



"Being able to encounter and find oneself in the midst of an increasingly fragmented, disparate, disjunctive, volatile, and temperally accelerated world is one of the most precious gifts bestowed by ICLA. It is as much a soul nourishing retreat, a personally poignant humanities think tank, and a truly multi-disciplinary communal crossroad fostering artistic support, collaborative connections, open dialogue, independent thinking, and constructive discourse. A week in the pristine countryside, atop a hill of forest and fields, and hidden pathways with nestled sculptures that are historically significant; is offset by a week in the fabled city of Vienna's current modernity. In the unique primordial constructs and lineage from which ICLA was born: stone, paint, piano, and the body; participants immediately encounter an environment that prompts a rudimentary response to life, living, and creation.

The hand-selected participants, including instructors and presentors, originate from all walks of life, at various life-stages of their careers to create a microcosm of rich organic interactions and natural social dynamics. My two weeks was spent in introspection, discussion, experimentation, artistic self-discovery, project incubation, and most importantly, giving rise to a profound affirmation of the necessity of being able to face and utilize the world as it is to further a singular pursuit of finding avenues for the arts and the humanities to grow and flourish. Improvisation became a means to give order to chaos, to give voice and narrative to the unknowable universe in which we exist. Performance became an essential and critical form of human dialogue, to express and acknowledge this momentary shared existence. As intensive as any major, staged performance project.. yet, perhaps even more so.. these two weeks sows the seeds by which a lifetime of meaningfulness may be found."

Johnny Jan-Pong Tu