

Lisa Tan

Sunsets
Notes From Underground
Waves

Archive Books

Editor's Preface

by Joshua Shaddock

Some people go to priests; others to poetry; I to my friends...
—Bernard, in Virginia Woolf's, *The Waves*

Lisa moved to Sweden five years ago, leaving an ocean between us. Since then, we've bounced our voices between continents, on wires running under waves, below ground, at the speed of sunlight. Woven into our conversations was the progress of her doctoral research and the trio of videos at its core: *Sunsets*, *Notes From Underground*, *Waves*.

These videos were made with friends. Borne of conversations old and new, far and near—sometimes actually heard or seen, sometimes distant echoes—they exhibit the entanglement of Lisa's life and work, or her refusal to mark the separation. Her inclination to inhabit liminality is as much a generative force in the videos as it is a thematic.

This book was made with friends. Each of its contributors holds Lisa as a dear companion—old or new, far or near—and has been part of the development of these videos. Similarly entangled, they show a reluctance or disinterest in retreating to the distanced viewpoint of critic or historian—and life seeps in. The impulse is to characterize their texts as subjective, but more fitting would be to say they're *involved*.

For my part, I was brought into this project as designer—but discussions were quickly and wholly permeated by content, and editor was added to my title. Together, we fretted over every detail, discussed and weighed every decision and point made. These works have become part of me, and I have become part of them. And in drawing close to these works, so have “I to my friend...”

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The videos, *Sunsets, Notes From Underground, Waves*, were produced by Valand Academy, the University of Gothenburg, and Konstnärliga forskarskolan. In 2013, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee provided additional funds for *Notes From Underground* for the exhibition *Just what is it that makes today so familiar, so uneasy?* LIAF Lofoten International Art Festival. The New Museum, New York provided additional funds for *Waves* on the occasion of their Triennial exhibition *Surround Audience* in 2015.

An earlier version of the text "The Shadow is Just as Tangible as the Origin" by Mara Lee was published for Lisa Tan's solo exhibition *For every word has its own shadow* at Galleri Riis in Stockholm in 2015.

Cover: Lisa Tan, *Notes From Underground*, 2013 (still)

Installation images by Jean-Baptiste Beranger

For every word has its own shadow at Galleri Riis, Stockholm, 2015.

Three 190 x 106.8 cm single-channel projections in 16:9 HD video with speakers and headphones, carpet, paint, and wooden pedestals.

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