

# Whisper (new edition)

Chan Mong Sum Jonathan

55688966

Option 10, Final Project, SM2105, SCM, CityU HK

Link: <https://vimeo.com/414504803>

## Statement

This film is a remake of my assignment 1, *Whisper*. The film is about a man's dream echoing with woman whispers. Illustrating the emotional thoughts of the man using sound, pictures and silence. Generative effects are collaging the images in *Whisper* to discover deeper in dream narratives.

## Short essay

It labelled as a dream narrative but it is, at the same time, a generative video. At first, I wanted to do some coding in the final project, but I didn't want a pure generative work. I revisited my first assignment, *Whisper* and found that there are a lot of similarity in dreams and generative animation. Therefore, I combined generative elements into *Whisper*, making it a visually more rapid piece.

In the new edition, no new images were included. In fact, I used fewer images for the new edition. The only thing that was newly added was Processing 3, so the animations are rather simple. However, there are still plenty of intriguing things about dream narratives to be discovered through simple generative animation.

I coded 6 generative animated effects and 4 of them have some kind of sound visualization. In most of my dream that I recalled, the sound always interacted with the visual. Luminosities and patterns often flashed on my head and grew as the sound (just like the old screen saver in Windows Media Player). After I woke up, I remembered the visualization of the sound instead of the actual sound. I recalled the sound as rhythms and grooves. That's the reason the sound visualization is so heavy in this work, and the visual relates to the sound positively. For me, ending the film felt the same way as waking up from a dream, the visual was more profound than the sound.

I don't think animations (luminosities and patterns) and images, events happen separately in dreams. Thus, I condensed them in a frame. Generating distortion and emotion. The tunnel sound visualizes a voice from mouth, expresses a confusion by image distortion, also represents the man's desire to know about the girl; the blinking of the flower is searching for sound and life on the frame. But it is just like a heartbeat, articulating the man's nervousness; the rolling of images expands and rotates like a spiral, visualizing his mental process of drowning and getting lost. Images react with different animation, forms many pairs that can represent some deeper content as the dream discover the man's brain, creating the latent content by manipulating the manifest content (the images).

Moreover, the film experiments part of the defense mechanisms in dream. As the man desires more of the woman, his sub-conscious distort her voice to drag him away. I deliberately made the dream act against the man's thoughts, keep diluting the desires of the man. I put my personal feelings on this part. Creating displacement to weaken my desires. It's expressing the self-defense process of the man and also my own self-defense through this work.

I edited the ending of the film. The old ending was too complete, while dreams are always interrupted and can't be finished. The last moment of the dream will last as the overall impression of the dream. This is the reason the film ends like this, providing some reverie for the audience to continue themselves.

Overall, I think the new edition has more detail and hidden narratives inside. More elements are combined in one short film. For future discovery, the new edition is having an almost identical structure as the old one, so I would like play more with the structure. Besides, the film works as a dream but doesn't look like a dream. I think the former is more important but if I have to do this work again, I would try to go more abstract and experiment different combinations of condensation.