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[Link with subtitle: <https://vimeo.com/214190422>]

Abstract

This project combines the discipline of science (biology) and art. We aim to have a better understanding on Hong Kong, by anatomizing “Hong Kong’s body”. It is common to listen anatomizing human body, but what if we *anatomize Hong Kong*? We identified Hong Kong as a body image, we would like to classify each sectors into different organs as to represent how Hong Kong runs in a whole. Our group admonished that every city could have their own life and could represent them in a body structure. How would we identify Hong Kong’s places into different body structure? How Hong Kong’s been working?

In this project we included the study on *system theory and drifting*. In order to have a clear understanding on Hong Kong, we based on the above topics to discover deeply of Hong Kong, and try to explain “*City Anatomy*”.

Anatomy

Anatomy is the science that studies the structure of the body. “Anatomy is the foundation of medicine,” the classic Greek physician Hippocrates declared, “and should be based on the form of the human body.”

How’s our project “*City Anatomy*” related to Anatomy? According to Hippocrates Anatomy should be based on the form of the human body, but art is unlimited, art is full of imagination. Imagine every part of our city became organs and microorganism, imagine the city is worked as a body structure. Everything is correlated to each other, as the human system are working together, so as “organs system” in Hong Kong.

Anatomy is not only science but an art. Anatomical art has the power to reach far beyond medical textbooks. It could ignite the public, ultimately connect the innermost selves with body structure through art. (Vanessa Ruiz, *The spellbinding art of human anatomy*, 2015) The anatomization could also extends to political and social issues. In Noah Scalin’s “Anatomy of War”, gun is dissected to reveal human organs. The sculptures are meant to show the human aspect of gun use. An anatomical systems are formed within the sculpture.



Proposal

Part A – Identification of Hong Kong's organs

Identify Hong Kong's feature into different organs and anatomical systems. Organize them by their similarity to the organs' function and located area. We have to study the functions of each organs so as to fit in the place correctly. We believed that each places in Hong Kong represent its own usage, which it is similar to the organ's theory in human body, each of the organs have their own function. Therefore, we proposed that Hong Kong can be classified as a human body, and each tiny stuff around the Hong Kong are the organs, nervous systems, microorganism.

Since then we have to shoot around Hong Kong, to document the process of anatomization. Groupmates are required to dress like a doctor, so it could create the feeling of medical anatomization. "Doctor" would introduce each place (organ) in Hong Kong. And explain how the organ works.

How would you see Hong Kong into human's organ? Does it really work with the human structure?

Part B – Create the anatomical image of Hong Kong

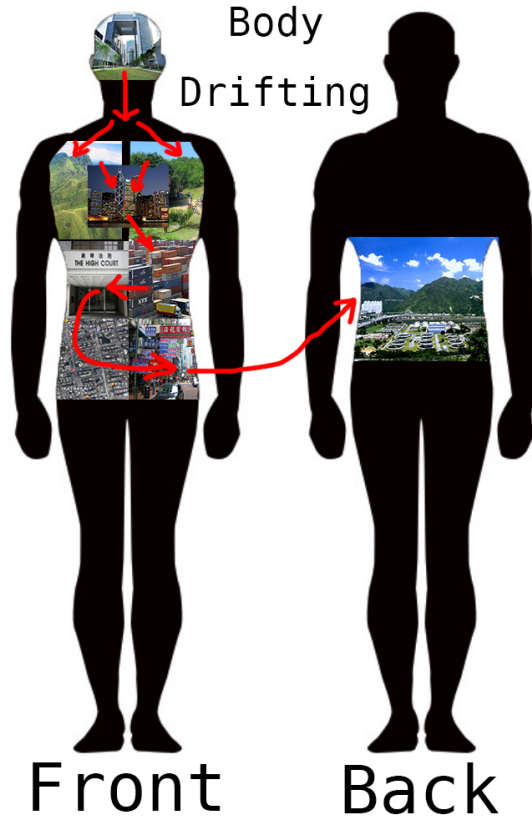
We would like to create an artwork of the anatomical image of Hong Kong, to clearly present the image of our "City Anatomy"

Process

We first identify organs into different Hong Kong place. In this project, we had identify 10 organisms in human body which fit into 10 places in Hong Kong, i.e. Heart which is represented as the Central Business District, Liver as the judicial court, Lung as the country park in Hong Kong, Kidney for sewage treatment center, Veins are represented as roads in Hong Kong, including highways, railways, tunnels, etc., Red Blood Cell are cars driving along the roads, Gastrointestinal tract as the shops all around in Hong Kong, for example, individual shop, shopping malls, Esophagus and stomach is classified as container terminal, Brain is the government in Hong Kong, and lastly, Probiotics are the tourists in Hong Kong, especially Mainlanders.

After the process of identification, we did our shooting at the above places. As stated in the proposal, our teammates are dressed into doctor, and have to act like we are one of the anatomy's team. The aim of shooting is to document the process of our anatomization in Hong Kong's place. By introducing each "organs" in Hong Kong's body, we classified this process as anatomization. This is also the process of drifting, drifting around Hong Kong places and to discover more about its system and function.

We did voice over after the video shooting, since we have limited resources for shooting, there's lots of noise around on the street, so we need to do voice over for presenting a clear introduction. To conclude for the first part of our proposal, we did shooting around Hong Kong and to document our process of anatomization along Hong Kong's street. We filmed our video by drifting, and do it by the following sequence:



In the second part, we have used Photoshop to create the anatomical images of Hong Kong's map. The idea is similar to the artwork of Noah Scalin's one. We filled Hong Kong's map with the organs, so as to represent the particular places in Hong Kong to an organ-like structure. We aim to present an image of anatomy. Human has been asking for ages, are the images of anatomy be classified as art or scientific image, in this case, we classify our project "City Anatomy" as the mixture of art and science.

Findings

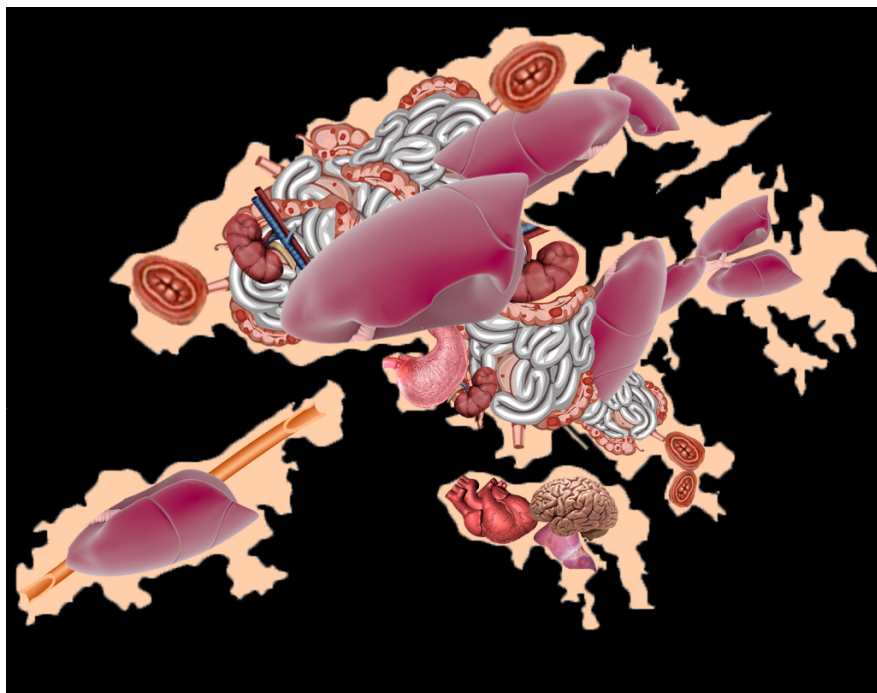
System theory and art is a transdisciplinary of work. In our project, "City Anatomy", we did it based on this theory. It studies the relationships between systems and how they interact with each other. And forms relationship within it environment. In nature, a system can be physical, such as living organism and nervous system. System theory explain the behavior of a system overtime. The system is dynamic, which means system art emphasis changes. In this case it is similar to Hong Kong, Hong Kong has been changing all the time, aging, creating new things, and polluting. It is ideas of changing.

System Theory also required boundary. If human body is a system, then the skin is its boundary. Meanwhile, the coastline (edge) of Hong Kong is the boundary of Hong Kong. Each system has its own boundary. So as the geology of Hong Kong.

Through the study of Hong Kong, Our group found out that Hong Kong did a lot of changes in this recent years, especially in certain aspect, such as Country Park. Hong Kong's country park are the lungs of Hong Kong. whereas Lungs are now having serious illness, as Hong Kong people have been irritating the country park most of the time. For instinct, cutting trees, north east new territories new development areas planning. The above actions have been polluting Hong Kong's "Lung" (Country Park).

Meanwhile, system theory also include feedback, for example, health will change by ages. Health can be classified as bad or good. So it has the similar structure as Hong Kong. Hong Kong's health is changed by human actions. Like how we consume rubbish and polluters. And how "Probiotics" (mainlander) affect Hong Kong's Health. Too much probiotics are harmful to body. Probiotics are similar to tourist in Hong Kong, especially mainlanders. Mainlanders did help a lot in the early stage after 2007, economic crisis, however there are more and more mainlanders coming to Hong Kong for consuming Hong Kong's people necessity, which is greatly harmful to Hong Kong, and created certain effect to Hong Kong's resident, for example in Sheung Shui. And more anti-mainland sentiments appear in Hong Kong, as Hong Kong's people noticed that those "probiotics" are harming Hong Kong.

Since there were lots of feedback from the working on Hong Kong's organs, we see the changes by the follow anatomical images created by us.



Original Hong Kong's Anatomical images

As drawn in the image, we classify different places into different organ, it is obvious that The largest coverage is Country Park, and the brain is located in Central. And other organs are located to the related location. Once again, the artwork is based on Noah's artwork, we filled Hong Kong's map with organs.

As we study Hong Kong through system theory, we found out that there were lots of changes in Hong Kong, and has a dynamic change in Hong Kong's area, hence we created

another image that represent the recent situation in Hong Kong.



The effected Hong Kong's Anatomical images

We could see the changes of colour in the Organs, especially the liver and brain. As we noticed that the serious illness among these two organs in Hong Kong. As stated before, Lung has been irritating by rapid development in Hong Kong. The brain can also be classified as the government in Hong Kong. As we could see the Hong Kong governance is shrinking. There are more and more political issue appeared in Hong Kong, for example, people asking for universal suffrage, better welfare system etc.

And the above images helped us to present a clear message of how we define Hong Kong's organ. Get back to the question in the early stage, should anatomical image classified as Art or Science? As we could see there's lots of scientist are also artist. In terms of Renaissance anatomy, the two names most closely associated with the progression toward critical analysis and accuracy are Leonardo da Vinci and Andreas Vesalius. Da Vinci approached anatomy from the point of view of the artist, but his meticulous and inquisitive mind quickly propelled him into an anatomical project for its own sake, unfortunately never published. His more than 750 anatomical drawings – most made from observations of dissections he performed – carried the genre of anatomical illustration to extraordinary refinement. (Hal Sharp, A Brief Essay on Anatomical Drawing) as we can see Anatomical art could be classified as an artwork. This is an amazing element of the interdisciplinary artwork, combining art and science at the same time, and amused two different group of people.

Reflection

How people classify a work that is a mixture of art and science? We people have different intension to that work? It is obviously a yes, as different people see things into different aspect. We couldn't classify as a specific sector. We couldn't tell anatomical image is an artwork or scientific data. But we now understand that science can be consider as art, art

can be considered as art. For example, Science as art, scientific images have been shown as artwork. Biologist Ernst Haeckel is an example that explain science can be considered as Art. “Art Forms of Nature” written by Ernst has shown the zoology and comparative anatomy. It has shown different creatures in anatomical images. Apart from creature, he also used embryos to explain science can be art. By using the theory of evolution, showing different stage of embryos to support himself that art and science are correlated.

So are there any conflicts between Art and Science? “It is difficult to say which is more fascinating, its artistic value or its value for science” said by Walter Benjamin. It is true that we couldn’t tell which one have to higher value, as art and science are correlated. Even a scientific image could be shown in the art gallery. So there aren’t any conflicts between art and science. What’s more, they are helping each other to make themselves better and more diverse.

The last question we would like to reflect is our main character in this “City Anatomy” project —Hong Kong. Its Hong Kong changing? As what we had discovered in our findings, we found out that Hong Kong has changed a lot. No matter in the point of view in biology or political. In this case, we study the changes by biological side. According to the biological review of Hong Kong, Hong Kong’s brain has lose its own control, and immunocompetence of Hong Kong is reducing which would enhance the changes of Hong Kong.