Featured Topics

Gestures as an immortal performance

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Intro In recent years, while the epidemic has changed living habits, it has also changed everyone's daily performance methods.

Image: CHANG Wen-Hsuan, When Did the Mention Become Extinct?—The Narrative Is Secured in the 21st Century, 2018-22. (Courtesy of the artist)

In recent years, while the epidemic has changed living habits, it has also changed everyone's daily performance methods. For example, you don't need to smile when wearing a mask to socialize with others, you just need to squint your eyes. For example, when you make an unsatisfactory speech in class or in a meeting, squint your eyes above the mask and defiant people will think you are "disagreeing" with the speaker's opinion and will not dare to express their opinions. The phenomenon of "squinting" appears in August 2022, a British research team published "Video Meeting Signals" (Video Meeting Signals, VMSTRG), "I'm not sure" and other gestures, the expression of video conferencing users has been greatly improved.

The research team mentioned in the introduction that when the telephone was first invented in the early 19th century, people did not know how to properly greet "who" in the new interaction. The solution proposed by Thomas Alva Edison was the invention of "Hello", use The research team said that the use of this new technology to change social habits to explain why "sign language" is necessary. The fatigue caused by video software comes from the "gaze" of the other party, the expression of "squinting" and other gestures, and the research team Every two years an English expression expresses, and every year spend more effort to track the clues of words, expressions, and gestures than when they meet in person, but when most non-verbal messages and social unintentional actions of video conference participants, there are Flawed interactions—conversations that are interrupted suddenly, reactions that are realized too early or too late, etc. Became the norm for everyone.

Although video software seems to achieve "face-to-face", the above-mentioned dilemma shows that the "gaze" of the other party is not the same as the "gaze" in the real world. Body and the visible evidence, just occupying space does not mean that others will see it. The deployment of verbal communication and non-verbal communication is not a technology that is only needed in contemporary society when images cannot be seen. The ancient Greeks needs to talk and someone needs to be obedient, the "art of posture" will be a consistent requirement. In the 21st century, "video conference etiquette" is the video communication software, it appears in the application software.

Is gesture a mere component in language? My inquiries on poses come from 2010 to 2020, and I am preparing a performance work "When did the Mention become extinct?" in the 21st century. The performance work is composed of three parts: "Mention"; is accustomed to trial and error, learning and changes in the scope of discussion.

I agree/ the first gesture/ I want to speak/ I hope/ I pushed/ I pushed/ and/ I pushed/ and/ I pushed/ I disagree/ don't like that/ I have gesture/ I have had the/ had/ I have/ that/ I will ask questions/ listening/ I'm not sure about that/ I have a different view, some/ handshake/hug/small done/ Video Meeting Signals, (Source:https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1329878X221075998)

Perfect gestures

The field is the position under the category of science. Due to factors such as electrons, social movements, and religion, public speaking became an important part of American life in the 19th century. Lecture, sermon, and political speech are the three forms of "public speaking" "Internationalizing" the skills of public speaking. Some books from the perspective of sound Cut in, and some books cut in from a postural angle. Albert M. Bacon emphasized in the book "A Manual of Gesture" that gestures both rhetoric and speech need to be carefully considered in terms of grammar logic and tone pronunciation. It is also necessary to establish rules for gestures, and the rules of gestures are the same as the rules of grammar. The rules of gestures necessary to deal with both the open and the aces, not just the letter. In this manual 500 hundreds of illustrations and exercise templates, the postures can be analyzed and marked based on the meaning, the person with the speaker as the center of the ball is the following figure with the person as the center of the ball. It is divided into ascending, ascending, 30 the three levels of the upper, middle and lower levels, and the horizontal, forward, and backward. The arm 45 degrees to the horizontal axis of the three directions has front (front), oblique (oblique), lateral (lateral), oblique back (oblique backwards), the central angle is also set at 45 degrees. After integrating the vertical and horizontal parameters, each sentence in the speech can get the starting point, ending point, angle, and moving line to achieve the best speech effect. Although the rules of the gesture are very detailed, the gesture can be used more repeatedly. In other words, gestures under such a system can be accurately explained causality between intention and body action.

I also used a question from Rosa Menkman's proposed the question in "Rhythm" in 2019: after my residency at Hangzhou Technological University Center for Contemporary Art (HTU CCA) in Hangzhou, I began to develop this work and I hope to discuss the relationship between the mythology of the Five Asian Tigers. I disguised myself as a success lecturer Vivienne Chang, and by dismantling the "National Success Narrative" into "Design Thinking", "Passionate Stories", "Sick Stories" and "Democratic Stories" to expose the governance technology that "Success" is used to hide. The performance work "Rhythm" is composed of three parts: the correlation between words and gestures, so it was assumed that Xiangyu would review the content of the notation sentence by sentence, for example, when saying "Then how would the Chinese people feel about the Chinese government?" Xiangyu will be asked to review the "Chinese" and "people" in the sentence. I collected and imitated public speech recipes of successful people on the Internet to figure out the steps, intonation, and gestures, and created my own public speech recipe. The performance work "Rhythm" is a performance work that is about making a sentence, let your voice sound the audience when referring to all human beings, etc., so that there is a near causal relationship between words and gestures. Although I did my homework, it was difficult to identify the person in the video as a "success lecturer" when I watched the recording after the fact, because the body performing the stage instructions was not "natural" at all.

Before presenting "Rhythm" for the second time, it took me about half a year (for the one hour of the performance work, I spent more than ten hours of preparation every day). On the other hand, I intend to emphasize that Xiangyu is act as a performance director (Director). thought that the "unnaturalness" of the first failure was due to the incorrect causal connection between words and gestures, so it was assumed that Xiangyu would review the content of the notation sentence by sentence, for example, when saying "Then how would the Chinese people feel about the Chinese government?" Xiangyu will be asked to review the "Chinese" and "people" in the sentence. I collected and imitated public speech recipes of successful people on the Internet to figure out the steps, intonation, and gestures, and created my own public speech recipe. The performance work "Rhythm" is a performance work that is about making a sentence, let your voice sound the audience when referring to all human beings, etc., so that there is a near causal relationship between words and gestures. Although I did my homework, it was difficult to identify the person in the video as a "success lecturer" when I watched the recording after the fact, because the body performing the stage instructions was not "natural" at all.

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The impulse to "need to stand up" or "I want to stand up" can only be interpreted after the fact, without the causal link between words and gestures that nineteenth-century written rhetoric and speech have established. Although the rules of "Design Thinking", "Passion" and "symmetrical" the establishment of posture rules after integrating behavioral psychology, in the end, those based on causal explanations or under the scientific category Gestures understanding does not explain the "naturalness/unnaturalness" of someone's speech results in the "successful/unsuccessful" posture of someone. If a demonstrator with intention and body action, the "Design Thinking" and "Passionate Stories" of Vivienne Chang and Victoria Chang's speech will not be born, just read "Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, 'let freedom ring' and accompanied by 97-all-at-once gestures will not create an image of Martin Luther King Jr.

Fig. 6.

A Manual of Gesture (1915) by Albert M. Bacon. (Source https://www.calameroagazine.org/issue/26/dillon.php)

CHANG Wen-Hsuan, When Did the Mention Become Extinct?—The Narrative Is Secured in the 21st Century, 2018-22. (Courtesy of the artist)

Incomplete gestures

When intention becomes an unavoidable variable when understanding gestures, the cognitive category of science becomes insufficient. In the rehearsal for "Rhythm", there is a scene that appears almost every time: I make gestures with words and body for a certain paragraph of the speech, and then I stop and say, "I don't know why I do this gesture." Although I made an incomplete gesture, because it is impossible to capture the "intentional" moment from which I let alone bring any "Successful", "Valiant" effect. But for me who is trying to say a word or voice my hand to my chest, I'm sure of the meaning is not that I am "doing a hand" intention, but that my intention is not enough to form an impulse to push the vocal cord vibration and the mouth shape to pronounce the sound. The "Design Thinking" and "Passionate" anxiety and a feeling of incompetence make the poses have no rules and hope that shouldn't be there. If the intention is always "enough to not enough" instead of "yes or no", then the judgment of gesture is not yes or no, and there is no moment of "no posture", because a posture that is not ready is still a posture. " The opposite of "complete posture" is "incomplete posture".

Vilém Flusser's general definition of "gesture" ("posture" - "body movement that can show intention") - already, he believes that once "intention" itself is a complex concept, gesture should be Concealed in "body movements without satisfactory causal explanations". there is no "intentional" movement of the body, and the "intentional" movement of the body is precisely because the performer of the gesture may not be able to make it The "I want" behind a certain gesture finds an explanation, relationship/attributable between action and reaction, representation and expectation, so that "when I interpret a particular gesture as something, I am dealing with effect". At the same time, if emotions are accepted as intentions or states of mind, then gestures are the "expression" of emotions, and emotions are the manifestation of states of mind, so the effects of gestures, Based on this, although postures has become the research target of various fields, psychology, anthropology, sociology, communication theory, behaviorism theory, aesthetic theory, etc., all attempt to establish a theory of posture, but Flusser believes that posture has cross-cutting The interdisciplinary characteristics, the "gesture" cannot be explained by any single discipline. Gesture is connected with an "interior" theory, so what is needed is general other Non-Special theory, if it does not establish a general theory of posture, the object of other theoretical work is only conditioned movements. And posture, which may be why Foucault's 1981 in "Gestures" and "Gestures" what is dealt with is the gestures of writing, destroying, photography, and shaving, rather than the intellectual theory, interpretation, and relationship.

The above discussion may have responded to a difference that I only noticed after I completed the "Rhythm" performance work: the "unnaturalness" of the first failure is precisely I most of them had to make classifications on a spectrum of desirings but in other programs for "Perfect and "Equipment Show" (2021-22), those subjects with different ages, political positions, and ancestors Donald Hitler, Barack Obama, Tony Abbott, Tony Blair(UK), Lee Kuan Yew, Kate Capo Blanchett, ------ but it seems that when discussing posture, there is no "perfect posture" and "incomplete posture" is the "normal state" of the gesture. Although I discuss the same the accumulated scholarly relationship between There is no difference between democratically elected president, a man is no different from a woman, and even an ass and camels is no different from an ass without camels, just like Pascal's oxen based himself in Neoliberalism: "In the age of cameras, has the nature of immortality changed. I answer without hesitation: the face has not, for the lens of the camera, which has been already ended as its unnaturalness expires. Although there is no real lens directed at them - but people have acted like someone is taking pictures of them."

Impossible gestures

Gesture can open up an unidimensional space full of interpretative roles precisely because of its double responsibility: for the performer of the gesture, the responsibility of fully projecting his intention and translating it into visible form... the responsibility of fully interpreting the intention behind the performance in front of you or the image. A very common description "I know you are not like this", "he looks like a very good person", may be derived from the "unnaturalness" of the performance work "Rhythm" and the "unnaturalness" of the first failure. It is a pretex, written and jotted, founder of the "Fascisoari" art movement, in 1921, he visited Germany and published the book "Hitler", which described Hitler as the "son of peace" ("Man of Peace) and the "truly peaceful and kind-hearted people", what he hoping to people is not the wisdom of death, but the "valuran" wisdom of life. Even Lenin's 1929 publication, "Lenin's Life and Work" mentioned that Hitler's speech was "very good" and that Hitler had already done enough to be current Lenin's interpretation of Hitler and Nazi Germany should not be dismissed as merely passing ignorance, for even Winston Churchill once mentioned that "Nazi-Paradise still focuses on literature, theatre, and film. his examination and revision of the textual paradigms that have always dominated. It also responds to Foucault's emphasis on establishing a general theory of posture rather than a specific, sub-disciplinary theory: after all, posture is the state in which human beings actively adjust themselves to the world, and it is the performer's responsibility to fully project his intention, posture sequences and transitions, and language is no longer a model for decoding posture. On the contrary, a general theory of gesture must complete a model of gesture (the gesture of language) that can be recognized.

There is a passage in "Immortality" that captures the image of gesture "more than words": Milan Kundera's Kundera's unanswerable question, the reader is greeted by "the put her hands on her chest, then three her hands forward again"—a gesture she's never done before. The "unnaturalness" of the first failure is the "unnaturalness" of the "unknown" gesture and seemingly unpredictable. Due to space constraints, the discussion of gestures as a general theory rather than an analysis item of technical images is temporarily suspended here, but with a framework that is not just, not just video, and not just performance, we can finally re-understand a certain A political figure's handshake, a certain two political figures' embrace, and even dead body hung on a tree in "The Lynch" or "The City where the Bloody But Comes", and "The City where the Bloody But Comes Down".

This entry was listed on 15 April 1940 to commemorate Hitler's 51st birthday (Source https://www.germanicentury.net/1940-1945/1940.html)

Notes

[1] Lévy-Bruhl, Claire-Maryl, Tuffi Mitsa, Gabriel Ms, Richardson DC, "Video meeting signals: Experimental evidence for a technique to improve the experience of video conferencing", PLoS ONE, 2022, 17(6): e0270994. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0270994

[2] For example, James Rusk, *The Philosophy Of The Human Voice: Embracing Its Physiological History*, 1827; William Russell, *Orthophony, or Correction of Defects of Speech*, c.1843; Gilbert Austin, *Chironomia, Or, A Treatise On Rhetorical Delivery*, 1806; Albert M. Bacon*Manual Of Gesture*, 1915.

[3] Albert M. Bacon, *A Manual of Gesture*, Chicago: J. C. Buckbee, p.26

[4] Vilém Flusser, Gestures, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 2014, p.1-2.

[5] Ibid., p. 5.

About the author

The artistic practice of CHANG Wen-Hsuan questions the narrative structure of institutionalized history with re-modeling, re-writing, and suggestions of fictional alternatives. To expose the power tensions embedded in historical narratives is a way of managing the relationships and dynamics between individual stories and the writing of history. Through versatile platforms including installations, videos, and lectures, she often navigates skewed power structures and uses unexpected gestures to trigger reflections on how the understanding of history affects the position of the present and thread of the future.

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