refer to Appendix II)

“Subzoology: 2020 Taiwan Biennial” will be on view from 17 October 2020 to 28 February

2021. Scheduled on 17 October 2020, the opening ceremony will be graced by the “Flash Mob Performance” from WatdanWuma, SUN Yi-Jou, YEH Tzu-Chi, River LIN, FU Ya-Wen+CHOU Shu-Yi, and Ghost Mountain Ghost Shovel. The NTMoFA will provide a live stream of the performance which is open for public registration. There are many other special events including artist talks and forums during the biennial. The 2020 Taiwan Biennial beckons, inviting all sentient beings to voice their views on art. It will be a blockbuster show for sure! For details please refer to the official websites as well as the Facebook fan pages of the NTMoFA and the 2020 Taiwan Biennial.

**Subzoology: 2020 Taiwan Biennial**

- **Duration:** 17 Oct. 2020 – 28 Feb. 2021
- **Venue:** NTMoFA, Galleries 101-108 and 202, the Entrance Hall, the Gallery Street, the Outdoor Square, and the venues for the Satellite Event and Collateral Events
- **Project Managers:** LIN Hsiao-Yu, CHIEN Po-Ju TEL: (04)23723552 #304、701
- **Liaisons:** WANG Yi-Yin, GUO Chun-Yi TEL: (04)23723552 #133、336
- **Official Website:** <https://taiwanbiennial.ntmofa.gov.tw/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/taiwanbiennial>

**National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts** (<http://www.ntmofa.gov.tw>, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ntmofa/>)

Opening Hours

Main Building: Tuesday – Friday 12:00~18:00

Saturday 10:00~20:00

Sunday 10:00~18:00

(Monday closed)

E-Pavilion and Digiark: Tuesday – Sunday 10:00~18:00

(Monday closed)

Address: No. 2, Sec. 1, Wuquan W. Rd., West Dist., Taichung City 403, Taiwan

TEL: (04) 2372-3552

Appendix I

**Subzoology: 2020 Taiwan Biennial**

**The full list of the 49 participating artists/artist groups (listed according to the genres)**

The First Genre: Sacrifice and Salvation

LIN Ju, WU Chi-Yu, CHI Kai-Yuan, ZHANG XU Zhan, TAN Kian-Ming, Meuko! Meuko!  
& NAXS Corp.

The Second Genre: The Sub-history of Wildlife Trade

HSU Chia-Wei, LU Yu-Jui, CHU ChunTeng, LO Sheng-Wen, Sheryl CHEUNG, LI Yi-Fan,  
LUO Jr-Shin, CHUANG Pei-Xin, CHENG Hsien-Yu

The Third Genre: Portrait of Unknown Hero:

LEE Li-Chung, AU Sow Yee, OU Jing-Yun, WU Chuan-Lun

The Fourth Genre: Laboratory/Operating Room/Specimen Room

KU Kuang-Yi, Paul GONG, WEI Ze, CHEN Mao-Chang, PENG Yi-Hsuan, CHANG Chen-  
Shen, TOU Yun-Fei, CHEN Sheng-Wen

The Fifth Genre: Festivals/Sandbanks/Green Coverage Ratio

Jeff Chien-Hsing LIAO, YANG Shun-Fa, PENG Yi-Hang

The Sixth Genre: Beast Mimic/Tortured Beastnoid

LAI Chiu-Chen, KENG Hao-Kang, CHANG Teng-Yuan, HSU Yin-Ling, CHEN Yu-Kai,  
Martin TOKÁR+SUN Yi-Jou, WU Ping-Sheng

The Seventh Genre: Habitat/Zoo/National Park

HSIAO Sheng-Chien, HUANG Ko-Wei, SUN Pei-Mao, PAN Hsin-Hua, TSENG Chien-  
Ying, YEN Yu-Ting

Performance & Live Art/Multimedia Installation & Performance:

WatdanWuma, YEH Tzu-Chi, SUN Yi-Jou, FU Ya-Wen+CHOU Shu-Yi, Ghost Mountain  
Ghost Shovel, River LIN

## Appendix II

### **Subzoology: 2020 Taiwan Biennial**

#### **Information pertaining to the Satellite Event and the Collateral Events**

##### ■ **Satellite Event**

Venue: VT ArtSalon, Taipei

Duration: 26 Sep. – 21 Nov. 2020

Curator: YAO Jui-Chung

Participating Artists: Paul GONG, KU Kuang-Yi, Meuko! Meuko! & NAXS Corp.

##### ■ **Collateral Events**

###### **Post-Anthropocene**

Venue: Zit-Dim Art Space, Tainan

Duration: 17 Oct. – 14 Dec. 2020

Curators: André CHAN, Erica Yu-Wen HUANG

Participating Artists: CHANG Ken-Yao, CHEN Han-Sheng, South HO, Bosco LAW Ka-nam, Kit LEE, LIN Yin-Chieh, LIU Sing-You, PENG Yi-Hang, PENG Yi-Hsuan, Stephanie SIN, Eason TSANG Ka-Wai, Nicole WONG

###### **Biàn-Tài Routes**

Venue: Acid House, New Taipei City

Duration: 22 Oct. – 22 Nov. 2020

Curator: CHEN Kuan-Ying

Participating Artists: LEE Min-Ju, WU Chun-Hui, CHANG ChenShen, CHEN Shiao-Chi, CHEN Jun-Yu X Taiwan Performance Art Lab

###### **Technological Metamorphosis**

Venue: Henan 8, Kaohsiung

Duration: 23 Oct. 2020 – 03 Jan. 2021

Curator: LAI Hsiao-Ying

Curatorial team: WNAG Yu, KE Yung-Chien, CHANG Hsin-Ray

Participating Artists: WANG Young-Hsiang, LEE Ting-Ju, HE Yu-Chi, WU Po-Kuei, Rico GRAUPNER, LIN Zhe-Zhi, SUN Chih-Hsing, KAO Fan, CHEN Yi-Gun, CHANG Chih-

Chung, CHANG Nien-Wei, CHANG Ching-Ying, TOMIZAWA Daisuke, HUANG Chih-Li,  
TSAI Shih-Hsiang, TSAI Chi-An, HSIEH Hsin-Jung, YEN Gang, LU Yu-Jui

**Zoo of Inverted Forms: The Ultimate Other for Imagining Humanity**

Venue: Waley Art, Taipei

Duration: 24 Oct. – 15 Nov. 2020

Curators: CHU Feng-Yi, PENG Tsai-Hsun

Participating Artists: LIN Pei-Ying, WU Sih-Chin, YAO Jui-Lan, TOU Yun-Fei, CHANG  
Teng-Yuan, AMUSE (LIN Chien-Yo, LIN Wei-Yo, SU Jia-Xian), Marina FOMENKO