



Signs, surfaces, the instant

By Yang Fan

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"Science and art are the obverse and reverse of nature's medal," British naturalist Thomas H. Huxley noted. "The one expressing the eternal order of things, in terms of feeling, the other in terms of thought." The exhibition *Signs, Surfaces and the Instant* being held at Aurora Museum is an avant-garde combination of artistic installation and technological innovation.



The Signs, Surfaces and the Instant exhibition Photo: Courtesy of Aurora Museum

The exhibition features the choreographic work of French artists, husband and wife Norbert Corsino and Nicole Corsino, who work under the name n + n Corsino.

They explore the kinetics of bodies and landscapes in an effort to present dance in a direct and subtle way.

According to the artists, the three elements of "signs, surfaces and the instant" are interrelated. "Signs are the movements which create the language, surfaces are the spaces that allow the signs to be displayed, choreographed and seen, and the instant is the magic moment where the sign is captured in the perfection of dancing," Norbert said.

Signs, Surfaces and the Instant is an interactive project presenting virtual dances, moving Chinese characters and ever-changing calligraphic works on big screens to create a unique artistic illusion.

Interactive technology lets the audience become part of the installations. By standing in front of the screens and moving their limbs, viewers can change the signs that appear on the screen.

"Moving is the basis of dancing as a way to communicate, a language that is universally understandable," said Norbert. "Entering the exhibition space means to act and communicate with the pieces. It is a personal journey, punctual and ever-changing. When you dance with the pieces, you are actually talking to them, getting physically involved, becoming a part of the instant and obtaining a firsthand experience of the artistic presentation."

In line with a practice that interconnects local cultural elements and their artistic vision, n + n Corsino is presenting a new creation inspired by a dragon-shaped sculptured pattern featuring Chinese cultural relics collected by Aurora Museum.

"We follow the simple principle that what is ancient is always a base for a new interpretation," Nicole said. "The new medium is a language of the contemporary so it is not difficult for us to see how using a fascinating part of history in a contemporary manner just comes naturally."

Also being shown at the exhibition is a piece entitled Bangalore Fictions Installation, which was originally unveiled in Bangalore and Delhi as part of the French Festival Bonjour India in 2013. It is based on a script made from 12 stories written by Indian writer Anjum Hasan. The audience can read the stories on their iPads while watching dances related to the stories on a big screen.

The idea of this exhibition is to complete a journey started a decade ago by the artists. "Contextualized within previous works, these site-specific installations will conclude an artistic journey from India to China, reaching out and bridging the two cultures by exploring their possible interactions," Nicole said.

"We hope to bring to Shanghai a series of our works from India, together with a new work inspired by the great collection of the museum. This exhibition is the ideal conclusion of a journey with the pieces presented not only in the Aurora's space but also on the screen of the Aurora Building, offering our work to the entire city of Shanghai."

Opening hours: Until July 27, 10 am to 5 pm (closed on Mondays; until 9 pm on Fridays)

Venue: Aurora Museum

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