

NOTHING IS FREE

>> MICHAEL MORI AND IMAN HABIBI

Nothing is Free, 2010, in collaboration with Mark MacGregor

Nothing is Free is an exploration of the culturally specific performed self. Lead opera singer Mori plays out ideas of Japanese and Canadian national stereotypes situated in both the historical romantic and the modern glamorous. In doing so, he comes face to face with his personal construction of identity. The artist examines what it means to be from Vancouver by way of Japanese Diaspora, confronting his own romanticized stereotyped ideals of ethnic origin. Mori engages with these ideas by performing as two criss-crossing characters in a Kabuki-inspired play, and is accompanied by flautist Mark Macgregor and percussion performed by Iman Habibi. Providing an unconventional musical score, collaborators punctuate theatrical moments of clarity with confusion and vice versa. The musicians play a fusion of experimental music with classical Japanese progressions that complement Mori's performance, highlighting the tenuous boundaries that characterize performed identities.

Nothing is Free

Commissioned by Michael Mori - The Powell Street Festival

Iman Habibi

♩ = 66-72

Flute

Baritone

Percussion

Claves

rit.

cymbal scratch

Wd. Block *mp*

Fl.

Bar.

Perc.

We have the freedom to wear whatever brand we want, to watch whatever TV shows we choose, to be who we want to be!

The bonzai tree is carefully clipped and tied back with wire, ensuring that it will grow into a perfect, small, tasteful decoration. The result is so beautiful, nature contained by humanity, neh?

cold inexpressive chanting, showing ironic freedom

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mf

perc.

in the night we dream of you
in the night we dream of you
in the night we dream of you
in the night we dream of you

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*Boy (West
wheels of his bike spin
coffee hockey liberal
silent open mind*

*Girl (East
work drives past spring
fleeing, fleeing thought for her
rivers moving reed*

*collision begets renewal
the storm nourishes new growth*

nothing is Free

Fl. television, culture, decency
culture, history, expectation
identity, movies, culture

Bar. A-type B-type C-type
The Company, The Salary, the Ladder
Japanese, Canadian, Euro
Emo, Yuppie, Punk-rock
Stoner, Sell-out, The Man

Perc. culture, cultured, cultivated, culled
cubefied, cut back, constrained, culture
origin, history, originality, history!
Freedom?
Freedom
Nothing is Free
Nothingness is Freedom

Fl. following is costly, it costs our
identity... nothing is free!
Identity proscribed
therefore subscribed...
originality?

Bar. I am nothing at this moment,
everywhere is my home
every music is my
own every person
an equal nothing with
full potential untouched
by stereotype.
Our past must only
be our compost.
We are the sound, not
the echoes of echoes.

Perc. Survive, protect,
create, Co-create,
procreate!

18

Fl. *mp*

Bar.

Perc.

22

Fl. puh! *mf* puh! *f* puh!

Bar.

Perc. cymbal scratch

