YEAH YOU, *This Instead* (Multi-Media, Multi-Format) Bologna Live Arts #IX, Bologna, September 2020

The commission comprised three parallel elements:

- 19 pages of new drawings, collage and text for the festival book
- A video installation comprising two films drawn from our archive
- 8 live performances across two evenings in various outdoor locations in Bologna

The commissioned work was supplemented by an extensive critical interview published in English and Italian and a separate performance filmed for live-stream as fulfilment of a separate commission, TUSK Virtual 2020.

In 2019 we were invited by the arts organization XING, based in Bologna, Italy, to take part in Bologna Live Arts 2020, the 9th iteration of an annual interdisciplinary arts festival that focuses on live performance and presentation taking place over 10 days (one week and its framing weekends) in March. The initial commission was for new work in three formats: a video installation running through the week at Locale Due gallery; up to 15 pages of new visual art and text for the festival book; and a series of live performances during the week in a hire car parked at various locations around the city.

The initial significance of the invitation (apart from being our first substantively interdisciplinary commission) was that this was the first time we were being paid to perform before a live audience in a car – Xing were the first organisation to see the potential of this approach as a live audio-visual spectacle, our reputation for recording in the car being by this stage well known.

The global COVID-19 pandemic affected, and ultimately enhanced, the project in totally unexpected and unforeseeable ways. Initially scheduled for 26 March-4 April, the festival was postponed. As the first period of lockdown receded during the summer, XING decided to reschedule elements of the original programme as separate entities; we were the first artists to be programmed for 21-25 September – as it turned out, the rapidly deteriorating situation that followed, with COVID’s second wave, meant that we remained the only act to perform at all.