

# DEEP MEMORY PIER

INSPIRED BY LA JETEE,

A CHRIS MARKER FILM





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# STATE- MENT

## ***The Film***

Deep Memory Pier is an attempt to craft a profoundly local epic, a myth justifying and fostering the cohesion of Hong Kongers, a reflection on their time and memory. After living and working with the local people in Sham Shui Po for the past 5 years, we observed how Hong Kong "ASIA'S WORLD CITY" branding and identity mistakenly forgets many of the specificities of less fancy areas and narratives, leaving them behind in the name of a globalized modernity.

Thy Lab team have been collecting private audiovisual materials, mostly unpublished, of local home movie makers. Little by little, we began focusing on the local epic we wanted to express, choosing carefully, frame by frame, numerous images of authentic family films. We started selecting and working on many archives for the film, looking for stories in which the private dimension of a character's life emerged within the collective history represented by archival material. We wanted to use images as a fictional object, aimed at enlarging the scope of an individual history, giving it an epic tone.

Some time later, while re-watching *La Jetée* by Chris Marker, we found the ideal story for the visuals, and in Black Sabbath's *Iron Man* the soundscape we were imagining. The selection of some fragments of text prompted us to introduce a voice that gradually became a pivotal narrative, and produce some sequences of an archive of the present filmed in different formats of the past decades.

In this moment of identity crisis among the Hong Kong youth, our hero unearths forgotten bonds, remodels old myths, and provides people with a local paladin to identify with, responsible for the creation of the status quo.

## ***Documentary sci-fi***

The film will be composed of various formats (8mm; 16mm; 35mm; Hi8; Minidv; mobile phone videos; 4k; photographs; and more). This choice fulfils a narrative plot necessity -that the protagonist can delve into people's memories, and an aesthetic necessity. The project will in fact be built as an experimental collage including the local home movie materials and the stories we will be able to collect. To ensure such variety will come into a cohesive storyline, we will make use (inspired by *La Jettée*) of cantonese voice over and additional video material shot with the protagonist character: 鐵甲奇俠.

## ***Location as Charater***

Sham Shui Po is the geographical subconscious of Hong Kong. An often forgotten local community where many old intimate and collective memories drift, below the surface of the glamorous Hong Kong official narrative. It is only by confronting the migration and dwelling stories such as those found in Sham Shui Po, that we can build a complete Hong Kong myth. It is imperative and urgent to elevate and give a new status to such narratives, as they are the missing piece to create a new Hong Kong epic.

Our story is thus intended as a communal delving into the Hong Kong's perception of its own time and memory, a trauma we had heard ourselves confessing, an artefact social memory of the future. 'If memories could be canned...' -said an old Wong Kar Wai movie, the images in this film are expired dreams.

# SYNOPSIS

# HONG KONG CHRONOL OGY

A 50 y.o. hongkonger gifted with the power to feel people's subconscious images is sent back in time from the future, in order to avoid the disaster of the 2020 Hong Kong memory disease. Met with many difficulties and the dilemma of local identity, he will sabotage his mission plan, sacrificing himself for the Hong Kong people and taking his journey to unexpected results.

Since the beginning of the hong kong colonial history in 1842, all the way up to today's and even future events, the film will throw its protagonist around different important dates for hong kong, giving him a chance to significantly alter local history. Below an essential timeline to choose from. During the editing process, after we catalogue all the gathered materials, we will choose which dates to include in the final movie.



# MAIN CHARAC- TER

鐵甲奇俠 is a Sham Shui Po resident locals know well. He spends his days on the streets of the neighborhood with an iron mask on his face, does not talk to anyone and collects many scavenged metal objects from trash bins. He decorates his body and fills his pockets and handbags with them. Somewhat a local legend, some people say he can caption extra-terrestrial messages with the iron, someone else says he can steal people's subconscious magnetically. The main character in our movie is constructed around 鐵甲奇俠, of whom we will maintain both the outfit and the legendary powers. As an archetype hero, 鐵甲奇俠 will stumble across different timelines and eras of Hong Kong, each time learning and influencing (more by mistake than on purpose) the destiny of Hong Kong.

鐵甲奇俠 does not see himself as an outsider. On the contrary he has been imagining himself with a totally different look than what we have seen: coming from various journeys into the futures, where he saw what's Hong Kong's destiny, he has always imagined himself, body and soul, as a western flaneur. The clash between these two identities is the core of this character, a wise heretic outcast who has seen the future but is not heard. The same paradox is at the root of Black Sabbath's Iron Man song, which we will use for the soundtrack of the film.



# DEMON- STRATION OF THE ART BOOKS



There will be a total of three to four art books, depends on how many time does iron man time-travel. They are categorized by the chronology of hong kong. There will be different appearance for each art book.

Content of the book, including photos from the old-hong kong and description, will be printed on a 35mm film with 200 frames.

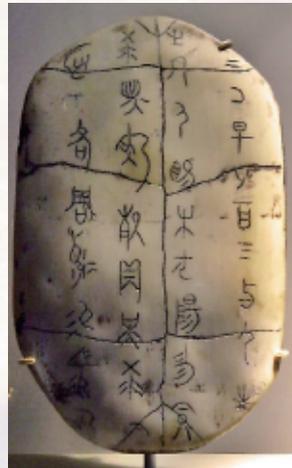
Inspired by the motion picture film, we have a film roll design for one of the art books.



# DEMON- STRATION OF THE ART BOOKS

One of the art books is stored inside a metallic can, which is the same container as storing film. This art book will be in a film scroll form.

Inspired by the Chinese divination turtle shell, the appearance of the metallic container is full of patterns of ancient Chinese words.



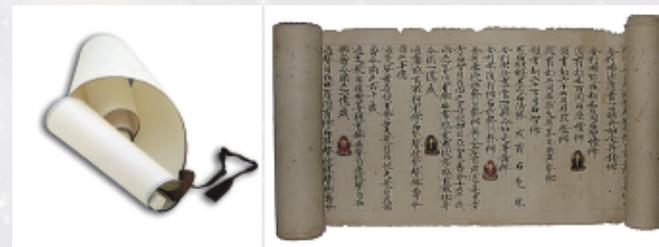
# DEMON- STRATION OF THE ART BOOKS

Another design for the art book is the ancient bamboo strip manuscript. The film will be cut in certain length, and sew together.



# DEMON- STRATION OF THE ART BOOKS

This art book is inspired by the ancient chinese paper scroll. Photos and description will be printed on the 35mm film.



# DEMON- STRATION OF THE ART BOOKS



For the art book representing the future, we will use an eBook format. Local landscape will be futuristic, cyber-punk, and brutalist. Stored inside a USB, the futuristic city is inspired by Antonio Sant'Elia's Utopias.

