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SIGGRAPH Asia 2020 Artist Talk – SkyWindow

Contributors:

Jia-Rey Chang (University of Delaware, archgary.com)

What was the inspiration and motive behind this project?

Being quarantine in a tiny apartment continuously for numerous months in the US made me think of how to create a temporary mental escape from reality to somehow look for hope. During this depressive moment, how nice it would be to look up to the sky through a skylight to enjoy and even interact with the moon, the stars, and the cloud in my apartment. And it is pretty common that we look up to the sky while searching for hope. This simple idea initiated the whole SkyWindow project. It is not only metaphorically referring to the hope we need/rely on but also implicitly indicating the freedom and social connection that people desperately desire during this pandemic moment.

What makes your work distinguishable, conceptually or technically?

No matter how innovative the concept is or how complicated the technology has implemented in the works, the most important thing to me is to make the audience easily interact with my works and to come up with their own interpretations. And that's what makes my works distinguishable.

What was the biggest challenge when creating this project? Do you have any behind-the-scene story?

The challenge actually reflects my quarantine life in the US. Because of staying in my tiny apartment with my wife, it is pretty hard to set up a clear space for motion tracking. But this exactly showed the constraint and the real experience that we have been through during the quarantine. Therefore, it might not be the most perfect project but definitely the most authentic one for me.

What do you want the Siggraph Asia audience to remember about this project?

In this particular project, I would like my audience to remind themselves that even in such a difficult time, don't lose your faith and hope for a brighter future. Furthermore, there is one major intention in all my projects which is to let the audience have fun interacting with them. The audience is always the last piece of the puzzle that completes my projects. Hence, I would like the audience to try, to play, to explore with the projects and feel that art can also be very fun and intimate.

What plans do you have for your next steps?

Currently, I am working on some VR projects but attempting to find interesting connections between virtual and reality in space. Furthermore, I am also working on developing a set of (VR/projection-based) audiovisual instruments that can be applied either in live performances or as interactive installations. And I am extremely interested in how AI can be implemented in art through creative approaches.

How was your experience participating as an artist in Siggraph Asia 2020?

Pretty amazing! Although we will be virtually joining the conference this time, I am still very excited and honored to be part of it. And I also look forward to making, network in the conference and participating more in the future.