



PRESENT

14 May 2021

Curators
Eunice Tsang
Tiffany Leung

Curatorial Assistant Samantha Chan

Graphic designer NINJALAKATY

PRESENT

Set up in late 2020, Present Projects (PP) is an experimental art space dedicated to the curation and production of contemporary art projects, PP works on a vision to encourage the exchange of knowledge through exhibition-making. The seeds of PP come from a visual based practice, while its soil comprises the ingenuities of youth culture and the complexities of the Asian diaspora. Through collaborations with local and international creatives across mediums of popular and subculture, PP is envisioned as a cosmic hub for manifestations that extend beyond institutional confines.

於二零二零尾創立,Present Projects (PP) 是一個致力於當代藝術項目的策劃和生產的新興藝術空間,願景是鼓勵通過展覽製作而帶來文化知識的交流。PP 的種子基於視覺藝術的實踐,而其土壤包含着青年獨創文化和亞洲各地的多樣性創造力。透過與本地和國際創作者合作以及探索流行和次文化的媒介,PP 希望能夠成爲一個超越制肘的藝術集中地。

3F, Tak On House, 13 Wong Chuk Street, Sham Shui Po, Hong Kong

香港九龍深水埗黃竹街十三號德安樓三樓

www.present-projects.com IG: PresentProjectsPresents Eunice Tsang & Tiffany Leung

策展人們的話 Eunice Tsang & Tiffany Leung

Every joke is a tiny revolution.

- George Orwell

Embedded in manic laughter is a cry for help, a face perpetually contorted into the laugh-cry emoji. Selected as the Oxford Dictionaries Word of the Year couple of years ago, a was apparently the most used 'word' globally. Originally called 'Face with Tears of Joy', a has quickly evolved to inhabit deeper complexities, encompassing helplessness, embarrassment, incompetence. Are the tears the result of unhinged laughter; or is laughter a front for bitter tears? HahahAhAHahahahahAHALP!

Humor is specific in its time and space; what makes us laugh reveals a lot about our immediacy, and the world here and now. It also reflects on the evolution of our cultures and endures in its infinite forms: satire, slapstick, irony, parody, memes and so on. Inheriting the nature of humour, Only a Joke Can Save *Us* is a complex, varied and rebellious account of our current times. With this exhibition, we wish to explore humour as a way of understanding or questioning ourselves in an ever more unsettling world — our desires, fantasies, frustrations and resistance, riffing off everything from the familiar to the absurd.

Featuring ridiculed political figures, the banality of pigeons. dancing in a flood, playful instagram filters and more, these artworks will elicit laughter and offer comfort in bleakness; but also irreverently disrupt and transgress, creating radical resistance in times of uncertainty. Confronted by crisis and trauma, joking and laughing becomes a methodology to explore new conceptions of solidarity, critique and justice.

(PS. Apparently, a is already going out of fashion. Gen Z-ers have instead replaced the ambiguous laugh-cry with a uberdirect, zeitgeisty , a skull as in 'I'm dead'.

After all, the youngest gets the last laugh.)

「每個笑話都是一個小小的革命」

喬治·奧威爾 (George Orwell)

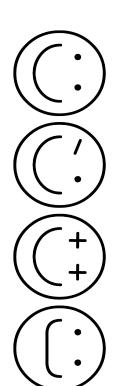
狂躁的笑聲中嵌入了求救聲;一張臉龐永遠扭曲成哭笑 不得的表情符號。 😂 於幾年前被選爲「牛津詞典年度最 佳單詞」,原來是全球範圍內使用最廣泛的「單詞」。 😂 最初被稱爲「喜極而泣」,卻現在迅速演變爲包含更深層 次的複雜性,例如尷尬、無助和無奈。淌下的眼淚是源 自無發控制的笑聲嗎?抑或,笑聲只是為泣不成聲戴上 面具?HahahAhAHahahahahaHALP!

幽默具有特定的時間及空間性;每個引人發笑的笑話都 充分揭示了我們的瞬間及世界的現況。幽默亦反映了我 們不同文化的變遷,並以無窮的形式,如諷刺、鬧劇、 滑稽模仿、模因等,繼續穿梭社會。

承繼著幽默的本質,【只有笑話能挽救我們】是一個對 九位國際藝術家:蔡寶賢、胡芮、洪正言、小池健 輔、Kieran Leach、麥影彤二、閆欣悅、Pow Martinez 和 FAMEME; 他們探索的幽默, 是作爲一種於動蕩不安的 世界中理解或質疑自己的方式—— 剖析各人的慾望、 幻想、挫折、和意志 —— 並從熟悉甚至荒誕的事 中汲取靈感。

展出的藝術品呈現被嘲諷的政治人物、平庸的鴿子、 水中舞動的人、嬉戲的Instagram濾鏡等,一來希望引起 觀衆歡笑、在昏暗中提供安慰,但亦同時擾亂和超越社 會規範,在飄忽的時代中創造新興的抵抗力量。在危機 和創傷的時刻,開玩笑和歡笑合二爲一,成爲探索團結 一致、批判性、和正義感這些新概念的一種方法。

(附言:顯然, 會已經過時了。Z世代的年輕人已經 轉用直接又貼題的 💀 了。骷顱頭代替了模棱兩可的笑 聲,它直言道:「笑死我了。」畢竟嘛,最年輕的的確有 本錢「笑到最後」, 莫欺少年窮!)



Bo Choy

Sad Leaders, 2020

Paper mache masks, puppets, costumes, site-specific installation

The wheels of history turn, former leaders reunite to breathe sob and dance mourn over. Drunk, tired and sad, they slump dormant over a table. Incorporating film, live performance and multimedia installation, Bo uses fiction, music, writing and costuming as artistic devices to navigate through the socio-political sphere, merging everyday occurrences with the fantastical, and fusing the mythological with the absurd.

Bo Choy (b. 1986, Hong Kong) is a graduate of MA Fine Art Media from the Slade School of Art and a recipient of Clare Winsten Memorial Award in 2020. Her recent exhibitions/screenings include Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, Kasseler Dokfest, Tomorrow: London, White Cube, and Circa.art. She works as an Assistant Editor for Afterall's Exhibition Histories and teaches at Chelsea College of Art.

蔡寶賢(生1986年,香 港)的作品涵蓋電影 表演及聲音藝術。她 透過小說、音樂、寫 體,探索社會政治, 誕的世界。她畢業於 斯萊德藝術學院 的美 術媒體系,並於2020 年獲得克萊爾·溫斯滕 紀念獎。她最近的展 覽/放映包括 Alchemy 電影和動體影像節、 卡瑟勒紀錄片節、《 明天:倫敦》、White Cube、和 Circa.art。 她是Afterall 展覽歷史 的副編輯,並在切爾 西藝術學院任教。





Performers: Ivy Chan, Bobo Choy, Vienn Yan, Joyce Wong, Stella Zou Yan

中心主義引導的世界觀的歧義。 洪正言 (生1996年,香港)畢業於倫敦斯萊德美術學院,其、裝置和視防品。 建、豐。他以表達其經濟的和與所和。 他的作品入選了《彭博新

安納·瓊斯,一個蒙面的

男人戴著雙筒望遠鏡和

一本鴿子指南在倫敦的

街道上穿行。他躺在公

園裡、划着船、然後到

特拉法加廣場漫步,專

心研究它們。於香港長 大,洪正言在2000年代 經歷了禽流感的恐慌,

的影響和引起飼養禽類

的偏見。這項以研究為

主導的諷刺式紀錄片探

索人與動物之間的愛恨

關係、寵物與害蟲之間

的一線之差、和以人類

當代藝術》的名單內,並 在英國、芬蘭和香港等 國際地區展出。

Cyrus Hung

Cher Ami, 2020

Clad like a nerdy Indiana Jones, a masked man traverses the streets of London with binoculars and a guidebook on pigeons. He lies down in a park, rows a boat, and strolls in Trafalgar Square to study them intently. Growing up in Hong Kong, Hung experienced the scare of the bird flu in the 2000s, observing its impact on the poultry industry and stigmatisation on bird ownership. This research-led mockumentary ponders about the love-hate relationship between humans and animals, the fine line between pets and pests, and the ambiguity of our anthropocentric worldview.



This work can be viewed at THY Lab (see p16)

這件作品將於 THY Lab播放

Cyrus Hung (b.1996, Hong Kong) is a graduate from the Slade School of Fine Art, London and works in painting, sound, installation and video. He uses parodist and deadpan approaches to be critical yet humorous. His work was selected as part of Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2019, and he has exhibited internationally across the UK, Finland and Hong Kong.

Single channel video,

18:53

單頻道視頻 18:53分鐘





cyrushung.com @cydehung @felixslade

www.bochoy.com @bo_choy

FAMEME

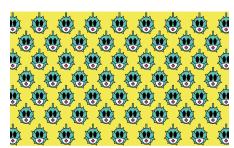
Durian Pharmaceutical-Pop-Up Store, 2021

這個夏天與Present Projects合作, 推出限量Durian Pharmaceutical 口 單與托特包。讓身處在疫情的我 們,能保有正面積極與會心一笑 的能度

www.yuchengta.com @yuchengta

Durian Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. is the newest venture for internationally renowned influencer FAMEME. In face of a global pandemic and health crisis, FAMEME found a new calling in biotechnology and launched groundbreaking research in extracting 'MISOHTHORNII', a nutrient found exclusively in durians. By 2023, Durian Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. aims to introduce 'MST', an elixir that will significantly improve one's health, boost immune system and prevent viral infections. It has the ability to activate the amygdala, which strengthens our limbic responses and in turn stimulates the release of dopamine, endorphins and serotonin in the brain. According to early trials, the user feels the same emotional effect as falling in love. 'MST' will be the solution to achieving the highest level of well-being. Just like FAMEME's motto, it will 'make you smile again'!

This summer, in collaboration with Present Projects, Durian Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd has launched a series of limited edition masks and tote bags, hoping to bring positivity and joy against the backdrop of this pandemic.



Durian Pharmaceutical Pop-up Store, 2021

Mixed media installation

FAMEME (b. 1983, Taiwan) is a widely popular KOL/influencer who famously inherited and rebranded Durian King, a durian supplier founded by his grandfather in 1936. As a style icon and music enthusiast, FAMEME incorporated ground-breaking elements into remake of Durian King and subsequently increased the sales of durians all over the world. In 2019 he made his debut in the United States, where he established the world's first 'Museum of Durian', a popular check-in spot for influencers. In 2020 FAMEME also expanded his brand in Korea, collaborating with the Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art (GMoMA) to create the 'Durian Exercise Room'. Recently he also launched technological initiative 'Durian Pharmaceutical' which focuses on medical research and the health benefits of durians.

Hu Rui

Soon It Will Be Deep Enough, 2019

Soon It Will Be Deep Enough is a wry but playful embodiment of the impending doom of climate change and rising sea level. While living in Los Angeles from 2017 to 2018, Hu Rui experienced polarised worlds — one that was ravaged by wildfires and toxic smoke, and another consumed by pool parties and celebrity culture. Echoing this dichotomy, the video depicts an ominous narrative in soft, pastel tones: sims-like avatars dressed for a pool party, appearing to enjoy themselves all the while being submerged under water gradually. The total length of the video is 4:44; 4 is a number that is nearly homophonous to the word 'death' in Chinese.

Hu Rui (b.1990, China) frames our current living condition as one in between a mythological past and a technological future, and considers from this perspective the issues of memory, expectation, decision-making, and the experience of time. Hu holds an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles and a BFA from New York University. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Practice in Computational Media and Arts at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Soon It Will Be Deep Enough 是一個關戶 Deep Enough 是一個關戶 Deep Enough 是一個關戶 Enough 是一個關戶 Enough 是一個關戶 Enough 是一個關戶 Enough 是一個關戶 Enough 是一個國際 是 Enough Enough

胡睿(生1990年) 中華 (生1990年) 中華 (生1990年) 中華 (中華) 中華



單通道高淸 視頻與音響

現場裝置



hurui.ooo @hooraypublic

Kensuke Koike

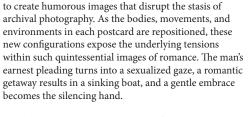
Exploration, 2020 Boat, 2018 Shhh!, 2018

Left to Right: Exploration, 2020 Altered postcard, 14.8 x 10.5 cm

Boat, 2018 Altered vintage postcard, plastic, 10.6 x 8.8 cm

Shhh!, 2018 Cut postcard, paper, rivet, 14.7 x 10.3 cm

These works are supported by the Schoeni Collection.



Koike's works take the form of vintage postcards, altered

Kensuke Koike (b. 1980, Japan) transforms single-image processing into surrealist revelations about truth-making. Reviving vintage photographs he finds at flea markets, Koike distorts them into eye-catching configurations, creating new meanings and possibilities for these archival materials. Kensuke Koike is a graduate of the Venice Academy of Fine Arts, and currently resides in Italy. He has exhibited internationally across New York City, London, Italy, and Tokyo.









www.kensukekoike.com @kensukekoike

These works are supported by the Schoeni Collection

Kieran Leach

000000000F, 2018

Oil paint and acrylic on canvas, wood, gloves, jeans, socks, trainers

130 x 150 cm

油畫及塑膠彩作品;木頭 作品;木仔褲、卷子及 褲、養子及 跑鞋 130 x 150 厘米



Leach's work stems from his time working as an art technician, highlighting the labour that is often overlooked or unrecognised. Modeled at a 1:1 scale, the sculpture captures a peculiar moment of a painting being moved around, with only his hands and legs visible from behind. It brings to light a moment in exhibition making that is usually obscured, yet the irony lies in the artifice of the work as no technician stands behind the work to receive such recognition.

Kieran Leach (b. 1994, Manchester) is an artist based in Manchester, United Kingdom. From playful sculptural forms to modified ready-mades, His works often appropriate and satirise elements from everyday, online and 'art world' cultures. His recent exhibitions include Remote Work, The Grundy, Blackpool, UK (2021), Soft Display, Division of Labour, Paradise Works, Manchester, UK (2020) and CONTACT, ThorpStravi, London, UK (2020).



本身任職美術技師的Kieran Leach透過作品評論時常被 忽視或不被認同的工作。雕 塑以l:l 比例製作,呈現當 畫家移動油畫,從後只能看 到其四肢的有趣畫中,當看 旨於諷刺在展覽中,當卻沒法 站在作品後面,分享所獲的 認同。

> www.kieranleach.co.uk @kieran.leach

Mak Ying Tung 2

Art Makeup, 2021 Art Vomit, 2021

makyingtung.com/ @makyingtung2

Try it now!!!

Created for Instagram, these interactive filters are catered to exhibition-goers and art enthusiasts. Artmakeup, 2021 is a 'beautifying' effect which lets your Instagram followers know just how much you love art. The artist recommends taking a selfie in front of your favorite artwork to generate more views. If you are struggling to cope with all the art world jargon — don't worry, Artvomit, 2021 got you covered. Just switch on this filter and feel instantly smart while looking cute.

Mak Ying Tung 2 (b. 1989, Hong Kong) contemplates contemporary culture and social issues through the lens of fantasy and humor. Identifying as a conceptual artist, she works with a wide-range of mediums including paintings, installations, videos, Youtube videos, stand-up comedy routines and Instagram filters. Mak is best known for painting series Home Sweet Home (2019-) where she commissioned artists on the Chinese e-commerce site Taobao to re-depict absurd environments she created on life stimulation video game 'the Sims'. The artist has exhibited internationally across Hong Kong, Lisbon, Beijing, Dallas, Shanghai and London.

Homeland Security, 2021

Acrylic on canvas, 8 x 48 inches

Bad Boss, 2021

Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 24 inches









Pow Martinez

Homeland Security, 2021 Bad Boss, 2021

Martinez's new works speak to the politics of immigration and monarchy respectively. Despite their humorous appearances, cartoonish renderings and playful colors, the paintings reveal the anxiety and paranoia caused by authoritarian and tyrannical modes of governance. His works prompt viewers to not only ridicule the subjects within the canvas, but question static notions of borders, nations, and hierarchical social structures.

Pow Martinez (b. 1983, Philippines) is a Manila-based interdisciplinary artist. Drawing inspiration from the traditions of grotesque imagery and Pinoy pop culture, Martinez offers eclectic and humorous visual insights into Filipino history and Southeast Asian politics. His daring use of color and deviant urban subject matters are endlessly compelling, resembling nightmarish landscapes that are messy, rough, and anxious. He holds degrees in Painting at the Kalayaan College and Visual Communications at the University of Philippines. He is the recipient of the prestigious 2010 Ateneo Art Award, and has exhibited internationally across Paris, New York, Berlin, Jakarta, Taipei, Hong Kong, and more.





Yan Xinyue

Hong Kong

Skeletons go about their daily routines as if they were alive — reading while on the latrine and enjoying a shower (or dancing in the rain?). Painted with delicate brushwork and raw playfulness, Yan combines absurd imagery and ordinary daily settings; the trompe l'oeil water drops enhancing the distance of the viewer and subject. Life after death is Sisyphian, and there is no escape from banality, her cartoonish skeletons seem to say. But then, with eternity in waiting, maybe we can finally finish that book while emptying our (already empty) bowels.

樣回復日常慣例 -坐在廁所上看書、 享受淋浴(或在雨 中舞動?)。以精緻 的筆法和無過濾的 趣味, 閆欣悅將荒 誕的圖像和平凡的 佈景結合在一起, 並透過光學錯覺的 水擴大了觀看者與 畫中主角之間的距 離。她卡通式的骷 髏骨似乎在說:死 後的生活就像薛西 弗斯神話裏一樣, 無法擺脫重複的煎 熬。但是,隨著永 恆的等待,也許我 們終於可以在排泄 我們(已經)空洞的 腸子的同時完成那 本書了。

骷髏骨像還活著一



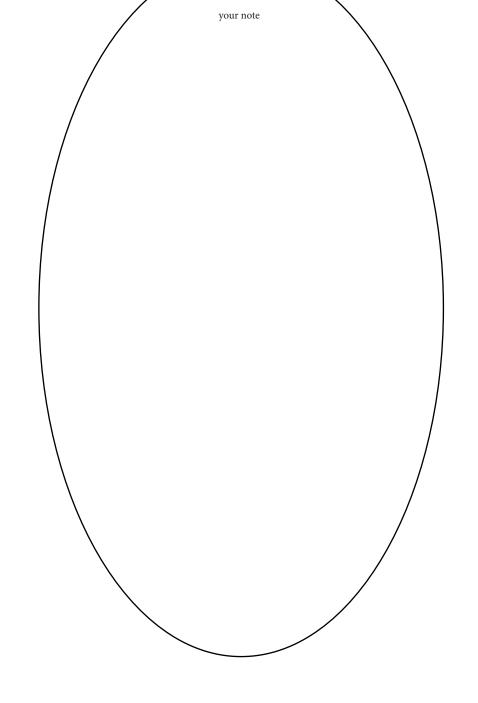
閆欣悅(生一九九 二年,中國)於二 零一八年畢業於比 利時安特衛普皇家 美術學院並擁有繪 畫藝術創作碩士, 現在於上海生活與 工作。閆欣悅展現 在快速城市化的景 況下的都市生活點 滴。她作品中純真 的嬉戲和浪漫的想 像力擺脫了日常瑣 事的困擾∘融合觀 察、記憶與虛構, 她的作品描繪了轉 瞬即逝的動態、情 緒和幽默情景,從 而邀請觀衆進入一 個充滿想像力和可 能性的世界。

Yan Xinyue (b.1992, China) graduated with an MFA in painting from the Royal Academy of Fine Art Antwerp, Belgium in 2018, and currently lives and works in Shanghai. Yan presents vignettes of metropolitan life in the context of rapid urbanization. The innocent playfulness and romantic imaginations embedded in her work serve as an escape from the tedium of everyday reality. Fusing daily observations with memory and fiction, her work depicts fleeting gestures, emotions and humorous scenarios, inviting the viewer to enter a universe of imagination and possibilities.

To Be #1, 2021.

14

Oil on canvas, 40x50cm



15

@milaxinyue

THYLAB

Programme Collaborator

Present Projects is excited to partner with THY LAB, our Sham Shui Po neighbour. In response to Only A Joke Can Save Us, THY will host a series of film screenings that explore various aspects of humour and satire. THY LAB is the only cinema in Sham Shui Po, and also houses the largest archive of Hong Kong family images. THY's program focuses on the intersection of research and art, based in its small theatre and outdoor lane museum.

Present Projects 很高興能與我們鄰近的吳堂 (THY LAB) 合作。為了響應【只有笑話能挽救我們】的展覽,吳堂將會放映一系列涉及幽默和諷刺的電影吳堂不僅是深水埗唯一的放映院,還是香港家庭影像的最大檔案館。吳堂一直專注於研究與藝術的交集,並基於其小型劇院或戶外的小巷博物

Showtime

28 May (Fri) ONLY A JOKE CAN MYTHICISE US 8pm Life of Brian (Terry Jones, 1979)

A Chinese Odyssey (Jeffrey Lau, 1995)

29 May (Sat) ONLY A JOKE CAN REVEAL US
8pm King of Comedy (Stephen Chow, 1999)
I'm Still Here (Casey Affleck, 2010)

04 Jun (Fri) ONLY A JOKE CAN IDENTIFY US 8pm An American in Rome (Steno, 1954) Meng Xin (Stephen Chow, 1988)

05 Jun (Sat) ONLY A JOKE CAN KILL US
8pm They shoot Horses, don't they?
(Sydney Pollack 1969)

White Collar Blues Fantozzi (Luciano Salce, 1975)

How to get to THY Lab from Present Projects



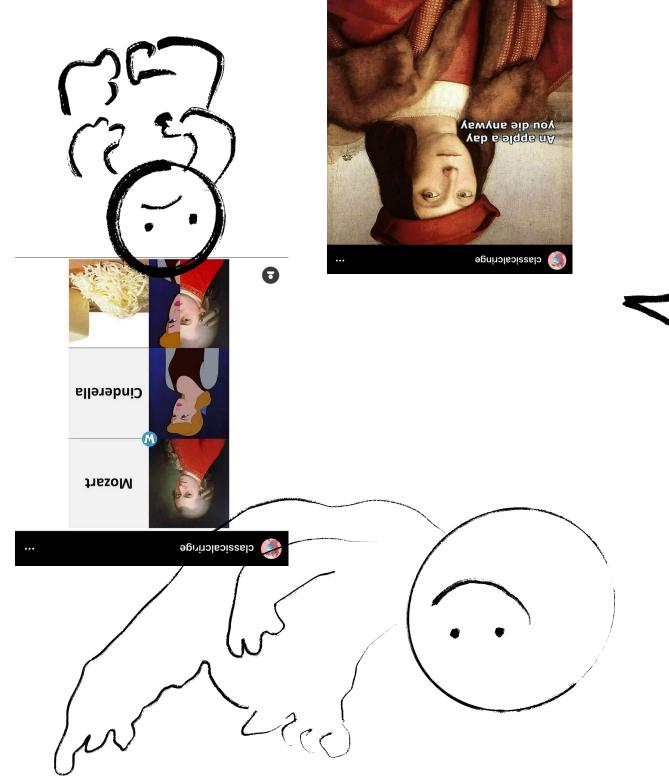
NONG CHUK

ST

MAPLE ST PLAYGROUND

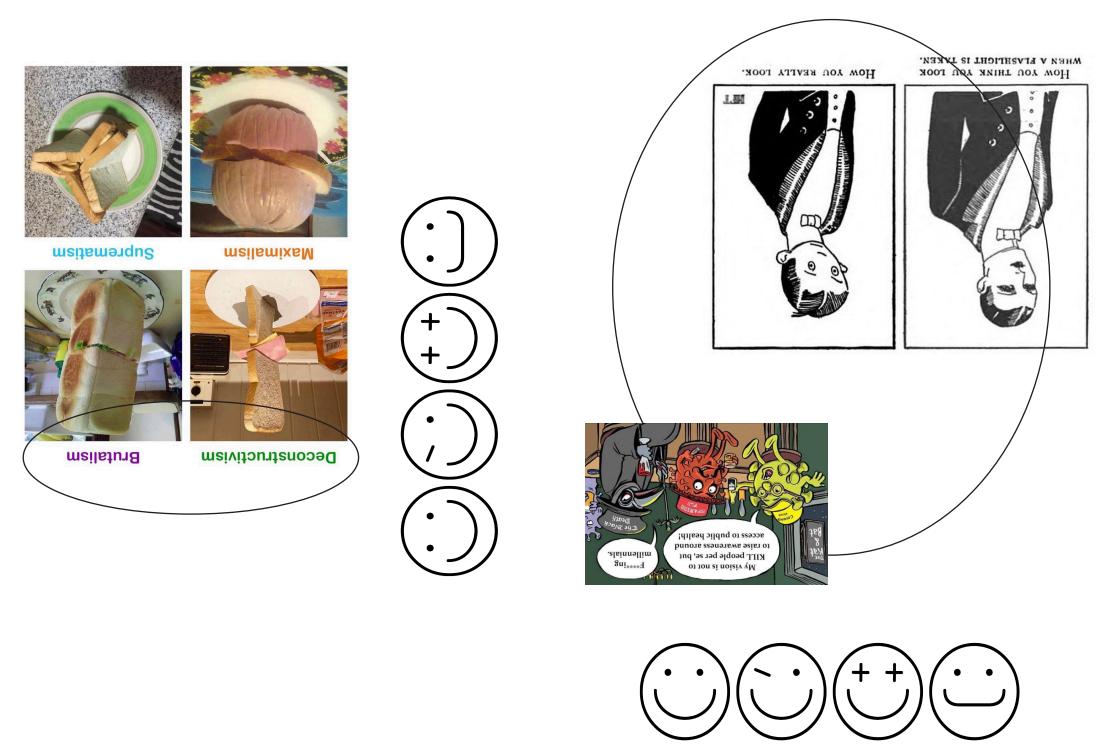
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THY LAB



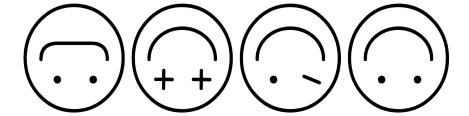


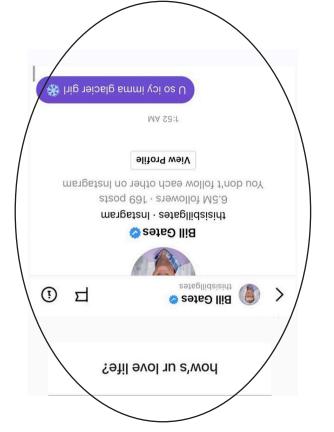












POV: Your company's HR director is about to fire you on a Zoom call

WandaDirection @TheMattChuChu

Therapist: u often use humor to deflect

serious trauma

me: thank u

therapist: i didnt say that was a good

thing

me: what im hearing is u think im funny







immediately

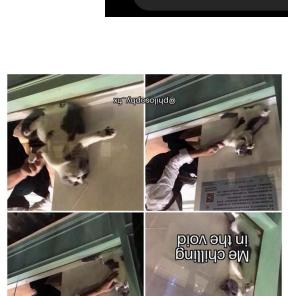


one with the biggest boobs should choose. So he chose the The man don't know who he

so that the light fills the room candle in the middle of the room lots of pillow, the third girl, put a second girl fills the room with a the room with a lots of ballon, the intelligent way. The first girl fills said: who can fill a room in a so that he give the girls a test, is a three girl that he is really into



xil_yndosolind







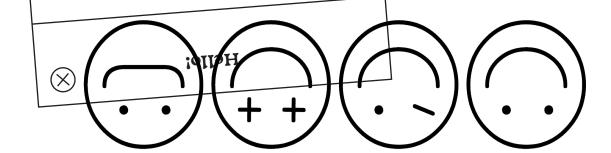






The bargain bucket can feed a family of four.

KFC bargain bucket? What's the difference between an artist and





(

