

SUNG TIEU

What is your |x|?

→ 19 September - 07 November 2020

WORK → (central wall)

1. *Natal Chart*
12 July 1987, Sun
06:46 USZ6 - 07:00
Hai Duong, Vietnam
20°N56' 106°E19'
Geocentric
Tropical
Porphyry
True Node
to

15 August 2020, Sat
09:46 USZ6 - 7:00
Hai Duong, Vietnam
20°N56' 106°E19'
Geocentric
Tropical
Porphyry
True Node
Porphyry
True Node, 2020
silkscreen on stainless steel mirror,
Goldman Sans, stainless steel
ø: 295 x 1.2 cm (116 1/8 x 1/2 inches)

WORKS → (left wall)

1. *Compulsion Scenario, 2020*
silkscreen on stainless steel mirror,
Goldman Sans, stainless steel
240 x 115 x 1 cm (94 1/2 x 45 1/4 x 3/8 inches)
2. *Pleasure Scenario, 2020*
silkscreen on stainless steel mirror,
Goldman Sans, stainless steel
240 x 115 x 1 cm (94 1/2 x 45 1/4 x 3/8 inches)

3. *Rule Scenario, 2020*
silkscreen on stainless steel mirror,
Goldman Sans, stainless steel
240 x 115 x 1 cm (94 1/2 x 45 1/4 x 3/8 inches)
4. *Breakdown Scenario, 2020*
silkscreen on stainless steel mirror,
Goldman Sans, stainless steel
240 x 115 x 1 cm (94 1/2 x 45 1/4 x 3/8 inches)

WORKS → (right wall)

5. *Ego Scenario, 2020*
silkscreen on stainless steel mirror,
Goldman Sans, stainless steel
240 x 115 x 1 cm (94 1/2 x 45 1/4 x 3/8 inches)
6. *Action Scenario, 2020*
silkscreen on stainless steel mirror,
Goldman Sans, stainless steel
240 x 115 x 1 cm (94 1/2 x 45 1/4 x 3/8 inches)
7. *Green Scenario, 2020*
silkscreen on stainless steel mirror,
Goldman Sans, stainless steel
240 x 115 x 1 cm (94 1/2 x 45 1/4 x 3/8 inches)
8. *Inertia Scenario, 2020*
silkscreen on stainless steel mirror,
Goldman Sans, stainless steel
240 x 115 x 1 cm (94 1/2 x 45 1/4 x 3/8 inches)

FOOTNOTES

- * The stainless steel mirror sheets are grade 304 / 1.4301. Each sheet weighs 23.75 kg per square meter.
- * '*Natal Chart 12 July 1987, Sunday 06:46 USZ6 - 07:00 Hai Duong, Vietnam; 20°N56' 106°E19'; Geocentric - Tropical - Porphyry - True Node to 15 August 2020, Sat 09:46 USZ6 - 7:00 Hai Duong, Vietnam; 20°N56' 106°E19'; Geocentric - Tropical - Porphyry - True Node*' (2020): The Twelfth House in astrology, which encloses most of the planets in Tieu's birth chart, represents the realm of collective unconscious. It is the house of the inner soul, secrets, creativity and spirituality. It also represents the house of entrapment, isolation and mental illness.
- * The scenarios described on the door windows explore the psyche based on three dichotomies, after C. G. Jung: introversion versus extraversion, thinking versus feeling, sensation versus intuition.
- * The font used in the exhibition is *Goldman Sans*, a typeface Goldman Sachs released in June 2020. As their license outlines, the font is free to use for any purpose as long as the user does not utilise it to criticise the company Goldman Sachs.

Emalin is pleased to present *What is your |x|?*, a solo exhibition of new works and a site-specific installation by Sung Tieu. This is the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

What is your |x|? considers how our internal voices influence the material outcome of our decisions. On the central wall, a quasi-bank vault cut from sheets of stainless steel - titled '*Natal Chart 12 July 1987, Sunday 06:46 USZ6 - 07:00 Hai Duong, Vietnam; 20°N56' 106°E19'; Geocentric - Tropical - Porphyry - True Node to 15 August 2020, Sat 09:46 USZ6 - 7:00 Hai Duong, Vietnam; 20°N56' 106°E19'; Geocentric - Tropical - Porphyry - True Node*' (2020) - holds at its centre a silkscreened mirror displaying Tieu's birth chart, including its transition to 2020 on the outer circles. The heavy steel structure, made from 3mm sheets layered on top of each other, presents a snapshot of the sky at the exact time and location of the artist's birth. For the realisation of this project, Tieu had her stars interpreted by astrologist Zoe Mercury, probing her about the potential alternative lives she could have lived.

Eight large doors each host a text in the font *Goldman Sans* silkscreened on a mirrored window. The written content is derived from the artist's conversations with the astrologer and designate the interior voices of eight different character traits and their respective mental states. Articulated in the form of horoscopes addressing an unknown 'you', the texts describe distinct psychological conditions, alluding to potential decisions made along the way. The doors are cut from the same stainless steel mounted against the walls of the space, trompe l'œil and oversized with nowhere to go. The series - titled "*Pleasure Scenario*", "*Breakdown Scenario*" or "*Ego Scenario*" (all 2020) - assumes tones that are humorous and tongue in cheek at times, serious and bleak at others. The doors introduce perceptions a person might hold in relation to themselves, and with it, their potential outlook on life. Drawing on Jung's eight Personality Types, they explore the psyche based on three dichotomies: introversion vs. extraversion, thinking vs. feeling, sensation vs. intuition.

In *What is your |x|?*, Tieu's ongoing research into psychology and its potential susceptibility for manipulation spills into the sphere of the personal. How does the sound of our inner voices guide and shape our material world? What do we differentiate as mental health versus mental illness? Why are certain character traits deemed more desirable than others? And how is that dividing line established based on societal norms and economic pressures?

Sung Tieu (b. 1987, Hai Duong, VN) lives and works in Berlin and London. She completed her BFA at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg, Germany, in 2013, and the Postgraduate Programme at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, in 2018. Recent solo exhibitions include *Zugzwang*, Haus der Kunst (Munich, DE, 2020); *In Cold Print*, Nottingham Contemporary (Nottingham, UK, 2020); *Park Piece, Fragile* (Berlin, DE, 2019); *Formative Years on Dearth*, Parrhesiades (London, UK, 2019) and *Loveless*, Piper Keys (London, UK, 2019). Forthcoming exhibitions include *ParanoiaTV*, Steirischer Herbst (Graz, AT, 2020); *AUSGEZEICHNET #5: Sung Tieu*, Kunstmuseum Bonn (Bonn, DE, 2021); *INFORMATION (Today)*, Kunsthalle Basel (Basel, CH, 2021); *In the Forest, Even the Air Breathes*, GAMeC Museum (Bergamo, IT); Taipei Fine Arts Museum (Taipei, TW, 2021) and *Though It's Dark, I Still Sing*, curated by Jacopo Crivelli Visconti, 34th Bienal de São Paulo (São Paulo, BR, 2021).