My Life is A Dream, and Only A Dream

A Senior Project by
Anna Yin

Friday, April 14, 2017, 7:00 pm
Wesleyan University
World Music Hall

This project takes the form of a multi-channel sound installation, combined with a video artwork shot by Alison Lam '17. It is inspired by a Woody Allen's film *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, in which he uses film to toy with the very essence of reality and fantasy. Film and music can both act as a sanctuary for people to escape from reality and to enjoy more possibilities in their lives other than the "reality world" they reside in. But they can also be the site within which one collides with a broader world, a reality known and unknown. With samples collected in Darien (Panama), Wuxi (China), Middletown (U.S.), and Kyoto (Japan), the installation will enact various contrasts and contradictions through a series of distinct sonic "sites" created by placing speakers and sounds throughout the World Music Hall.
Zone 1
Meet Me at 6:31 PM in Darien, Panama

Sound samples collected during my adventure with a friend to Darien Gap, Panama in 2016, one of the most dangerous and biologically diverse regions in the world. After 9 hrs’ drive and four border checkpoints, we arrived the town of Yaviza. People were all staring at us, as we, two Asians, were preparing ourselves to cross the bridge and attempt to go deeper into the rainforest. I looked at my watch and it was 6:31 pm then.

Zone 2
I heard big news when I was at Lingshan Grand Buddha Temple in Wuxi, China

Sound samples collected at Lingshan Grand Buddha temple in Wuxi, China, where I spent the first eight years of my life. Two summers ago, I again returned and spent two months living there without phone/laptop/Internet. One day I was watching all the monks doing their morning routine, and from the radio brought by a manager, I heard “Today Cuba and the U.S. resestablish full diplomatic relations”. At that moment, I could not tell which one was real and where I actually was.

Zone 3 & 4
I saw a little Buddha on the table in an office on the 58th Floor of 1314, Sixth Avenue, New York

Sound samples collected in Olin library at Wesleyan University, soundtrack from “Taxi Driver”, voice by Greg Lurito ’17. Last year while I was waiting for my finance interview in a small office in midtown, Manhanttan, I saw a little Buddha put on the table, right next to the computer screen, where the current stock exchange was shown. That moment was again when I felt the uncomfortable contradiction and sense of unbelongingness.

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