

WHALE (CONTRARY TO SHAPING A PERMANENCE)

WAIL (THE SPECTRE OF SPECTACLE)

>> LAIWAN, EILEEN KAGE, VANESSA KWAN

*whale (contrary to shaping a permanence)*, 2002, a performance in collaboration with mPennyfish

*wail (the spectre of spectacle)*, to be performed at Spatial Poetics 2011

Laiwan states: the performance at Spatial Poetics X will be an opportunity to return to celebrate and push my first venture into performance at the 2002 Spatial Poetics when I premiered my video/music performance *whale: contrary to shaping a permanence*. Further investigation into the challenges I faced in that work, my new performance for 2011 will rigorously take the themes and ideas from *whale* to proceed to additionally explore movement and bodily being into a radical somatic poetics.

Rooted in an intellectual and conceptual visual art lineage, my foray into improvisational performance is aimed to explode the binary limits of artificial and bodily/emotional intelligence as an Asian woman, as an Asian lesbian, and the constructs which shape stereotypes within those containers. With this work, I hope to invigorate and inspire participants and audiences at the 2011 Spatial poetics with a brashly resonant experience of somatic poetics while further developing and sharing my collaborative and improvisational abilities with flair.

whale (contrary to shaping a permanence)

*my ocean a body  
remembering every crashing wave*

*how it is i am moved  
toward the inconsequential  
knowing every swell and surge  
needs no conditionality*

*yet, i have seen every moment  
in a child's day scheduled*

*and grief has no boundary  
until we see*

*beauty unafraid  
to love in chaos  
with curiosity and rigour*

*ungrasping  
in constant search and motion*



*she is tall beside me  
unbending in devotion  
wordless with consistency*

*expanding breath  
open to discover  
what cannot be named  
and can remain unsaid*

*in wonder /*



L A I W A N (old accordion)  
with Eileen Kage (zhong) and Michelle Frey (toy trumpet)  
Spatial Poetics 2003

wail (the spectre of spectacle)

the LAIWANKWANKAGE BAND



Photo-credits: John Fukushima, 2003 & 2011

L A I W A N (*guitar*)  
with Vanessa Kwan (*guitar*) and Eileen Kage (*drums & percussion*)  
Spatial Poetics 2011