

# Menu

a late meal for six or less  
on a round dinner table and three different pairs of chairs  
with musical accompaniment

I. *bouillabaisse Chinois Orabase® gel, sushi rice water pannacotta  
and wakame foam, served with umami sprinkles*

♪ Puccini, *Madame Butterfly*

Two dishes she craved to eat were Chinese steamed whole snapper, and California rolls. They defeated her in the end.

Appetite is a primary victim of many cancer treatments. Eating is compromised by mouth dryness or loss of functionality of the tongue and larynx; organs that allow eating and drinking, and speech (language), through the regulation of breath Food textures and composition need to be modified to facilitate mastication and swallowing.

She realised that the beautiful memory of their married life which she held all these years is changed forever when he does not return. She cuts her throat her throat in silence behind the screen ...

II. *cigar-smoke infused homemade ricotta with roasted beetroot pouring foam,  
served through ~~robotic~~ butcher-arm shaped beef bone (sharing dish)*

♪ Pachelbel, Canon

In French, the sound post in the violin is called *âme*, meaning “soul.” So is the bore of a cannon. We feel the soul of music in our bones. Science enframes a mode of thinking that defines cancer as an ‘abnormal other’ which eats away bodies from the inside. Thinking cancer is emotionally and psychically consuming ...

“How can that be? She never smoked” my sister said ballistically.

Allogeneic transplants such as those of bone marrow are performed for patients with acute leukemia or lymphoma that has progressed after all standard therapies. The difficulty of finding a suitable donor match is a major problem.

III. *three mouth-feels everlasting gobstopper wrapped in edible silver  
served with deep fried sage (eaten whole)*

♪ Themes from The Lone Ranger, Oompa Loompa Song and Jules Massenet, *Méditation* from *Thaïs*,

Apoptosis is the certainty of death programmed into every living cell, allowing renewal, growth and diversification, that is, life itself.

She had a year to live. The question that plagued her throughout that year was whether to live hedonistically or ascetically.

In Act II, Athanaël, a monk, confronts Thaïs, a beautiful courtesan of Venus, and attempts to persuade her to leave her life of pleasure and find salvation.

Cancer cells have a diminished ability to undergo apoptosis. By ignoring their programmed life span to go on growing unmeasuredly, these cells inevitably cause organs to fail, and organisms to die: death through excessive vitality

*a cup of tea*

♪ a musical accompaniment



The gut is “the nervous system extends well beyond the skull, and as it so travels through the body it takes the psyche with it.” (Elizabeth, Wilson, *Psychosomatics*, p.47) The enteric nervous system (which handles digestion) develops profound psychological responses that cannot be explained simply by a brain-based central nervous system. Eating can become a performative mode of (gut) re-thinking cancer as a condition of bodies being eaten; away from cognitively-based metaphysics towards a psychical engagement with the body, which even in its seemingly most automatic functions, is so vital and complex.

### *Ensemble*

Food design and fabrication:  
*Kamal Haggerty and Stephen Loo*

Music:  
*Sue Collins, Violin*  
*Michael Fortescue, Double Bass*

Dining table and chairs:  
*Simon Ancher*

Centrepiece  
*Stephen Loo*

*Thank you to the diners*

for my mother  
who died with cancer  
in the middle of the show

*(Late) Afternoon Tea*  
*10 April 2016*

*Having not felt like eating,  
but eaten, I sat down to eat / tea ...*

*Curator*  
*Stephen Loo*