The alchemistic art: Nadine Poulain

Interview by **Jade Kim**

Nadine Poulain, a London-based installation artist, merges sculptures and projected moving images, creating a dialogue between the static and the fluid. Romantic and somewhat futuristic at the same time, her large scale installations are a meeting point that brings the detached and the unlike to one.

Tell us what your work is about.

I like exploring translucent, transparent, reflective materials. Like projecting moving images onto different surfaces. The sculptural elements meet light and time.

The sculptures being static and concrete, while the projected images are fluid and illusionary in a sense, is it a contrast or a combination that you aim to draw from them?

Neither, exactly, but more like an engagement, a dialogue. A process. I'm interested in how different entities meet to create a relationship. It's a part of the romanticism that conceptually lies beneath my art.

Why digital for expressing romantic, given its artificiality?

What is great about the digital technology is that it allows so many possibilities of creating certain moods from what I have filmed. This is really important to me, because style and mood should be what speaks for the art, I think, more so than the actual contents. When art is too pushy in its message, it alienates people and leaves no space for beauty. Art should be open—open to interpretation, open to creating different relationships.

Nostalgic aesthetics meet new technology—another "engagement" in your art.

Right. I think of art as a sort of alchemy—a process of bringing together different entities to create a new value, new beauty. Artificiality can become familiar when touched with natural beauty. It can become beautiful.

Seems like a future-oriented mentality, in an optimistic way.

I'm quite an optimist but not sure if I'm future oriented. I appreciate the aesthetics of the past, I'm not nostalgic either. I like now, when the past and the future are constantly meeting… Oh, no wonder I'm always doing things in the last minute.