

Riley Tu's moving image works, "Quantised Bits of Light till It Added to a Whole" and "Prelude," investigate the intricate and ambiguous representations of cyborg bodies and gender. Grounded by Cyborg Feminism and Sick Woman Theory, these videos extend Tu's ongoing theoretical explorations.

"Quantised Bits of Light till It Added to a Whole" begins with a gradual close-up of eight motionless cyborgs in unnatural poses, set against a backdrop of sci-fi sound effects. The video features a dialogue between the creator and the cyborgs, debating the essence of the body. Through this work, Tu reflects on the limitations of digital embodiment in conveying trauma and pain, and on the constraints of cyborg existence in emancipating the gender spectrum within current digital tools. Her attempt to deconstruct her own body and use the cyber body as a temporary refuge is foiled by the inherent constraints of programmed default settings and gestures, highlighting the challenges of digital representation.

"Prelude," on the other hand, presents a creator's perspective on the formation of a digital body as pixel objects through 3D rendering, where physical sensations are inevitably entirely erased. The video is sarcastically accompanied by a standardised question, "How are you feeling now?" The uncanny and fabricated facial expressions of the cyborg poignantly capture the disjuncture between digital and physical experiences.

Written by the independent curator, Yueh-Ning Lee