

A C C E L B R A K E

YAP

Introduction

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GENERATED GENERATION

Acknowledgments

Introduction

The self-destructive extinction of humanity may be inevitable (in 2002, Paul Virilio pointed out "philofolie": the globalization of the suicide nation in *Ce qui arrive*). However, it is possible to pass something on to another life form (in 2017, Etsuko Yakushimaru incorporated the song information into the chromosomes of bacteria in *I'm Humanity*). What will remain is still unknown to all. How will humanity's curiosity face this unknowability?

YAP, 2023

Beyond the Accelerator and Brake

66 and 98

These figures may rise in the future. On 17 May 2023, WMO (the World Meteorological Organisation) released two percentages on global temperatures. "There is a 66% chance that between 2023 and 2027, the annual average temperature near the global surface will be at least 1.5°C higher than pre-industrial levels for at least one year. There is a 98% chance that at least one of the next five years, and the entirety of that five-year period, will be the hottest on record." ¹

Critically Pessimistic

"Yikes." Upon learning of this announcement, one might simply think. "I don't get it." Those who did not understand what it meant might say. Considering that the world's total population will reach eight billion in 2022, there are eight billion different ways to think about it: eight billion different realities are now unfolding on this one planet. The number is generally increasing across the globe, although in some countries it is decreasing. On the other hand, the medical journal THE LANCET predicts in 2020 that the number will peak in 2064 and then decline thereafter. ² Population issues are of paramount importance in terms of the survival of the human race (for humanity), but the current situation is considered more critical than ever. How can the current atmosphere of pessimism, which is fatal if it continues, be changed?

Fosbury Flop

The ratio of pessimists to optimists seems to outweigh the former (pessimistic acceleration?). However, there are two rare optimists of this period. Rohit Bhargava and Henry Coutinho Mason, who in 2023, at the beginning of *THE FUTURE NORMAL*, stated. "The real challenge is not to predict the future, but rather to predict what will be normal." ³ We will need to look back in history. As in every age, the normal of the future is the abnormal of the present. At SXSW 2023, Bhargava quoted athlete Dick Fosbury. ⁴ Fosbury was the first person in the world to win a gold medal in backflips at the 1968 Mexico Olympics when belly rolls were the norm (When he heard about this revolutionary story of the now commonplace Fosbury flop, Bhargava thought to himself: "I wanna be that person").

ACCELBRAKE

The exhibition is about thinking about accelerators and brakes in population issues. As it is not a dualism of accelerator or brake, we have coined the term "ACCELBRAKE." And this ACCELBRAKE has the modern meaning of stepping on the accelerator and the brake at the same time. The accelerator is not a perpetual motion machine. Without fuel, a car cannot keep running. The brake is not a panacea. They function least when you want them to function the most. If you keep pressing the accelerator, the car will either stall or hit something somewhere. Those who keep pressing the brake will never get in the car in the first place. The accelerator will not remain the accelerator. The accelerator will one day lose its function. Brakes are always needed in normal driving and serve it well. But brakes are useless in emergencies.

When the Accelerator Becomes a Brake

To begin with, the accelerator is a device used to accelerate the speed of a vehicle. A brake, on the other hand, is a device used to slow or stop that speed. A brake cannot be an accelerator, but an accelerator can be a brake. This may sound like an odd way of putting it. That the brake does not become the accelerator can be understood by the natural thought that the brake does not accelerate. So what does it mean for an accelerator to become a brake?

An Accelerator that Became a Brake

The reason for the discomfort here is probably that it is common to think that an accelerator does not become a brake when it runs out of fuel or is involved in an accident, but simply ceases to function as an accelerator. However, this is not always the case. In order for a vehicle to slow down or stop, the accelerator must be depressed before it does so in the first place. Deceleration and stopping are not brought about by the brake but by the accelerator. The accelerator accelerates, but at the same time, it also has a function that leads to deceleration and stopping. In other words, the accelerator is already a brake when it is an accelerator. The question is when and how the vehicle stops. When the vehicle stops, it is nothing more than a piece of steel. When the accelerator becomes a brake. It is not something that will come, but something that has already come. It seems that the accelerator of this vehicle called human society is about to lose control and become a brake. And an accelerator that has become a brake no longer functions as an accelerator. The driver's chances of survival may not be high: like a science fiction prophetic dream, the vehicle's body is crashing into something in slow motion. It is, of course, the natural future normal, the reality that humanity will face sooner or later: extinction.

Suicidal Extinction

Extinction in a nutshell can have several possible variations. Extinction of species, extinction of stars, or extinction of existence. It was Ray Brassier who saw philosophy as the "organon of extinction." And, "there is no 'after' extinction," says Brassier.⁵ It was Eugene Thacker who called the dilemma of extinction as eternity and extinction as nothingness "speculative annihilation."⁶ Thacker asks. "After all, how can we, as humans, make sense of the world?"⁷ If we confine ourselves to the extinction of species, the humans (*Homo sapiens*) will sooner or later become extinct, just as other *Homo* species have done. It is not unlikely that it will be a self-destructive extinction. It is reminiscent of the redefinition of the meaning of population. The extinction of a species is not necessarily the extinction of its existence. *Homo sapiens* have a partial share of Nendeltarian genes. Can we, as *Homo sapiens*, then leave something behind after suicidal extinction?

YAP Flop

To begin with, what happens to a car when the accelerator and brake are pressed at the same time? The answers we have received from several car companies can be summarised as follows: the car "does not move." "Cars" don't move. But "humans" are different. "Humans can fly." They can kick off the ground and fly into the air. It is not a two-dimensional plane, but a three-dimensional space. If that three-dimensional space is a suffocating, uncomfortable shit reality, then go to another dimension. That would be a trickier leap than a backward jump (the other dimension may be dead-end, but at least it might be better than here). YAP is neither a pessimist nor an optimist (nor an active nihilism like Nietzsche). We are positioned between pessimism and optimism, and even attempt to go diagonally above them. That attempt (YAP Flop?) is put into the exhibition 'Accelerator Brake' and the three works exhibited there. We don't know if we are able to leapfrog like Fosbury. Because that judgment should be left to the witnesses.

1. <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/global-temperatures-set-reach-new-records-next-five-years>

2. [https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(20\)30677-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(20)30677-2/fulltext)

3. Rohit Bhargava and Henry Coutinho-Mason, *The Future Normal: How We Will Live, Work and Thrive in the Next Decade*, Ideapress Publishing, 2023.

4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9zrqU1LVR0>

5. Ray Brassier, *Nihil Unbound: Enlightenment and Extinction*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

6. Eugene Thacker, *Notes on Extinction and Existence*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012.

7. Eugene Thacker, *In the Dust of This Planet: Horror of Philosophy vol. 1*, Zero Books, 2011

CBA

Heterosexual lust will always exist.
Anonymous, *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, 1798.

Future of Population

In 2022, the world's population exceeded 8 billion.¹ Before the Industrial Revolution, the population was less than one billion, but expanded, especially after the 19th century.² It is projected to peak at 9.73 billion in 2064 and decline to 8.79 billion in 2100.³ By 2050, 25% of the population will be concentrated in Africa.⁴ On the other hand, 61 countries and territories will see their population decline by 1% or more.⁵

CBA

CBA, a new work by the art group YAP, is made from condom-soaked alcohol and aphrodisiac scents. The condom, a contraceptive, evokes population control, while the romantic scents of ylang-ylang, jasmine, and neroli evoke population growth. The fragrance, which is like hitting the brake and accelerator at the same time, contains a glamorous yet complex question about contemporary society's demographic problems. This new art perfumery, CBA, is not a political statement on current demographic issues, but an attempt to draw attention to the population itself.

Demography and World Population Day

According to National Geographic, demography is "the statistical study of the human population. Demographers use census data, measurements, and statistical models to analyze population size, trends, and structure."⁶ Some of the terminologies may be unfamiliar, such as Cohort mortality, Brain Drain, and Antinatalist Policy, but the bottom line is that demography is a discipline that places great importance on becoming aware of the population. It is a discipline that emphasizes the importance of being aware of the population. Demography's most notable day will probably be 11 July, World Population Day. World Population Day was established on 11 July 1987, when the world's population exceeded five billion. (Matei Gaspar is known as the child born to the five billionth person. In 2017, at the age of 30, Gaspar said "It's nothing special, the only thing that makes my birthday different than somebody else's is the fact that I get phone calls from journalists"⁷).

Deep Ecologists

There are two types of ecology that think about the environment. Shallow ecology, which considers the environment for humans, and deep ecology, which considers the environment for the planet. This concept was introduced by Arne Ness in 1973. Ness stated in 1992. "We must become aware that in the future, 10 billion people won't be able to achieve a high standard of living."⁸ For deep ecologists, who believe that around one billion people could sustain the global environment, the planet is already not sustainable. On the other hand, there is the view that it is possible with around 10 billion people (the following question and answer, which apparently took place between humans and AI, is deeply moving. Human: "What should we do to improve the environment of the planet?" AI: "To get rid of humans"). The complexity of the global population problem is largely due to the fact that it is difficult to deal with on an individual basis, much less on a national basis.

Tired Eyes, Empty Noses

Of the five human senses, the eyes are said to be the most used; based on the "7-38-55 rule" put forward by Albert Merabian, based on two 1967 papers, visual information has a 55% impact when communicating. A paper by Dariusz Man and Ryszard Olchawa in 2018, our brains get

about 80% of their information from our sense of sight. Of the remaining 20%, about 10% comes from hearing and 10% from smell, touch and taste.⁹ In 1916, Museum Fatigue by Benjamin Gilman described how people at the time were tired of too many works in museums. Since the internet and since social media, visual information has accelerated by orders of magnitude: as of 2023, no one can grasp the art world alone in its entirety. Eyes are tired. Much of the data that currently powerful AI can process is limited to visual and auditory information. The nose, tongue and skin have little data. Smell, in particular, is often the most overlooked of the five senses, as it is the hardest to verbalize. But it's time to take a break from tired eyes and focus on the vacant nose. It's time to do so. Just as the advent of the camera has reduced the number of portrait painters, art perfumery will be next in line, just as the advent of AI may reduce the number of visual arts themselves.

Art Perfumery

Perfume has a long history. Episodes of Cleopatra and Napoleon's love of fragrance are widely known. It is said that modern perfumery began with 'Fougere Royale' in 1882. Perfumes seen in department stores and airports are known as designer fragrances. Unlike designer fragrances, which have a large market, niche fragrances, which are niche scents, began to appear in the 1980s (today the market for niche fragrances has grown so large that they can no longer be called niche). The two hobbyist trends can be briefly summarised as both being 'good fragrances.' The scent in art history is classified as olfactory art. In a nutshell, highly critical olfactory art can be summed up as 'weird scents.' And between 'good fragrance' and 'strange fragrance' is art perfumery (the term 'strange' means that the fragrance itself is different from the 'good fragrance' or the story of the fragrance is different from the story of the 'good fragrance'). Art perfumery will be described as an art movement in the future.

Thinking through Population Issues through the Nose

The population problem, which needs to be considered on a global scale, is too big of a problem. No one can grasp the whole, and no one can move the whole that cannot be grasped. It is very difficult to move around in the debate. We need a completely different approach, even if we don't know if it will work. YAP's *CBA* was produced in this context. Consisting of a condom and an aphrodisiac scent, '*CBA*' has an ambivalent aroma. This is because behind the gorgeous 'nice smell' there is a 'strange smell' of rubber. If there is a *CBA* before sexual activity, what happens afterwards? If there is a '*CBA*' when discussing population issues, what happens to the discussion? *CBA* drifts into public as well as private spaces. When we think about population issues through the nose, a slightly different world may open up.

1 <https://www.un.org/en/desa/world-population-reach-8-billion-15-november-2022>

2 <https://web.archive.org/web/20160125014702/http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/sixbillion/sixbilpart1.pdf>

3 [https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736\(20\)30677-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/article/S0140-6736(20)30677-2/fulltext)

4 <https://qz.com/africa/467755/a-quarter-of-the-worlds-population-will-live-in-africa-by-2050>

5 https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/wpp2022_summary_of_results.pdf

6 <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/demography/>

7 <https://www.total-croatia-news.com/zagreb-blog/20368-30-years-ago-zagreb-welcomed-world-s-five-billionth-human-being>

8 <https://przekroj.pl/en/society/how-arne-sowed-the-seed-andrzej-kula>

9 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322958198_The_Possibilities_of_Using_BCI_Technology_in_Biomedical_Engineering

GENERATED GENERATION

They were conquered, but there is no evidence that their race became extinct.
Librarian, *Snow Crash*, 1992.

The Imagination of Science Fiction

Science fiction becomes science fact. For example, the origin of the Metaverse is said to be *Snow Crash* in 1992. Or, when the pandemic hit in 2020, people who felt somewhat déjà vu were people who had read *The Naked Sun* in 1956 or watched *Perfect Sense* in 2011 (even if they couldn't leave their homes and could only eat retort foods, many thought, "better than fat and flour"). The imagination of science fiction actually works in this real world. SF writers were employed by the Reagan administration, by the Pentagon after 9/11, and by the French Defence Innovation Agency. This kind of Science Fiction Prototyping (SFP) is currently attracting attention in the business industry.

Simulation Hypothesis

In 2003, Nick Bostrom introduced the "Simulation Hypothesis" to the world ¹ (1999's *The Matrix* was often described at the time as "poorly understood," but its hardcore supporters are still alive and well). In 2016, Elon Musk said that "there's a one in billions chance that this is base reality." (Musk then continued. "we are going to create simulations indistinguishable from reality or civilization will cease to exist"). ² Needless to say, there are negative and critical opinions about the simulation hypothesis. At present, the simulation hypothesis is only a hypothesis (until something happens that causes us to experience this reality as a simulation).

Beyond the Digital Human

The history of the digital human began with the advent of the computer: in 1964, William Fetter's *Boeing Man* is considered to be the first human depicted in 3D on a computer. The subsequent popularisation of digital humans was brought about by games and films. The accuracy of digital humans has been further developed by AI, which has again attracted attention in recent years (in 2022, on the other hand, Yusuke Narita introduced a concept of "data graveyard" to the world ³). The problem here is an existence beyond the digital human, whose purpose was to imitate humans (mimesis), a level that transposes the real human into reality, i.e. a super copy like a doppelgänger. Ash in *Black Mirror* will not be science fiction in the near future (some of its early stages have already become science fact).

Expanding Cyborg Art

In 2004, Neil Harbison became known as a cyborg artist when he became the first in the world to implant an antenna in his own skull. Cyborg art is "AN ARTISTIC MOVEMENT WHERE ARTISTS EXTEND THEIR SENSES BEYOND THEIR PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES BY APPLYING TECHNOLOGY INTO THEIR BODIES. THE ARTWORK OF A CYBORG ARTIST IS THE NEW SENSE, BUT IT'S AN ARTWORK THAT HAPPENS INSIDE THE ARTIST. THEY ARE THE ONLY AUDIENCE OF THEIR OWN ART." ⁴ If this "new sensation" is combined with body-sharing, the technology of sharing the senses of others, cyborg art will extend further.

Babies Growing Up Together

In 2000, a semi-permanent game was released. It is *The Sims*, which has become a series and remains popular to this day. The Sims was inspired by a fire in 1991 experienced by Will Wright himself, who made *SimCity* a hit in 1989. Sim means "a real resident in the computer world."

While the player in *SimCity* was the mayor, *The Sims* has no protagonist. Players spend their daily lives with Sims in a selectable way, the latest of which is *THE SIMS™ 4 GROWING TOGETHER*, released on 16 March 2023. Of course, the which is *THE SIMS™ 4 GROWING TOGETHER*, released on 16 March 2023. Of course, the babies “grow together.”

Transformation of Mating

In view of the above, one question arises. What will happen to our offspring in the future? Biological interbreeding, which has been repeated by many organisms, not just mammals, is likely to be transformed in the future. This transformation of hybridization can be further described as interbreeding in different ways with different species. Usually, hybridization takes place between homologous species. This homolog is called a diem. Sooner or later, this diem will be transformed. This idea has long been known as chimerism. For example, the 'humanzee', a cross between a chimpanzee and a human, was experimented on unsuccessfully by Ilya Ivanov in 1926. Alternatively, in 2021 the Salk Institute combined monkey and human genes (they destroyed this 'chimera embryo' after 20 days). Abnormal technology will become normal everyday life, just as today no one questions the negative effects of microwave ovens on the brain. The situation in which this mating transformation, which can be called a superdeem, has to be accepted as an indispensable technology for the maintenance of life, is quite possible in the future. At this time, offspring will be as diverse as the Cambrian.

Spawning

In 2022, Holly Herndon and Matthew Dryhurst launched *spawning.ai*, an AI tool by artists for artists. “Spawning,” meaning mass spawning, is an important word not only for the future art world but for the post-AI (AGI) world. Spawning is “a word we coined to describe the act of using AI systems trained in old media to create entirely new media.”⁵ “Offspring” will spawn in a wide variety of ways in the future. The current entity on the edge is Thomas Vautier's *Metapets*⁶ made in 2022. They look like pre-birth embryos, but they do not look like human embryos. When will the *Metapets* be born, which conjure up images of future life forms?

The Future of the Generated Generation

Some offspring have already been “born” as “post-homo sapiens”: the *GENERATED GENERATION* in *ACCELBRAKE*. They are not a generation formed by general biological interbreeding, but children generated by AI generators. The AI-generated images and videos based on images of a man and woman who had no children are John and Maggie in the *GENERATED GENERATION*. Generated generation like John and Maggie will accelerate in the future. Do they have human rights? Do they need human rights? John and Maggie hint at the scientific facts of the near future that will soon be upon us. Will the generated generation survive in the crisis of this world? Or will they be able to flop into a reality other than this one? What are the population problems in the other reality? In their conversation, John and Maggie refer to 'quantum consciousness.' How does their hypothesis, which is different from gravity and the speed of light, connect with the future of humanity in the extra dimension? It is unlikely that we humans will understand that world. The time for passing “the baton” is almost here.

1. <https://www.simulation-argument.com/simulation.pdf>

2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KK_kzrJPS8

3. Narita Yusuke, *Overcoming the Future*, Bungakukai, 2022 May.

4. <https://www.cyborgfoundation.com/>

5. <https://spawning.ai/>

6. <https://thomasvautier.fr/metapets>

MULTIBIND

As time went by, the room for intermediaries became narrower and narrower.
Haruki Murakami, *1Q84*, 2009.

Double Bind

In 1956, Gregory Bateson, in his research on schizophrenia, introduced the concept of the "double bind" to the world. The idea is that contradictory double-bind situations can produce several transformations in the psyche (delusional, catastrophic, and catatonic types). It would be possible to add another type to Bateson's classification.

Double Bind Typologie

For example, the laughter type: in the 1990s, the Ostrich Club presented the world with the gag "Do Not Push" (this "Do Not Push" means "do push" and triggers a particular kind of laughter before and after this). Or memory type: in 2015, Leonard Nimoy bequeathed the concept of LLAP, an acronym for "Live Long And Prosper," a signature line of Spock's character played by Nimoy in the film *Star Trek*. The line, known for his uniquely open-fingered pose, took the world by storm in the 1960s. This is a quotation of Nimoy's last tweet before his death. "A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory. LLAP."¹ In other words, LLAP is directed not against one's life itself, but against memory (Nimoy died three days after this tweet, aged 83). Can other types of LLAPs be considered, such as the exploration type, which pursues an alternative reality, or the glorification type, which turns away from reality and dwells on the good past?

Beyond the Double Bind

Of course, the addition of typologies is not the subject here. It is the other side of the double bind. The double bind is not in line with the current era, as the number of restraints is only two, to begin with. It is more like multiple restraints, or "multibind." The dualism of "message and meta-message," as Bateson described it at the time, now seems too simple a composition. This is because the state of being multiply bound in complex relationships is an everyday occurrence in contemporary society. The world is so complex that we honestly don't want to think about it as much as possible. This may be the way most of us see it (and of course Bateson can be considered to have dared to summarise that complexity in a simple way). Here, we focus on the "multibind."

Multibind

Multibind differs from double bind, which summarises the number of restraints into two, and refers to multiple, complex states of restraint. Double bind is useful as an initial step in sorting out a totally confusing situation by extracting two out of a complex set of circumstances. However, limiting it to two can make it difficult to see the other binding elements, resulting in a situation where the binding state cannot be unraveled. Multibind, on the other hand, focuses on the structure of the invisible restraints. By finding restraints that were not noticed in double bind, it attempts to further organize the complex situation and, moreover, to free itself from the restraints.

Multibind in MULTIBIND

At ACCELBRAKE, YAP presents a work called *MULTIBIND*. It is a balloon that floats and falls at the venue. Why is this a multibind? First, let's consider the double bind in *Multibind*. This balloon is trying to rise, but it cannot rise because the ceiling is in the way. Here we can see in a nutshell the double bind of ascending ability and non-acceptability: the balloon wants to ascend but cannot.

The double bind argument continues with a deeper look at this point. But from here we move on to the 'multiple binds'.

The Double of the Double Bind

If we take "the double bind of ascend ability and non-acceptability" as the first double bind, we see the second double bind, "the double bind of existence value." The helium gas in the balloon is released out of the balloon over time. This causes the balloon to lose its buoyancy and fall to the ground due to gravity. At this point, the balloon ceases to be a balloon. Having lost its function as a balloon, it becomes "meaningless waste." When a balloon is floating as a balloon, it is already heading towards its "end." Here in lies the double bind of the balloon's own "value of existence." Further observation shows that this double bind is not the only situation occurring with this balloon.

Helium

Focus the viewpoint on helium, for example. The contents of this balloon are helium gas. Helium, which is a well-known party item, is in a complex multi-bind situation. This is because the material helium contains a lot of history. Helium is the second most abundant element in the universe after hydrogen, but on Earth, it is called a rare gas because it is found in only about 0.0005% of the atmosphere. It was discovered in 1868 and named helium after the Greek god Helios, the sun god. Airships using hydrogen gas were shifted to helium gas due to the high risk of explosion. Helium gas airships were used extensively in World War II but were gradually replaced by airplanes. And now fusion energy, which is different from fission, is attracting attention. The sun's energy is produced by the fusion of hydrogen. The product of this process is helium. Helium will attract even more attention in the future.

Condom

And the element that must not be forgotten in this *MULTIBIND* is the condom. The use of condoms as balloons has already been done as a deliberate low-quality joke. But has the condom balloon ever been seen as art and as *MULTIBIND* (if not, it is probably because there was no need for it, or because the need for it was not recognized)? The stretching and shrinking of the condom is directly reminiscent of that of the male genitalia. Helium gas is not visualized due to its invisible properties, but would it be inappropriate to see the helium gas in *MULTIBIND* as an analogy for the male genitalia?

Works and Texts

These are roughly four aspects of binding that occur in the *MULTIBIND*. There are many other possible bindings. Gender changes, generational changes, changing times, changing technologies, etc., will further reveal bindings that are not visible from one direction. Alternatively, *MULTIBIND* is a work for thinking and imagining about other bindings than the double bindings we already know. Writing like this is in fact also a double bind. Because from the point of view that a work has no function, it just exists there, one has to hesitate to write something at length in this way.

Free Horizons

Can we also see *MULTIBIND* as a documentary about the entropy of "floating and falling"? If so, this "meaningless trash," which no longer functions as a condom or a balloon, is a "trace of documentary." One of the other sides of the accelerator brake is levitation. The helium released into the atmosphere will eventually leave the Earth and continue to spread out into space, beyond which even the 'multi-bind' may disappear. Is it a 'Freedom Horizon' where there are no longer any restraints? At least, by looking at its traces, like an archaeologist, we may be able to imagine what lies beyond.

Acknowledgments

To all those who came
to all the Condomaniacs
to all being involved
and many more
thank you very much

General information

Title: Accelerator brake

Art Group: YAP

Dates: 11 July - 16 August 2023

Venue: Condomania (Shibuya Parco)

YAP

An art group formed in 2012. YAP makes artworks based on "somewhere in nowhere," which connected here and there. The main practices in the past: solo exhibition UPDATERS (Courtyard Hiroo, 2021), group exhibition Future and the Arts (Mori Art Museum, 2019-20).

YAP, 2023