

THE FRONT

SAMMY CHIEN 簡上翔

Still image, *W(e)aves 0.x* 熾 (2016–2020). New media performance, photographed by Janina Schabig, graphic design support by Shang-Han Chien.

THIS CAPTIVATING IMAGE is a fusion of two photographs of a new media performance work-in-progress, *W(e)aves 0.0*, that was shared in Lake Studio Berlin by the internationally acclaimed interdisciplinary artist Sammy Chien. Through contemporary dance, movement art, qigong, sound and interactive projections, *W(e)aves 0.x* is a series of ongoing research projects that investigates migration, transcultural identity, queerness and spiritual philosophies. In this deeply poetic and autobiographical work, Sammy embodies and shares his stories and experiences of being a person of colour, immigrant and queer, living in Vancouver. He sensitively weaves in performative expressions of mental distress and disorder provoked by systemic, racialized and gendered discrimination. Drawing strength and inspiration from ancient Chinese texts, including the Tao-Te-Ching, Chinese pictograms in relationship with shamanism and Eastern spirituality, Sammy exposes the untold histories and the damaging intolerance of society while pushing for positive transformation.

Sammy Chien is a Taipei-born, Vancouver-based, Taiwanese-Canadian queer artist (he/she/they) and a co-founder and artistic director of Chimerik 似不像 collective. Specializing in interdisciplinary, new media and digital performance, Sammy is recognized for their spectacular experimental practice that pushes the boundaries, exploring the edges of expression, identity politics and spiritual philosophies. Sammy studied film (BFA Honours) at Simon Fraser University, with an emphasis on electroacoustic music and digital technology in performance, which they further honed with the pioneering digital performance company, Troika Ranch. Sammy's collaborative multidisciplinary projects have been exhibited in venues across Canada and elsewhere, including the

Centre Pompidou (Paris), Museum of Contemporary Arts (Taipei), National Centre for the Performing Arts (Beijing) and Hellerau: European Centre for the Arts (Dresden). To name one of the few hundred of collaborations, Sammy's worked with Beijing Modern Dance Company and with artists such as Wong Kar-Wai's cinematographer Christopher Doyle, the Father of Rock in China Cui Jian and had lunch with Ai Weiwei. Committed to the arts and their role in nurturing mental and spiritual wellbeing, as artist and mentor, Sammy has collaborated with underrepresented groups, including DTES residents, vulnerable youth, LGBTQ₂₊ and BIPOC communities. Sammy has been featured in magazines, TV and commercial forums such as Disorder, Keedan, CBC Arts and BenQ. Sammy is the official instructor of digital performance software *Isadora*.