

Redefining Experimental Turntablism through Cut-Up and Re-shuffling of DJ Cultural Norms

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ABSTRACT:

This research, *The Somatic Storyteller: Reinventing Experimental Turntablism Through Cut-Up and Physical Immediacy in Digital DJing*, explores how experimental turntablism can dismantle conventional boundaries by emphasizing the cut-up and re-shuffling of a basic set of cultural norms. My artistic practice focuses on breaking apart and reconstructing existing material—sound, image, and concept—in new, unexpected ways. This approach appropriates and reshapes imagery, concepts, and methods from different times, cultures, and practices, adapting these elements to personal interests to either enrich or challenge traditional definitions of art. For example, in the aqueduct guerrilla performance presented by Twenty Alpha in February 2024, my experimental DJ duo, 肩係膊頭, and the DJ trio DIMSIN improvised noise and field recording remixes using an outdoor amplifier interacting with the natural echo of the aqueduct. Here, the environment, audience interaction, and bodily movement became integral creative forces. “The take here provides the condition of reproducibility, without which the work would only exist in a specific space and time” (Shusterman, 2007, pp.173). Through such practices, my work reconfigures samples and concepts across disciplines and cultures, fostering an aesthetic that is defined by dynamic interactions—sound, environment, bodily movement, and audience presence. The resulting art form emerges from the interplay of these variable factors, reinforcing that the digital samples cannot be separated from their embodied, situational expression and community engagement.

KEYWORDS: experimental turntablism, movement, environment, aesthetics.

Gigi KAN, aka ASTROJOKE is a multimedia artist that touches a diverse spectrum ranging from experimental music, deconstructed club dj, zines, art brut, performing arts, calligram, aestheticization of violence, fastidiousness, power dynamics, and post-irony. On the other hand, she is also a researcher & writer on several topics including Hong Kong/Taiwan underground music, post-structuralism, i- Photography, art reenactment, queer culture, turntablism & film. Her ingenious work & queer energy are always transgressing the limits of human traditional stereotypes, challenging ordained power dynamics. Gigi is currently pursuing a degree in the Interdisciplinary Program of Liberal Arts at the Taiwan National Central University.