

SM2105
Narrative Strategies and Aesthetics of Time-based Media
Assignment 2
Pictogram
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Time-based work analysis: Lilian Fu's Fishing with Popo, 2011

Fishing with Popo is a special documentary. Narrative in flashback, the video describes a girl also is the video director visits her grandmother's grave and tried to recall the memory of a grandmother and decide to make a documentary her. The feature of the documentary is that the director doesn't have too many footages of grandmother, so she tried to carry out the interview with his family and combine with her trace of the memory to make an animated documentary to narrative a part of grandmother.

The video is well to the narrative of the story by compress numerous narrative information to a limited. The video is about 8 minutes, but it is enough to narrate the whole life of her grandmother almost. Animation storytelling is a big element to make the result. The video tried to use the method of metamorphosis to make more imagination on time and space of the narrative method. For example, one of the scenes is describing the grandmother have a nice voice that can penetrate the mountain. The scene on that is the grandmother singing in a huge mountain, the girl just sits on another lower mountain. Then the huge mountain became the face of the grandmother but keep in singing, to metaphor the penetration of the voice, and the grandmother and her voice are just going to the sky, a place which is far away. The method not only to connect the image elements beyond logic and causal but also compress the time-based in the narrative and make the work more artistic.

In my opinion, there are at least 3 objects are occupied a special and important in most of the time in the animation. The first one is the hands of the grandmother. According to the narrative from the girl's family, her grandmother is good at needlework. One of the scenes is high lighting the wrinkled skin on the hands of the grandmother to show her hardworking. The experience of meeting a tiger when her grandmother picking the herbs also can prove that her grandmother lives in the countryside, she needs to deal with a lot of things by her own hand. After the whole life in labor, her arm got some situation.

The second one refers to blue clothes. In most of the time and scenes in the animation, the girl and her grandmother wear blue clothes all the time. And the last period of time of animation, the girl image that she turns back blue clothes to her grandmother. It's worth considering some kind of connection between them even the clothes are the same cloth or not. The last one is fish. The fish is not occupied at any time of the animation, only appeared in the first, last and a short scene also is the title of the documentary. In my opinion, the fish is the most important element in the work. I think the fish refers to the impression of the grandmother, the memory and impression look like a fish swimming in the mind sometimes. So she wants to figure out the detail about her grandmother. That is the reason for the title come from, the girl wants to catch the debris. Along with the development of the time-base on the animation. The narrative if the impression of the grandmother is come to more clearly. Therefore, I think the fish match the theme and content to the time-base work.

Move to the part of the color tone and lighting. In the first half period of time of the animation, the color tone is closer to bright, warm and colorful, to chant the simplicity and humility from her grandmother. However, when the puzzle closer to completing the color tone switch to the darker and cooler like the after, it just looks like to sympathize about her sacrifices which concealed in her lifetime. Although she has the companionship from her family, she still can't share the feeling of facing death until her death. Therefore, there is a scene built by the girl in the first part of the work that her grandmother sitting in a chair alone. In the last part, the girl took her clothes and give it to her grandmother. To express her longing for her.

In conclusion, the narrative method on the work is to use the timeline and the screen graphic also push by the interview or dialogue, kind of an informal and amazing documentary. Through time develop of the playback, the personality of hardworking, courageous and calm of her grandmother is exposed. Cooperate with the mixing of photographic footage and the drawing to create an impression between stereoscopic and blurry, give the character a soul, give the video energetic and more expressive in the performance.



Artists statement

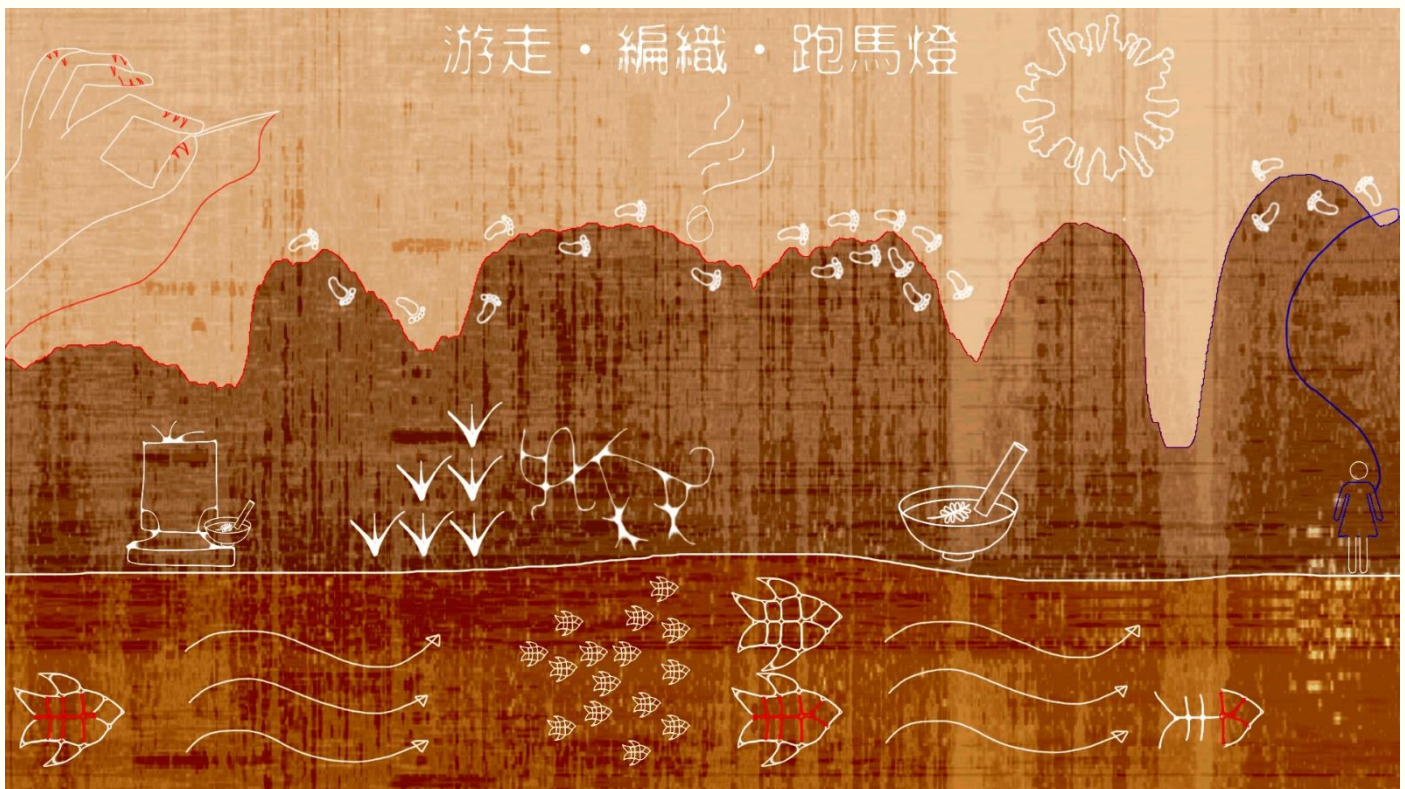
The Pictogram artwork purpose to create visual storytelling of the original artwork 'Fishing with Popo' in a single piece of the image. The artwork is picked up as a part of the concept and element of the original artwork but also mixed the personal opinion, creative method, and design concept.

There is a timeline also is the sound wave or sound curve captured from the or original artwork. And there are different objects or pictogram which is representativeness in the corresponding point in time. Allow people to through the time curve, recall the image no matter it refers to the original artwork or the people's own life, through observing the whole lives of others to review the meaning of life It's also the reason for the title comes from. For the production method in the pictogram, I wish people can apply another artwork to the method to create the unique pictogram themself, to show the world that time never destroys our beautiful soul.

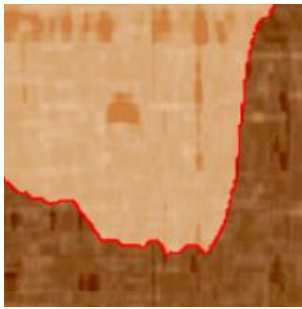

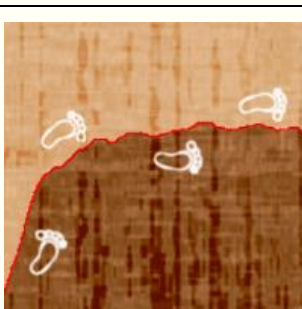
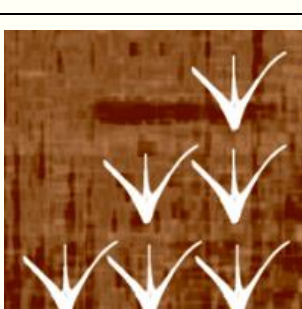
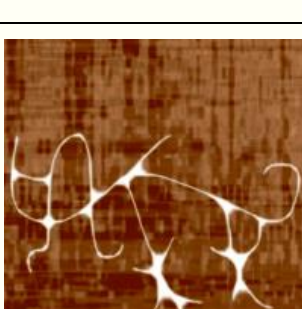
Pictogram

William Phuong.

“Swim · Weave · Life 游走 · 編織 · 跑馬燈 (a pictogram for Lilian Fu’s Fishing with Popo, 2011)”



Legend

	<p>The twisty mountain also is the yarn, also is the sound wave or curve from the whole original time-base work. It shows the twisty life of grandmother. Which also is a timeline that different things she meets in the video on the occupied point of the timeline. In Japan, the red line refers to the kind of connection between people or things. This the reason the red color picked in the pictograms. But along with the timeline going, the line going to the blue color which has the meaning of melancholy that refers to the last period of her life.</p>
	<p>The hand with the scars of girl's grandmother's hands, symbol grandmother's hardworking and the sacrifice. It's tried to knit her whole life in a single piece of image in the pictogram.</p>
	<p>Step of Foot refers to the hardworking of the grandmother. There are nothings that can stop her even tighter if she thinks she is on the right path. However, the step coming slower symbol the body coming worst by the passing of time.</p>
	<p>Herbs or some kind of grass, refer to the grandmother on the labor all day for a living. The herbs amount increases along with the timeline going.</p>
	<p>Tighter refers to the unforgettable experience of the grandmother. Symbol the brave and claim personality of her. It's used the hieroglyph to present for the simplify visual result.</p>



Song, the deformation of the Chinese character "音". Refer to the description from the girl's family, her grandmother has a nice voice that can penetrate the mountain. It direct to the girl in order to simulate the same scene in the video.



Transitional Chinese medicine, one of the plots of the video. When the grandmother finds her body getting worst, she tried to take some medicine to improve the situation. This plot also appears in one shot of the video before the scene of the girl drinking the water, which might try to imply the situation of grandmother. That is the reason there is another small medicine on the earlier position of the timeline.



Virus, a danger to health. The reason to make it look at the sun because people always said the sun is hope. But the thing coming is not the hope but bad news when she wakes up.



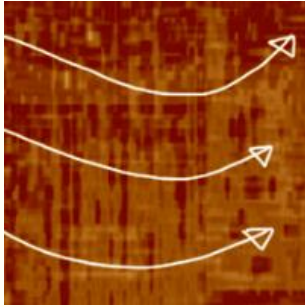
The girl refers to the girl also is the director in the video. She wears blue clothes because which is one of the important elements in the work. In the video, the girl and her grandmother wear blue clothes all the time, symboling the connection between them. According to the description from her family, there is an opportunity that the blue clothes are making by her grandmother, so the yarn connection the hand and the girl with the blue clothes.



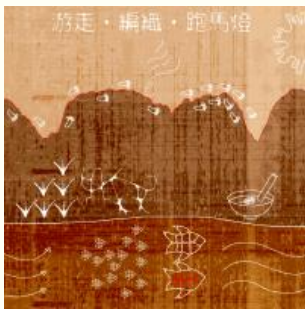
Fish, the variety is Koi which own meaning of auspicious, prosperity and happiness. It's a symbol of the grandmother's satisfaction with her life until the coming of death. In the half of point of timeline, there are 2 big fish and 17 small fish, it's used to present the grandmother herself, her husband and her 17 members for her family. The chosen number of 17 because there are 17 members which do not include her and her husband in the family portrait in the video. In the end, it's used as a fishbone to symbol the death of the grandmother.



Tomb, to narrate that the story begins from the death of the grandmother.



Ocean with the arrow used to imply the audience that the pictograms own a time base line start from left and on the right.



Background, the spectrogram captured from the original video. It didn't bring too many symbols. Mainly deal with the separation on the layer of the ocean, land, mountain, and sky. The tone of the background is closer to the yellow to make a mood in dim.