

The White Mask 하얀 가면

Three 65 inch monitors, two speakers

31 mins 50 secs.

Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea, 11th October 2019 - 22nd February 2020.

Young In Hong

Performance Outline:

The White Mask is a collaboration between Young In Hong and *Notes Inégales*, the radical contemporary music ensemble based in London. Taking Deleuze's notion of 'becoming' as a starting point, Hong and Notes Inégales discussed and tested a series of questions around the possibilities of 'becoming animal' through improvised music making.

A period of intense open ended investigation and improvisation ensued. Initially Hong asked the musicians to listen to sounds of animals she'd recorded at the zoo and try and emulate the sounds on their classical instruments to develop a form of musical animal language, this was rejected and a process of attempting to become animals and respond as if seeing their instruments for the first time followed, again this was deemed to be too anthropocentric a proposal. After extensive experimentation the musicians developed a means of playing their instruments with their total personification, or animalization in mind, to embody different animals, through sound. The full transformation to animal being impossible, the musicians sought an in-between space of being which was neither entirely human nor fully animal. Props were made to visualise this notion of a third being. Through the mirroring of humans/animals and him/ his - other, the representation of animality becomes a critical deconstruction of music and art itself.

The process naturally evolved to become 13 pieces which were recorded and filmed. However a final selection of 7 ensemble pieces was made to form **The White Mask** a 3 channel video installation for **Sadang B**. The 7 pieces were: *Tarantula Territory*, *Wolf and Buffalo - Being Together*, *A Hare Being Threatened by a Hawk*, *The Order of Woodpeckers*, *Flocking*, *Collective Swim*, *Praying Mantis*.

2 female members of Notes Inégales performed **The White Mask** live as part of the *On Edge: Materials and Bodies* symposium during The Centre of Gravity in Bristol in 2020.

<https://www.centreofgravity.uk/onedge>

