

Wherever the Sunbeam falls
Skånes konstförening
May 8—June 6

ENGLISH

Artists: LealVeileby, Kenji Hirotoomi & Yankun Yang

BE ADVISED: the video Panacea's Tongue contains two short sequences with flashing images.

Curatorial Statement

Wherever there's light, life carries on—the only variable is the form it takes. Through play and elements of speculative fiction, this exhibition explores this vital connection. In both Kenji Hirotoomi and Yankun Yang's interactive installation *Speech Painter* and LealVeileby's latest exploration, the works convert life into light beams. But while Hirotoomi and Yang distill visitors' voices into spontaneous audiovisual experiences, LealVeileby catapults us into an otherworldly future with notes of kitsch and nostalgia. Though their methods and focus diverge, these works create a compelling dialogue between an inclusive, collaborative present and a dreamy, post-human future.

In their video installation *Panacea's Tongue*, LealVeileby explores a potential future ruled by light—literally. The works' gentle narrator guides visitors through a world where light beams have become the primary life forms. The video viewing area invites visitors to experience the series like a story hour of fantastical future tales punctuated by chaos and the shadows of old pains. Complemented by ancient artefacts, lustrous silver lab coats, holographic accents, and a glowing pink window, we end up in a realm of quiet comedy and sublime imagination.

By contrast, Yang and Hirotoomi choose to actively reinterpret our present in *Speech Painter*. This audiovisual installation invites visitors to speak into the microphone, converting each voice into digital brushstrokes and a unique soundscape. With each voice, the artwork evolves. Though visitors must speak to participate, the actual words don't matter. Yang and Hirotoomi designed *Speech Painter* with specific parameters in order to eliminate language barriers and other common barriers to participation. With each new contribution to the painting and soundscape, visitors get an increasingly visible (and audible) artwork.

Time and color bind these two separate explorations into something strange and otherworldly. The opalescent tones behind LealVeileby's physical artefacts become amplified in *Speech Painter* as vibrant digital markers. Stark pink, especially, runs through the exhibition: as voices reassembled in *Speech Painter*, as a desert sky in *Panacea's Tongue*, as that same sky made real in the window of the large gallery. In the light of these early summer days, the window seems to pulsate with color—an unnerving, playful glance into an alternate universe.

C. Grace Chang, Curator



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Yankun Yang/杨焱焜 (b. Chongqing) is a New York-based architectural designer, computational designer, and digital artist. He worked as an architectural freelance designer for 5 years with various firms in the United States—but now he focuses on the spatial boundary between digital and physical media, particularly how people interact with two worlds of things. His architectural design background has made him a unique artist who emphasizes spatial relationships in digital art. In 2020, Yankun received his Master of Science in Advanced Architecture Design from Columbia University, New York City.

Kenji Hirotomi/広富健児 (b. Tokyo) is a New York-based music producer, sound artist, sound designer, and audio engineer. He completed his Master's Degree in Music Technology from New York University in 2019. His thesis explored and created a modular synthesizer that served as a generative computer music system controlled by real-time noise data from metropolitan cities around the world. Kenji is also an electronic music producer who has been releasing music since 2018 under the alias Tomiken. His first EP "Outer Journey" was released in 2019 by Taihe Music Group on various streaming platforms and received recognition in the underground scenes for his highly-produced and unconventional electronic music.

The Portuguese-Swedish artist duo **LealVeileby** consists of António Leal (b. 1976, Lisbon) and Jesper Veileby (b. 1985, Karlstad). They are based in Malmö and have been collaborating since 2011. They both hold MFAs from Malmö Art Academy. They have had solo exhibitions in both Sweden (Skånes konstförening, Malmö, 2018; Konsthall K, Karlstad, 2014; Galleri Pictura, Lund, 2012) and Portugal (Espaço Campanhã, Porto, 2018 & 2013). Their works have been shown at numerous video art festivals and group shows in Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Brazil and Denmark. They recently received two-year working grants from the Swedish Arts Grants Committee (2021 Veileby, 2020 Leal), the prizes Aase & Richard Björklunds Fond from Malmö Art Museum (2019) and Sven and Ellida Hjort's Exhibition Grant from Skånes Konstförening (2018). In 2017 they were the winners of Fuso – Lisbon International Video Art Festival and their work is represented at the MAAT Museum in Lisbon.