

FOREWORD

>> CINDY MOCHIZUKI & MIKO HOFFMAN

The collection of images, essays, stories, poems, collages, process notes and memories in this special issue of West Coast Line bring together ten years of collaborations by artists in Vancouver who have all contributed to an event as part of the Powell Street Festival Society's Spatial Poetics. This special issue titled, Jukkai: Documenting Ten Years of Spatial Poetics attempts to capture what remains of the unique, one-evening presentations of over 30 artist collaborations that have rarely been witnessed and may never again be presented in these exact artistic configurations.

Spatial Poetics is an evening of interdisciplinary collaborations in the exchange of language where artists are asked to collaborate on a short 15 minute performance with artists from other disciplines. The task seems daunting but these artists, and the work they've created, are courageous, adventurous and brave. What we have here is a collection of writing and image work from a wide spectrum of visual artists, writers, dancers, musicians, theatre performers, designers and filmmakers.

In this special issue we have invited the originally commissioned artists to re-engage with the very memory of their Spatial Poetics performance and their collaborations in order to create new meanings in print form. We have treated this issue of West Coast Line as a space where we can temporarily 'record' what remains of these events from old program guides, posters, and other notes. We have also included as much or as little information we can find on each original performance in attempt to contextualize the new works. Some of these artists have chosen to reflect individually, while others once again opened up their doors to the process of collaboration; some with their original collaborators, and others with new artists. The engagement of memory-work through fading re-collections of collaborative performances and process makes this space of documentation both a space of fiction and of truth. There is a sense of spirit and play where collaboration calls for personas and give agency for the imagined. In other works there is a distinct distance and proximity to

place, language, neighborhoods and bodies that once inhabited these spaces. As a collection this assembly bears several holes and is by no means a complete picture of all the original commissioned pieces. This issue is also a response only from those that responded to our original callout and is a living archive of those artists who were able to contribute.

We would like to thank each and every one of the contributors for trusting us by agreeing to take part in one of the ten Spatial Poetics events and for returning to remember their now fleeting collaborations and performances.

Cindy Mochizuki & Miko Hoffman
Co-Editors and Co-Founders of Spatial Poetics