

Beyond the Window

by and with Jia-ling Hsu

July 5-10, 2021 | 15:00, 17:30 | Duration: 30mins. | Taipei Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan.

Artist Statement

The sun spreads on the ground; the dancing shadow of banyan trees swaying outside the windows. Meanwhile, an invisible threat is casting a shadow all over the city, where the uneasiness and fear of the unknown is plaguing the people.

May 14th, 2021, I moved into Taipei Artist Village (TAV) to start my 2-months residency program. On the very next day, the government announced that it would raise the Covid-19 alert level for Taipei City to level 3. Public venues regarding leisure and entertainment including art institutions were closed since then. Four days later, the level 3 epidemic alert was announced to implement nationwide.

Following the situation, my initial plan for the exhibition in the brick-and-mortar gallery space was back to square one. Without physical artworks, the Barry Room, which had showcased numerous exhibitions for years, seemed to fall into some dysfunction. To start afresh, I began spending time alone in the Barry Room and worked with its emptiness, exploring the way to build up an intimate connection among viewers, the exhibition space and me regardless of the physical distance.

Beyond the Window is a one to one participatory performance via video calls.

Incorporating conversation and the framing of the shot, it is a 30-minute journey during which the participant and I construct the narrative of the work together by digging into our own memories and exchanging personal stories. It is a digital zone where we become part of the scenery in front of each other.

Jia-Ling at Taipei Artist Village

2021.06.30 (At this moment, the level 3 Covid-19 alert has been extended for three times.)