

## Sui-Hin Mak

### Triosophia (2015) from Paul Chan's Breathers series

The installation features three billowing figures dancing and swaying with the use of industrial fans. As the nylon fabric gets filled with air, the figures swell with mesmerising and repetitive movements that resemble people pushing and pulling one another.

They seem to be constantly trying to coexist between discord and harmony.



### Describing

1. Modern materials: black nylon cloth, plywood, industrial fans.
2. Sockets stuffed into a men's shoe, a women's shoe and a kid's shoe.
3. Kinetic installation art. Decapitated figures with connected arms.

### Analysing, Interpreting

1. Tension and interrelationship within a family, between bodies, between authorities and powers in different systems.
2. 'Sophia': wisdom in Latin. The translated Chinese title means the three wisdom goddesses. What is wisdom? Why three? Without a head, wisdom and self awareness, we would only be blown by the wind.
3. Within the Breathers series, it investigates what is alive and the constraints of living within a system.
4. 2015 - HK social environment; questions the dynamics and separation of powers of the three branches of government, also called the trias politica model, including a legislature, an executive, and a judiciary.

### Evaluating

1. Form. The ever-changing, never-ending posture + flexible plastic sheet: create visual interest. Its movement is an uncontrollable variable which reminds me of chance operations and the fragility of life/powerlessness. The only permanence is impermanence.
2. Mystic title + religious reference: leave open interpretation of the definition of wisdom.
3. Materials. Using quotidian materials: reinforce the artwork's simplicity.
4. Sound. Constant unvarying sound + the limited colour palette: evokes a composed style of B&W audiovisual video art. It keeps the audience at a distance, but at the same time transcends it to the meditative aspect of zen. We can only observe Tao with a calm but alert mind.

