



biography

WeiZen is a Performing Artist and Deviser who brings together phonic-vocals and movement. Her performances transform and extend mundane postures, sounds and everyday objects or speech into poetic prayer. She excavates linguistic processes searching out their connection to identity. Her work also draws upon a lineage of Chinese immigrants who have lived for several generations in Melaka (Malaysia) and Java and extends it to her status as an Asian immigrant in Australia.

She is fascinated by ritual, in particular the possession rituals still practised throughout South-East Asia. For her, rituals witnessed, imagery-work and accoutrements are distilled in performance through the visceral vocal-body. This methodology parallels her interest in the concept of communing with the space of performance, and coalescing a structural relationship between the vocal-body and physical site.

Through Australia Council's funding to study and develop Performances, Interpreted & Reimagined of Asian Animistic & Shamanistic Rituals (2016-2018), she directed a team of artists with her associate director Iqbal Barkat, devising and presenting a performance-installation inhabitation, *the subtle beings* at Articulate project space in March 2018.

Running concurrently is a performance series *Stories from the Body (S F T B)* that began in 2014. *S F T B #1* was presented in 3 festivals across Indonesia and incorporated into one of the scenes for *Palimpsest Performance #1* at Woodford Academy. This series started as a methodology to re-trace lineages disrupted, myths that have been distorted and stories fragmented as a result of migration and time, from the South Fujian Province of China to Java, Singapore, Melaka and now Australia. The latest in the series, *S F T B #9* was devised and performed for Buffalo Field 2018 in Bangkok.

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