林愛真 Ei Jane Janet Lin



ARTIST STATEMENT

I try to be a good person...

...but being Taiwanese from Taipei, a US citizen from Texas, and an artist living in Chicago, the definition of what is and how to be a "good person" becomes increasingly tangled in a web of contentious and multi-layered strata that exist between the binary of East and West. A good person isn't worth much under Late-Capitalist America, while being a good person is a basic and essential requirement to function in a traditional Chinese society (that is problematically unified and all-inclusive.) Within the ongoing Chinese Civil War, the influence of living a more "Chinese than China/Pre-Cultural Revolution" democratic Taiwanese identity forces a relentless examination of the complex dynamics between analog/digital labor, financial/cultural objectification, and fetishization in the inescapable worlddominating American consumer culture. The exponential logic of technological advancement globally draws us near while we remain physically far away from each other, challenging us to redefine what a "good person" is in relationships to other human beings in the digital sphere (or, "what even constitutes a person anymore?") Race, class, gender, and sexuality are constantly intersecting and remixing to form the newest criteria of a "good person."

So I want to understand what does it take to be a good person, in all the moments of real or assumed urgency (of desired immediacy,) in every critical h8ter who loves, and in every possible space. My artistic practice is the persistent investigation of what is and how to be a good person, the best to my current abilities.

I make art to be a good person.

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