

Slug Meal is a hyper-physical performance exploring sensations of taste and 'matter out of place': rooting from conceptions of immigrant food as distasteful. Haunted by a swallowed slug, it is a performative digestion complexifying ideas of purity, belonging and implications of 'filth' in a Chinese, feminized body.

Set amidst the echo of 'immigrant identity', the scene becomes at once, both washed and dirty. The performer undulates between formal abstraction through decontextualized objects and the visceral emergence of their own felt body.

The performance calls toward the viewer to connect to the tensions and agency of a body in relation to its environment, inviting the audience to question the gaze that imposes a 'matter out of place', a *dirty*ness. Slug Meal then invites viewers to feel the imprints of water, pleasure and grief that remind the body back from amnesia.



Abstraction turns to visceral feeling. In a strange green screen world and amongst a hostility of decontextualization, the performer finds the charge underneath their feet, morphing into slug, returning into embodied feeling where flesh edges alongside pleasure, rage and dreams.

project roots

The piece is began with an essay, written using Mary Douglas' idea of 'dirty'ness' defined as "matter out of place" combined with a personal story of a traditional Chinese eggplant dish and the feeling of disgust I felt towards eating it as a child. As a child, the act of eating the chinese eggplant dish haunted my body with an imagination of slugs in my mouth. This Chinese dish was "matter out of place" in my body; it contains an internalised racism expressed how I made sense of the belonging of food, flesh, taste and distaste, while growing up marked by 'otherness'. My own "Chinese" flesh, digested as my mother's eggplant dish, became "dirty", like "matter out of place" in my own body. This creation is not narration of these imagined slugs and this eggplant dish; rather, it digs into the digestive process of an imposed filthy flesh that reveals its own agency and complex plurality.

"matter out of place" in reference to Douglas, P. M. (2002). Purity and Danger. Routledge.

sensory info. eating sounds, mouth noises, reference to vomiting, water, partial nudity

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