

MEET WITH ART



Art Journalism

MEET WITH

Summer 2021

B y J u d y C h a o

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Technology**
about Toshio Iwai

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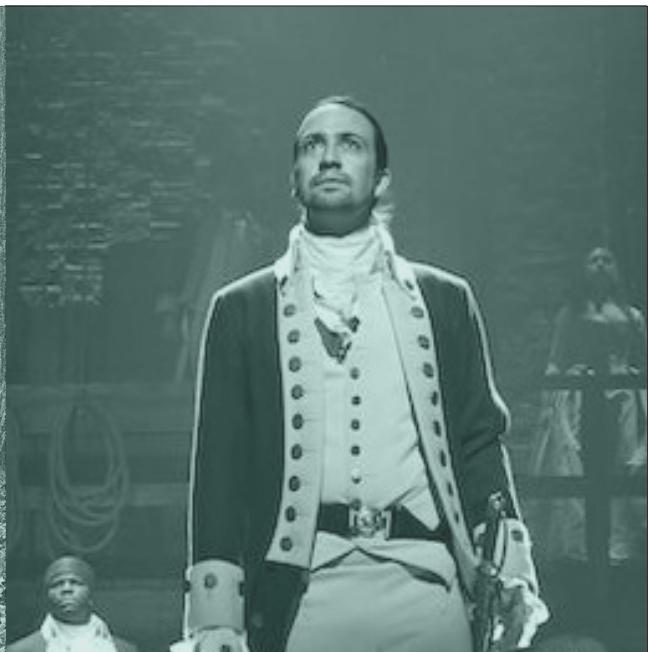


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Art & Technology



Art and technology seem to repel each other, but they can stir up greater creative momentum. The development of science and technology in recent years has not only changed the way people communicate and interact, but also changed the lifestyle and the ecology of art performances and brought new creative models. For example, smartphones allow many people to create text and video content, and even through various APP expansion functions to make

the content more creative. An artist who perfectly integrates art with technology, he is the well-known interactive media artist Toshio Iwai.

Toshio Iwai is a Japanese interactive media and installation artist who has also created a number of commercial video games. His earliest work was in video and computer animation, art forms that did not exist before the 1970s. In addition, he has worked in television, music, museum design, and digital musical instrument design. Due to



the influence of the work of Norman McLaren, Iwai began producing installation art that combined pre-cinema animation techniques. He used the technique of Phenakistoscope, and the zoetrope with modern methods of image capture and creation of photocopies, video cameras, etc.

Well of Light is one of his early well-known artworks. It was a sculpture that offers viewers a chance to vary the experience of looking at the art. Images generated by computer and laser technology are projected downward into the "well," where they are reflected by three rotation sheets of plastic that act



like movie screens. The projected images imply the outlines of birds and fish. Looking down into the well, viewers can see several groups of Iwai's computer-generated forms, each group swimming or flying in a pattern independent of the others. The complexity of the patterns invites each viewer



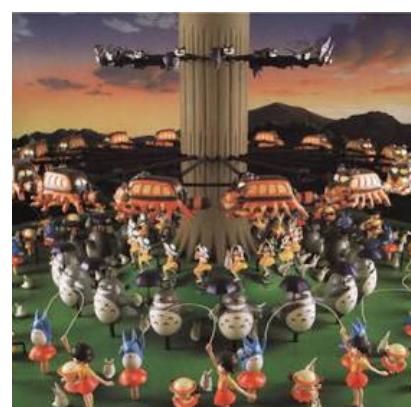
to select one or another part of the well's surface to watch at any given moment, instead of trying to apprehend the work as a whole. Iwai has cut a window into the side of his "well" to further expand the possibilities, making it possible to look from the side rather than the top. Viewers can insert their hands between the projector and the reflective surfaces below, creating shadows of their

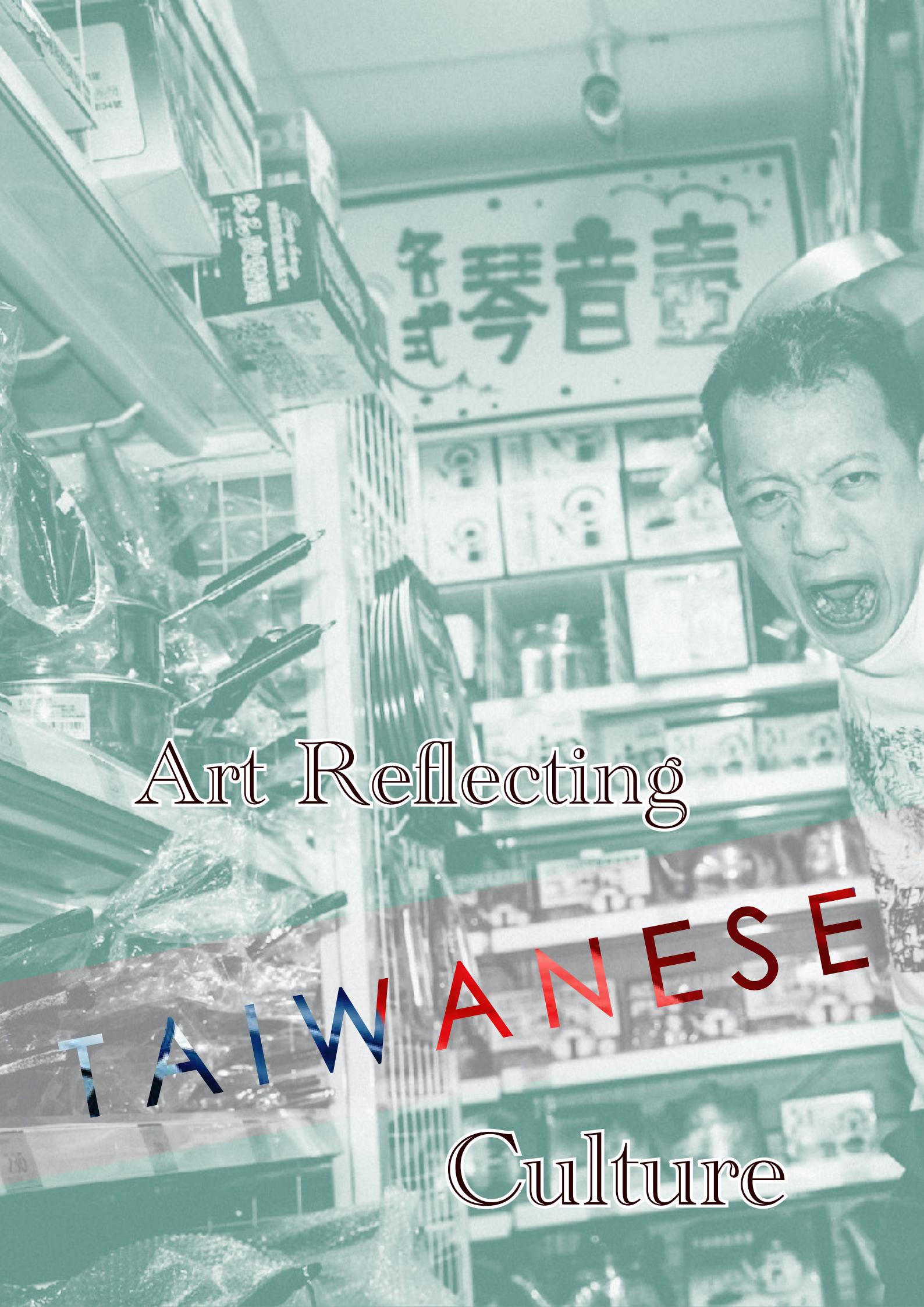


Toshio Iwai (b. 1962)

own design.

Overall, technology is necessary in this work. To create changes of the images, Iwai used a projector instead of painting in traditional ways and used a computer to generate the forms. These create complex and multiple imagery which breaks down the tyranny of the single image.



A collage of images from Taiwan, including a man shouting, a traditional shop sign, and a modern electronic device.

Art Reflecting

TAIWANESE

Culture

Huang DaWang





Art Reflecting Taiwanese Culture

Huang Dawang is a sound artist and action artist born in 1975. He also does illustrations, soundtracks, translations, theater and film performances. He describes himself as a "congenital performer". The 2015 documentary "Taipei Tics" featured him as the protagonist. He won the Special Jury Prize of the Taipei Film Festival as a subject, which is unprecedented. Dawang won the Special Jury Award at the Taipei Film Festival.

His performances are always inseparable from the fringe, crazy images, taken from skewed growth. While his body seems to endure whipping and falling all

the way, he still can't seem to stand up straight.

Huang Dawang said that he suffered from Tourette's disease for unknown reasons since he was a child. Not only does his limbs become stiff, his eyelids and muscles also twitch involuntarily, and he had to take medication for a long time, which caused a lot of inconvenience. During his stay in Japan, he observed obscure images such as "otaku", "pornographic websites", and "loan shark advertisements" at the bottom of the Tokyo metropolis. He changed his mind and turned Tourette's syndrome into a source of energy for music creation. He also started contacting Japanese singers and Western rock bands, choosing to improvise with electronic noise to reflect reality. Huang Dawang explained that survival is like being trapped in quicksand, unable to move, and also like a person drowning on land, unable to find sustenance, can only carry on floating and sinking. However through the improvisation of electronic noise, he began to make a comprehensive reflection and criticism of the environment. He

advises young people not to use established



Huang Da Wang

"universal values" to measure success in life, but to find ways to find the most comfortable way to stand in the contemporary society of high pressure and high tension.

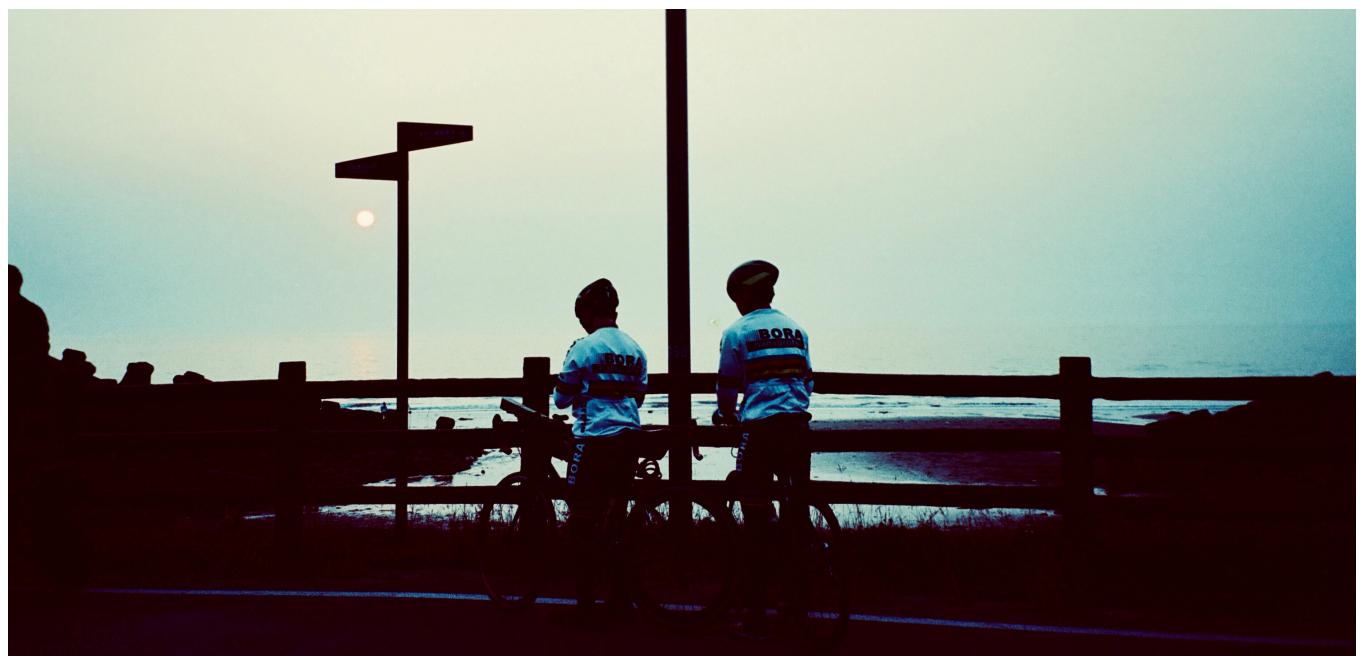
"Use what you are inferior to humans as a counterattack tool. When these things are in the context of the performance, they can be rationalized." Huang Dawang who is suffering from Tourette's disease strives to speak out for the weak amidst multiple noises. He believes that these songs and noises have been separated from the level of personal beauty and sentiment expression, and he attempts to use incongruous sounds to break away the appearance of gentleness, courtesy, and frugality, extracting the common inferiority of human history.

Huang Dawang has been recording with a tape recorder in his bedroom since his second year of high school in 1991. His works are numbered, and he has been ranked more than four thousand. He likes to mix all kinds of music styles, supplemented by unique verses, singing, and body movements to condense it into a special form of performance and become a rap show, "Blackwolf Nagashi," a band formed by his friend Rotten after he retired from the military. They have been performing in the live house since 2002. Huang Dawang's stage name "The Wolf of Dark Campus Folk Songs" is intended to complain about fresh campus folk songs. Nagashi is an impromptu singer who sings through accompaniment in the way of a Taiwanese tea room singer. "Blackwolf Nagashi" often uses the arranger as a musical instrument, adapting the lyrics of famous songs, taking the ironic route, supplemented by unique physical performances, and establishing a funny and sharp performance form. Because

of their special style, they have also been invited to perform at the rock festival. Their performances reflect many questions, for example, where does the distinction between imitation and originality come from? How is originality determined? What is our situation? Why did Taiwan come to such an absurd situation?

By "imitation failure", they criticized and transcended the dichotomy of "original or not". They not only sing other people's songs, they also sing other people's songs badly without mercy. For them, creation is not just a way to write unique repertoires, and singing other people's songs does not mean nothing new. If you can't stand out, admitting vulgarity is also an independent attitude. Rather than calling the lifeless imitation as original, it is better to put the way they usually sing indiscriminately on the stage, and share with everyone that they can't even imitate well. These are exactly what the large audiences downstage often do in private.

In the past, he couldn't stop the twitching and vocalization. Now he uses the impulse that originated in his body as a performance, and tries to accommodate and control it: "(This is) a physical impulse that can be demonstrated through dance moves or martial arts routines. It is to use your destructive power through a well-spoken and well-disciplined action in the world to give it a suitable damage. In these exercises, people can see your kung fu again." Huang Dawang's "kung fu" is built on the borders that are so close to disorder and still have a stable and critical power. His frivolous performance conceals reality, which is probably why people find it interesting.





Top 10 list of.....

Thriller
movies/dramas



Tell Me What You Saw (Kdrama 2020)

Oh Hyun-jae (Jang Hyuk) was a genius profiler who cracked many cold cases using his unsurpassed profiling skills. One day, his fiancee was killed in an explosion set by a serial killer and Hyun-jae lived in seclusion after that....

Vincenzo (Kdrama 2021)

At the age of eight, Park Joo-hyung (Song Joong-ki) went to Italy after being adopted by an Italian family. He later joins the mafia, where he is subsequently adopted by Don Fabio, head of the Cassano mafia family.....



Law School (Kdrama 2021)

Set in Hankuk University Law School, the series tells the story of students and professors in the law school who come across an unusual case. A professor at a prestigious law school and his students get involved in an unprecedented case. A drama about the process of prospective lawyers realizing authenticity, law and justice.



The Victims' Game (Taiwanese series 2020)

Adapted from the novel "The Fourth Victim". The theme of the whole drama involves social issues such as gender equality, labor rights, mental illness, etc. The plot depicts an Asperger's forensic officer who discovered that his daughter was involved in a murder case and followed up with social reporters to investigate the succession caused by this case. Make a last-wish murder case and learn to understand the suffering of yourself and others.

Door Lock (Korean Movie 2018)

Door Lock is a 2018 South Korean thriller drama film directed by Lee Kwon. The film stars Gong Hyo-jin, Kim Ye-won and Kim Sung-oh. It was released on December 5, 2018. The movie is based on the 2011 Spanish movie Sleep Tight. While the Spanish movie tells the story from perpetrator's perspective, the Korean movie tells the same from the point of view of the victim.



Voice (Kdrama 2017)

A South Korean television series starring Lee Ha-na, Jang Hyuk, Lee Jin-wook and Song Seung-heon which follows the lives of 112 emergency call center employees as they fight against crimes using the sounds that they hear.

Vagabond (Kdrama 2019)

Cha Dal-Gun (Lee Seung-Gi) is a stunt man who dreams of becoming a world famous action actor. He survives a plane crash which changes his life. He faces a hidden conspiracy behind the plane crash and digs up a national corruption case.





Tunnel (Kdrama 2017)

In 1986, Park Gwang-ho works as a successful detective in an enthusiastic manner. However, his life changes when he takes the lead in a serial homicide case and when he passes through a tunnel while chasing the "culprit".....

Stranger(secret Forest) 1&2

(Kdrama 2017/2020)

In the first season, Hwang Si-mok (Cho Seung-woo) is an exemplary prosecutor who suffers from hypersensitivity to certain sound frequencies. After undergoing corrective surgery, he lost his sense of empathy and lacks social skills...



Rugal (Kdrama 2020)

Rugal tells the story of Kang Ki-beom (Choi Jin-hyuk), an elite police officer attempting to bring down one of South Korea's largest criminal organizations, Argos. In retaliation for his efforts, Kang's wife is killed by hitmen sent by Argos, and Kang is blinded and framed for the murder.





Write novels with lyrics?

Story about the outrageous life of Rebekah Harkness and self-growth and breakthroughs.

Folklore is an album that Taylor Swift debuted in 2020, also my favorite one. Before the album was released, many people probably had a hunch that it would be a new style of work because of the album name -- folklore. In addition, Taylor also hinted in her post that this is something she has thought about for a long time but never finished. It also convinced many fans that it would be a folk song.

Summarizing the sequence arrangement of the entire album, from a macro point of view, the homogeneity of the album songs is very high, creating a very specific musical atmosphere, but each song has different musical elements and sequence. The arrangement also allows the quiet and lively to intersect each other so that the listeners are very smooth while listening to the album, just like listening to an hour-long song, as Taylor naturally walks through the joys and sorrows and the ups and downs of life!

Taylor was born into country music, which can be regarded as close relatives of folk music. The biggest difference between the two is the use of instruments and the method of arrangement. Common country music instruments are folk music including Cajon,

steel string, nylon string guitar, violin, viola and other string instruments. In the overall atmosphere, country music is more lively, while folk music is relatively more beautiful and refined. Therefore, in this work, you can hear a lot of the sound of Cajon and some percussion instruments, which is significantly different from the sound of the jazz drums and drum machines in the previous pop music albums of Taylor. I really like Cajon's sound in the song Mad Woman. The sound is very comfortable and rhythmic! If there is any song that reminisces the feeling of early Taylor or the shadow of country music, I would say it is 'Betty'. In this song, you can hear the melody of the Speak Now period, which marked the beginning of her transition from country to pop.

In addition, in the entire album, my favorite song is Exile, a collaboration with independent folk producer Bon Iver. In this song, there are not too many shadows of folk songs, it is the most "popular" love song in the entire album. What I like is the stacking of the sound levels, which is very dreamy and has a sense of space, especially when the two sing in duet, you can hear the chorus and string music. As the ending song of the first quarter of an album, Exile is amazing and very eye-catching!

When I entered the fifth My Tears Ricocheted, I had a feeling of returning to Delicate. Someone told me before that Taylor's fifth must be the most touching and private song. Pause now to listen to The Archer and Delicate, and then listen to My Tears Ricochet again. Everyone will admire her cleverness in arranging music and the similarity in production methods. A noticeable difference this time is the rhythm group is not so strong, but drums and the stacking of electronic



One of the
album photos

The sixth and seventh songs are also very nice works, but in the production, I always feel that a corner is missing. Another interesting thing is that when you hear seven, Cardigan and other songs, I don't know if you think of Lana Del Rey, especially Seven gave me a very strong sense of connection, that kind of air-to-sound tone, which was also a rare way to sing by Taylor before! This is me trying a song that I think is very high-quality, no matter in the arrangement or mixing production, the clear sound reverberates, and it keeps stacking around the ear, it is very comfortable and beautiful. Illicit affairs and Invisible String are probably the two most folk songs that sounded in the whole album. Simple guitars, bangs, and vocals create beautiful pictures and rhythms. Some deliberate string brushing sounds are also beautiful and very beautiful.

Taylor's Lyric content has always been one of my favorite parts. She had once mentioned that this album is not just her story, but it is also trying to write others' stories. "The Last Great American Dynasty" is a song about Rebekah Harkness and her second husband, William Hale. They bought a house in Rhode Island and named it Holiday House which is owned by Taylor now. The lyrics described her absurd and sumptuous life with verses like "filled the pool with champagne." The lyrics are also related to Taylor's life, such as "Bitch Pack." (Rebekah Harkness uses it to call her "rich woman group") Taylor uses it as the name of her life which has appeared in other songs.

The latter songs are storytelling of the plot. They are most likely a prequel to the previous story, but involves a different group of characters - Inez, James, and Betty. "Mirrorball" is a song describing Inez falling in love with James who was already in a relationship with Betty. "Illicit Affair" continues to describe this informal relationship of Inez, and tells her that this is incorrect. Then the most exciting parts are "Betty," "Cardigan," and "August." "Betty" is the point of view of James, "Cardigan" is of Betty's, and finally, "August" is spoken

through Inez. Taylor expresses the third wheel relationship vividly. This is the first time I have seen the plot of a novel presented in lyrics, covering the dialogue between different characters and their growth as the narrative progresses.

In the following songs, Taylor focuses more on growth and changes. "This is me Trying" expresses James's regret and trying to retrieve, also Taylor's introspection and growth. "The 1" illustrates Betty letting go of everything with a relaxed mood. Since her debut, there have been constant disturbances and attacks, but she has gone through them and found a way to live with herself. "Exile" is about James encountering Betty after breaking up, and finding her with a new partner. Bon Iver's singing represents James' loneliness and regret, while Taylor's singing expresses Betty's calmness. "Epiphany" describes the struggle in life, but in fact just wants to have a little insight and light. I think he is depicting the pain and entanglement inside James. On the other hand, this song is also Taylor's tribute to soldiers and medical staff for their dedication during the epidemic. Under long hours of work and pressure, people will always break down and feel sad. From this we can also see how Taylor cared about others and gave them the greatest warmth. "Peace" is a description of James realizing that he can't give him more love and peace, learning to love and be loved. At the same time, it shows the change of Taylor's view of love, depicting her calmness and introversion. I feel like this song is also the end of the story.

Overall, I highly recommend this album. This album is a brand new challenge that allows us to see Taylor's potential. Taylor improved every time, and always amazed people time after time. Regardless of the overall packaging, design, or presentation, people have re-acquainted Taylor and her new sound.

Listen to Folklore
on YouTube





Cultural & Time

Adaptation

Hamilton

Hamilton, scripted by Lin-Manuel Miranda, is a hip-hop musical about the founding father of the United States. If a few years ago it was said that these three unmatched words would become the most profound works in popular culture, everyone would laugh it off. But now it has not only accumulated hundreds of millions of dollars in the box office, but also created a frenzy that has never been achieved by any musical. How did it achieve such an

unbelievable influence? The answer may lie in how it tells the story.

Firstly, all actors are Latino, black, or Asian. This reflects the diversity of contemporary America. Theoretically, or ideally, the core spirit of the American Dream is that anyone, regardless of race, color, identity, or status, may find a chance to stand up in the melting pot of the United States. It is also a major theme of hip-hop. Hamilton is committed to showing this.

The purpose of this is not "anti-racial discrimination", but to try to reproduce history from a modern perspective. It tries to show the potential that the United States and even the world "may" have. Regardless of your skin color, all individuals cannot be ignored. This is a bold statement, or it can be said to be an overly idealized expectation. After all, a few years after the show started, the world fell into more chaos and more extreme opposition. "If we win





our independence, is that a guarantee of freedom for our descendants? Or will the blood we shed begin an endless cycle of vengeance and death with no defendants?" Hamilton sang it in the play. This is like stating how the world looked like in the past five years. The U.S. struggle caused many casualties, and the antagonism intensified. Such casting has not solved the problem of racial discrimination, and nothing can really be solved. Secondly, the style of music that Lin-Manuel Miranda chose. Why did he use Hip-hop music to present this story? Hip-hop has always been anti-authoritative music, and those who fight for independence in this play are the embodiment of revolution. And his story is a typical hip-hop story-starting from scratch, having no money, no father and no mother, and rising in chaos

and crime. The essence of the whole hip-hop is based on the ambition to fight against fate. Such a technique is not like a dazzling trick, much less like the type of music imposed on the story in order to cater to the audience. Speaking of the founding fathers of the United States, everyone should think of classical music for the first time. The play is full of complex rhymes, and even the rhyming lyrics in the play reflects Hamilton's famous literary talent. Hamilton had written more than fifty essays on the U.S. Constitution and the federal system within a few months. It subverts everyone's impression of historical stories, in addition it influences people's impression of broadway. The rap in the play reflects his unstoppable, constantly running intellect and perseverance. There are even two classic political

debates directly interpreted in the form of rap battle. Broadway has long been regarded as "higher art" and as a representative of the powerful. This musical overturned this concept. Hip-hop culture, which is often regarded for the "ordinary person", is integrated into this relatively unattainable art form most of the time. Besides, he doesn't only use one music style throughout the show. In hip-hop music, he cleverly interspersed, R&B, jazz, traditional musicals, etc. This had prevented the addicts from getting bored. The most amazing change in style is probably the solo singing of King George III of England. The three songs have no commonality with other parts of the whole play, no matter in lyrics or genre. At first glance, it sounds like a treacherous change in painting style. In



fact, it is the British love song style of the Beatles, and this was called the "British Invasion" in the 1960s!

Thirdly, its ending is close to our current life. There is no happy ending, only the ignorance, and helplessness of human life. This is probably the biggest reason for this musical's far-reaching impact. What it tells us is that each of us has great potential, and we must restrain our self-destructive instinct. This also connects back to the "potential" that the casting wants to show. Ultimately, the most important theme for Hamilton to tell is the ending performance: "Who tells your story?" What will we leave behind? This is definitely a common problem far beyond the United States. The so-called "tells your story" is to give a person meaning. And it is dangerous to give a person a single meaning. Just like the founding fathers in this play, if you look closely, you will find that they are actually not saints. While advocating equality for all, there are

still many slaves. This is an undeniable historical fact, but does it detract from their achievements in creating the once great country? Just like George Floyd, who was killed by police for 8 minutes in 2020, he was indeed a criminal offender during his lifetime. This is undeniable. But this does not mean that the police are right, nor does it mean that we can ignore the unfair social structure exposed by his death. Good and evil must exist in contradiction at the same time. Although people

cannot be classified by the label of a pure hero or villain, the purpose of this play is more to express, praise, and encourage everyone to pursue the seemingly idealistic but also the most powerful "infinite possibilities," everyone All have the "potential" to "change the world".

In sum, this is a musical that uses a modern and unobtrusive way to tell historical stories, has educational significance, is relevant to our lives, and is thought-provoking. These conditions maximize its market. I highly recommend this musical to people who can find resonance in the above advantages or who can concentrate for a long time. Musicals generally have a long length, and it will be very painful if you can't find any meaning or interest in watching them during such a time period. Although the various elements of this musical have pushed it to the throne of best-selling masterpieces, it does not mean that it meets everyone's preferences.





