

The Portfolio of Liang Xiao

Hybersea

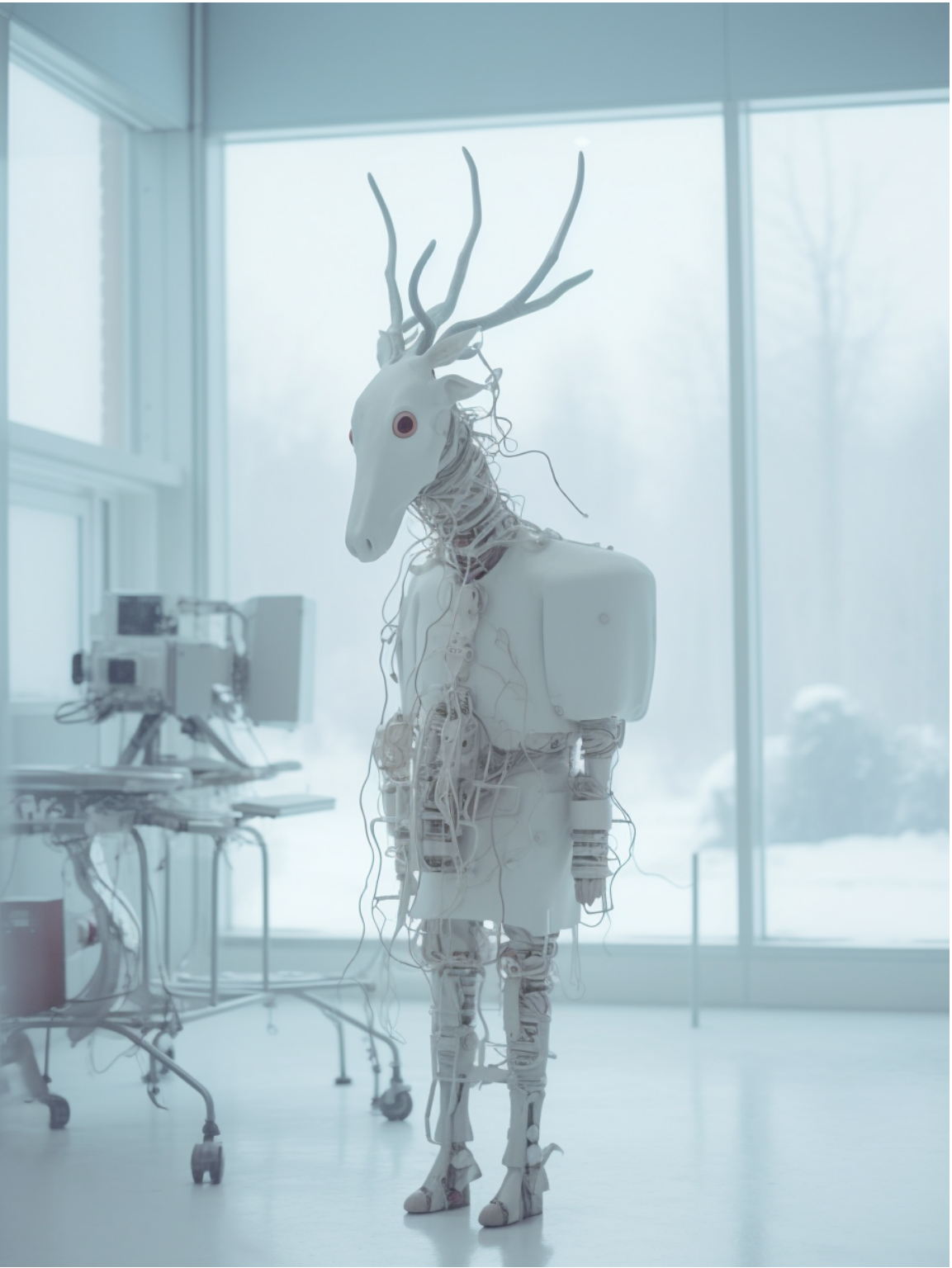
Digital

Dimension Variable

2023

"HYBERSEA"

While cloning, bio-engineering, and artificial intelligence technologies are being pushed forward, the human race is ignoring the cracks in self-awareness, the decline of moral standards, and the challenges to the status quo of existence. I hope to redefine the possible future through digital narrative imagery, echoing the ethical, moral, and technological challenges facing modern society.

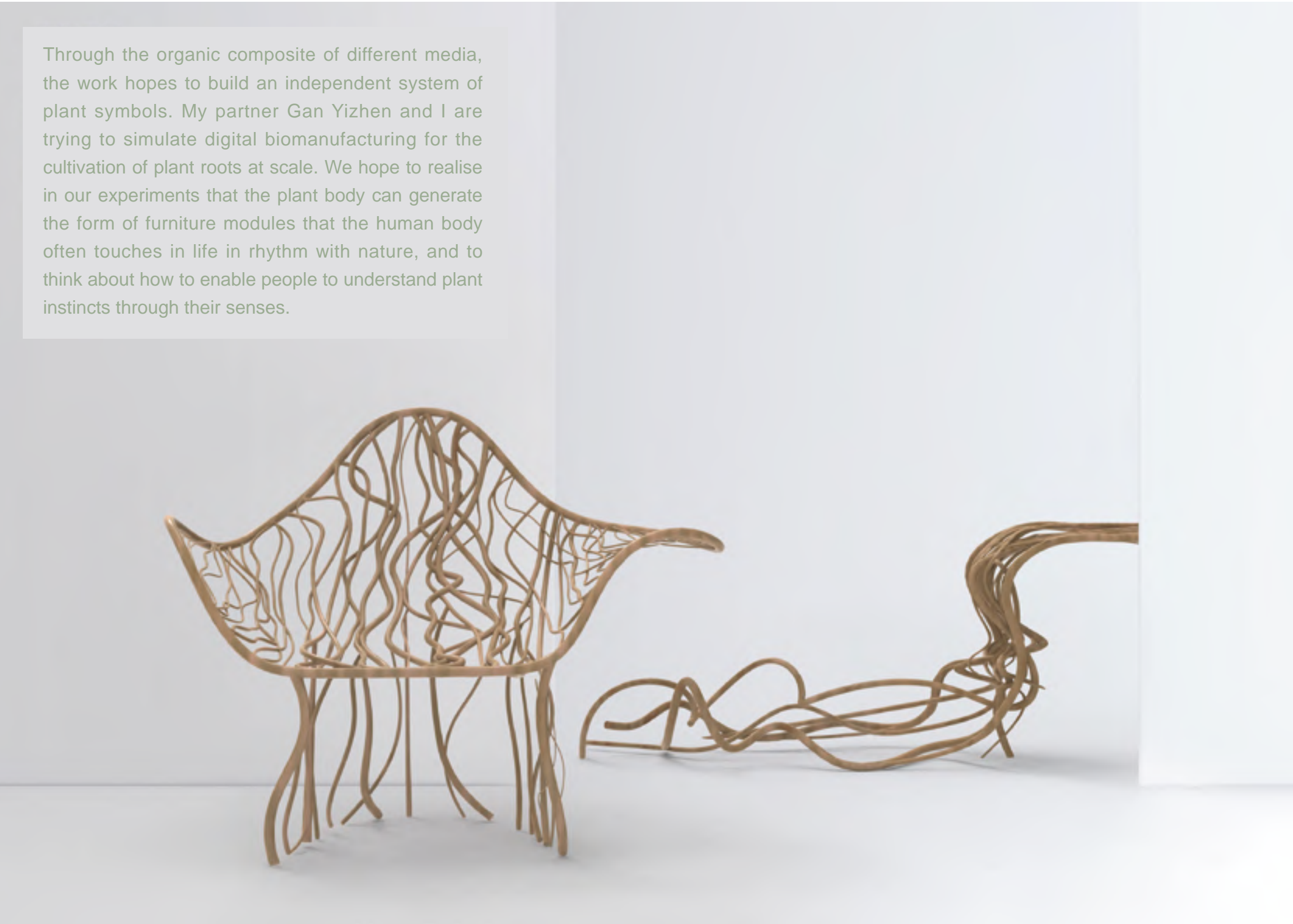








Through the organic composite of different media, the work hopes to build an independent system of plant symbols. My partner Gan Yizhen and I are trying to simulate digital biomanufacturing for the cultivation of plant roots at scale. We hope to realise in our experiments that the plant body can generate the form of furniture modules that the human body often touches in life in rhythm with nature, and to think about how to enable people to understand plant instincts through their senses.



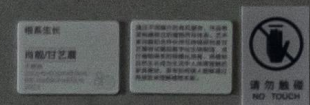
Root system generation

Parametric furniture

2000 x 500 x 550 mm; 880 x 690 x 600 mm

2023







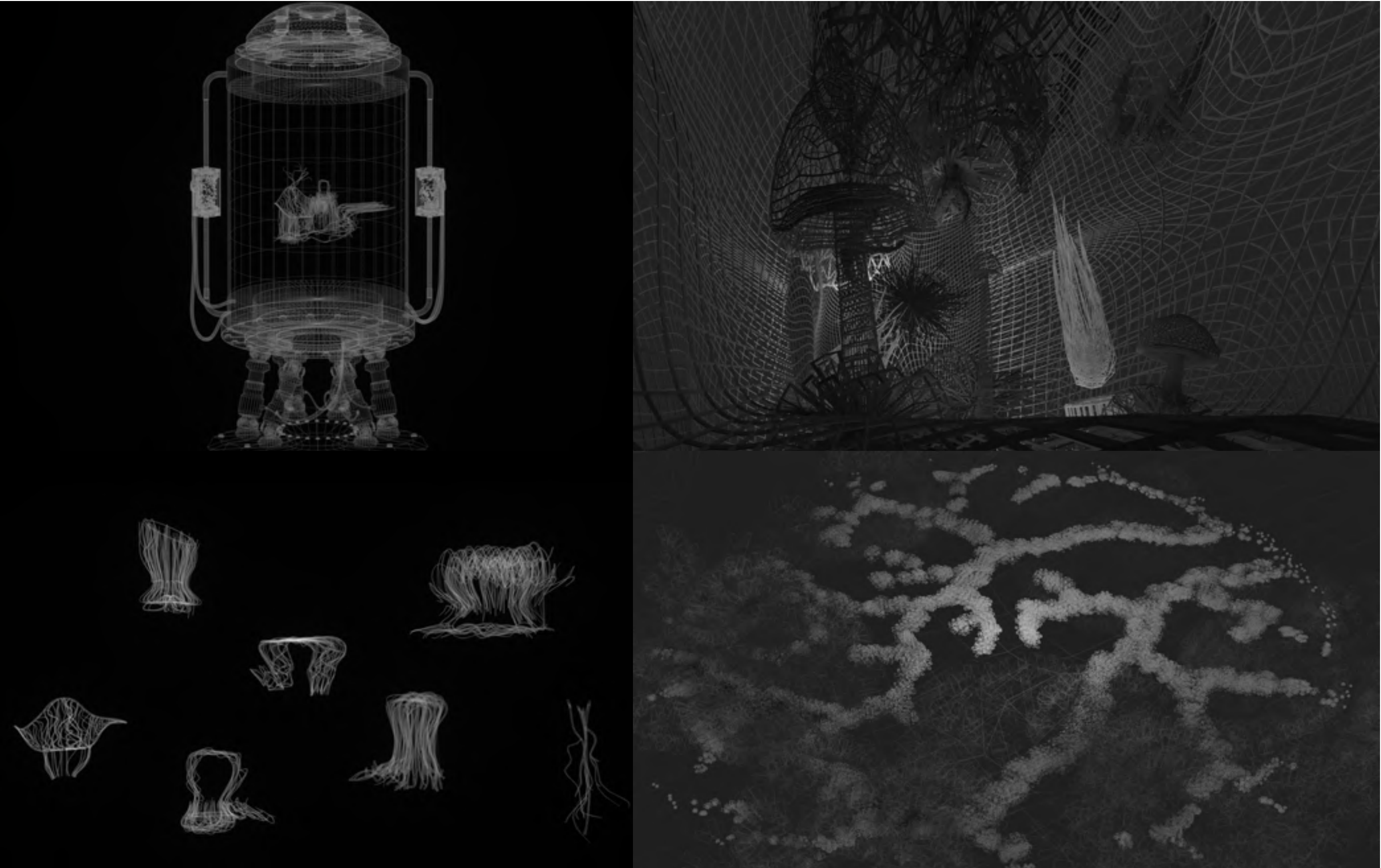
"PLANT AUTONOMY"

The work attempts to synthesize biology, material science and parametric prediction of the survival trend of plants as intelligent organisms. Through digital art, it presents the possibility of plant roots becoming sustainable materials and transport carriers, highlighting the sense of sovereignty of plant ecosystems over the construction of man-made landscapes, and hypothesizing the future of autonomous plant living spaces.

The air plant is the key object of research, it is the only plant on earth that grows entirely in the air and does not depend on sunlight or soil. The object was repeatedly cultivated and sampled for comparison in the early stages of the project, with the aim of exploring the developmental characteristics of this particular plant. Based on the core concept of the autonomous development of future plants, the necessary modules for the future living space were parametrically simulated.

<https://vimeo.com/595736202>

Film is in the Link



Liang Xiao

Project manager, Curator, scriptwriter, theoretical support, shot script, editor, responsible for organising and following up all aspects

Yizhen Gan

Furniture designer

Kim Jin

3D Modelling, VFX Renderer

Jarry Huang

3D Modelling, VFX Renderer

Jingzhe Wang

Sound artist

Plant Autonomy

Digital Film

Dimension Variable

02: 30 mins

2021





“URBAN CREVICE II”

By observing the real life of Wuhan residents after the end of the city's closure in 2020, I discovered some of the practical contradictions of the second phase of urban expansion and the mixed status quo brought about by the changes in people's living and psychological states after the epidemic.

Through a personalized spatial narrative, I try to find a way to recreate the city's appearance during the epidemic in a way that is as intimate as possible.

Topography is a process that seeks to get closer to the physical. The sudden pause in the public space causes the claims of the physical senses to emerge from an everyday indifference in a jarring manner. I cover and topograph the original skin of the building in repeated experiments with materials, constantly revealing the seam between it as an individual and the external space, and regaining proximity to the everyday in the perceptual translation of the gradual materialization of the seam.



Urban Crevice II
Silicone, fibreglass, hardener, mixer,
wire
Sculpture

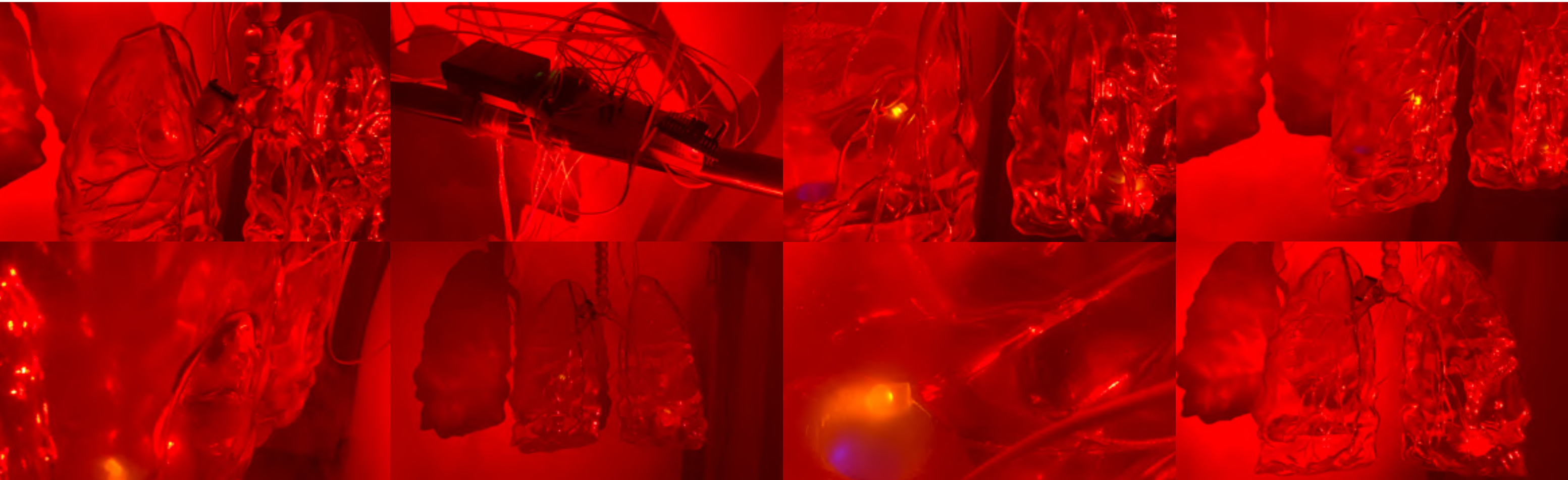
- 104cm*110cm
- 118cm*54cm
- 73cm*50cm
- 104cm*50cm
- 87cm*55cm
- 58cm*60cm
- 97cm*104cm
- 80cm*75cm

2020



"PSYCHEDELIC, STAY AWAY FROM ME"

COVID-19 could cause double physical and psychological harm to patients. The installation is physiologically liquefied from the lungs, presenting a translucent unhealthy state, and causing severe PTSD psychologically. Combining the concepts of social distance and aerosol transmission, is it safe to maintain a distance of one meter by means of a light sensing device? Emphasize the danger of COVID-19 and remind viewers to have a strong sense of prevention.



This link points to testing video <https://vimeo.com/426854560>

As an artist and a Hubei native base in London, I faced the COVID-19 outbreak both in my hometown Wuhan and in Britain. I changed my research to focus on COVID-19, using daily reports from my friends and family during lockdown in Wuhan and my self-isolation experiences of lockdown in London to inform the four works. I conducted research into viruses based on their types, transmission routes, growth trends, development scale and development results. In my artwork I want to bring together the different narratives of the science and human experience in the time of Covid-19: to encourage people, to embody the diversity of viruses, to show the social nature of lockdown experience, to explore nature of the crisis from philosophical and political perspectives. I wanted to explore the connections between the outside world and individuals, the public and private experiences of living through a pandemic. Given the limitations of working on my own in a small room with limited access to equipment it took a great deal of spirit and personal resource to make my performance film, shot on the tiny balcony outside my room through a small access window. It is a very personal and emotional work. I also made a book of photographs, a light installation and a series of posters from the confines of my small room during lockdown.



Psychedelic, Stay away from me
Photosensitive Resin , Arduino , Wire, Led, Resistance, Ultrasonic atomizer ,
Interactive installation
35cm*43cm
2020

Narrative Covid-19

Mixed Media

Digital Collage

Dimension Variable

2020

COVID-19 is a global virus and disaster. Social networking sites and media news, information will be inextricably linked to it.

I am receiving daily reports from my friends and family in Wuhan. I use keywords to search for photos from social media as material. My information collection and research inspired a series of COVID-19 digital collage.

I asked four young people from different countries to write about their experience of the virus outbreak and their feelings and imagination of my digital collage.

For more works in this series, please click the link:

<https://www.behance.net/gallery/98489859/Narrative-COVID-19>



"BALCONY UTOPIA"

The infectivity of Covid-19 causes people to panic about their bodies exposed to the outside air. The balcony communicates with the dangerous outside world and the indoors that represent a sense of security. By studying the political, functional, symbolic and history of balconies in different periods, this project found that its architectural form is the epitome of an era and society. The semi-public and semi-private balconies are also life, stage, It is the connection between the individual and the world around him. I performed on the balcony, using household objects, to show the conflict and dialogue between private and public spaces, self-help and communication with the outer world.

Balcony Utopia
Performance and Film
Dimension Variable
09: 22 mins

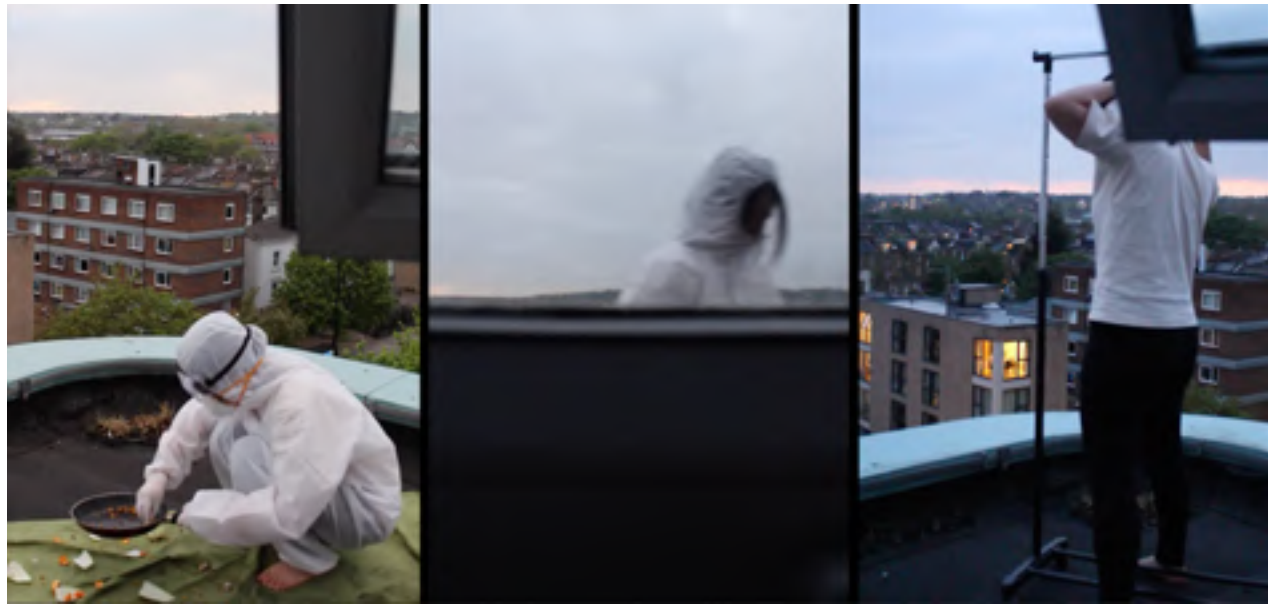
2020

<https://vimeo.com/428655509>

Film is in the Link

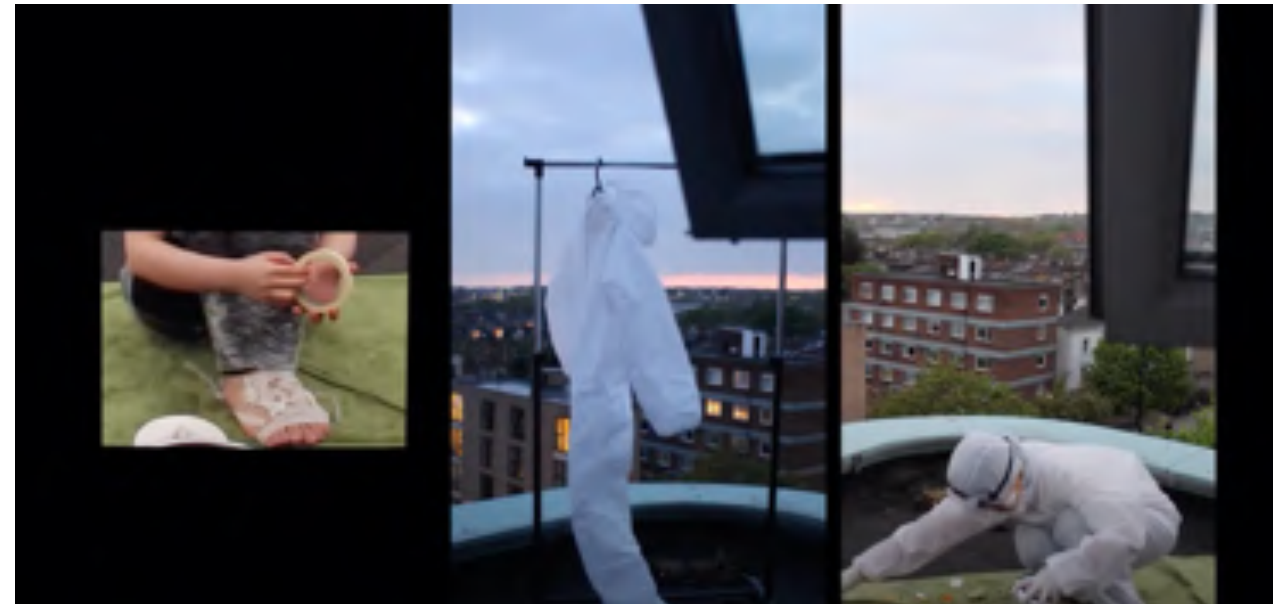
“APARTMENT ART”

'Apartment art' originated in the 1980s in China. Artists exhibited personalized objects in their own apartments. After that, because of the impact of museum space and changes in the times, it presented a conflict and dialogue between public and private spaces.

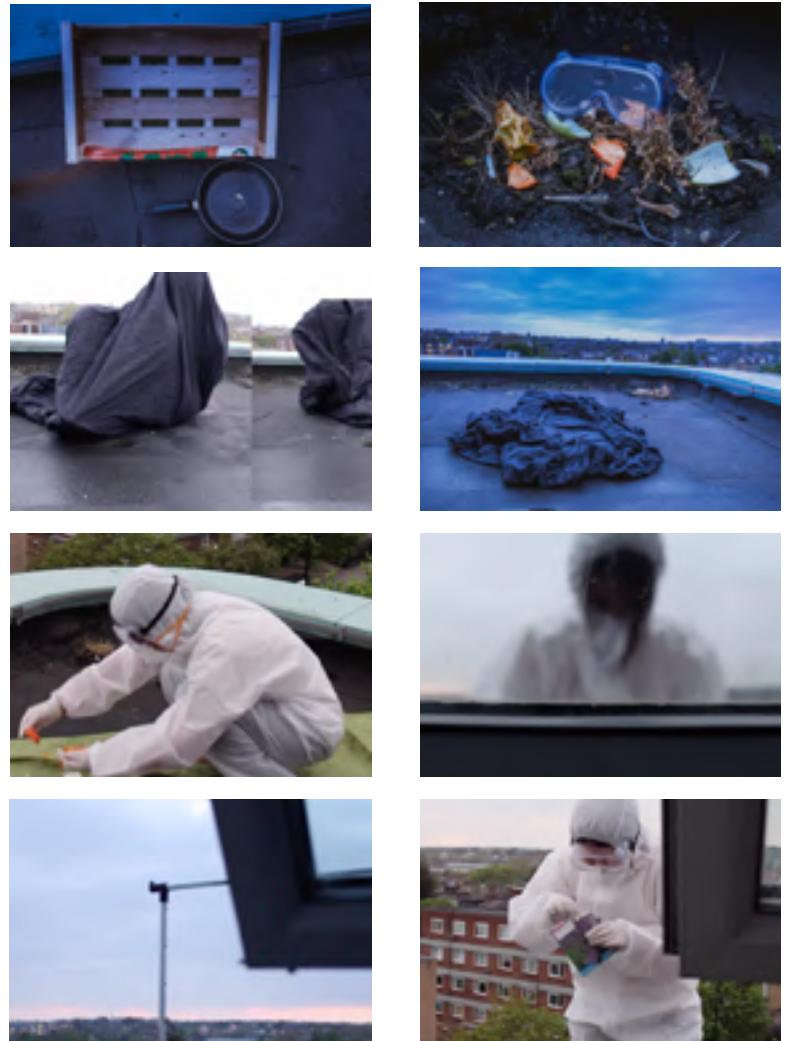


Balcony Behaviors

When the epidemic began, the state of life of closures and quarantines has gradually spread across the world. People are trapped in homes, hospitals, or closed spaces with centralized isolation. The streets are vacant, and the city is almost frozen. In such a tense atmosphere, the video of the Italian "balcony concert" circulated on social media. Residents encounter each other on their balconies with music, accompaniment with different instruments, dancing and singing. The city in the background is often a ordinary Italian old city, and some balcony videos of Wuhan citizens also circulate on the Internet. The balcony plays a significant role in human life. Its architectural form is the epitome of an era and society, as well as the embodiment of the construction technology. I stay at home and dare not go anyplace. I can only just go to my balcony. It is in fact. It is a semi-open space. It connects the interior that symbolizes a sense of security and the risky outer world, especially the virus is airborne.



My choice to perform on the balcony is actually a retrospect of the political ecology, private history, and technological history of human society from the perspective of living space. The semi-public and semi-private balcony is, in addition, the connection between life, stage and individual and the world around them. For emotional analysis, we will never sit on the balcony seriously. It is extremely a good place for emotional performance.



I have made a lot of videos of my performances. You can see that some of them are indicating social distance. Some are paying attention to a way for people to obtain food in the future, and some are showing people's behavior under the spread of the epidemic. I also examined the relationship between the object and the epidemic situation. For example, people's emotional hoarding, food needs, etc., I also incorporate some objects into my behavior. I want to represent a contrast with these people who play, sing and dance in semi-open spaces.

"556 HOLLOWAY RD, "

The book records the state of self-isolation in London during the lockdown period. It is an exploration of extreme social forms, the mutual compromise between individuals and society, objects and the world. It was created between March and May 2020, when most people began to isolate at home. The title of the book is my address in London. The special binding design in this book turns windows into symbols of communication.

Photograph PDF in the Link

<https://www.behance.net/gallery/98490515/556-Holloway-Rd>

The photography is mainly the comparison between the outside and the indoor space. The window becomes the only medium and way to communicate with the outer world. There is a special structure between the upper and lower pages of this book. People can pull the side strips to open the picture covered like a curtain and see the photography below. Whether the inside and outside are opposite, the expression of personal emotions, all get the answer in the stretching of the book pages.



556 Holloway Rd ,
YB110 220g Printed Paper
Photobook
22.5cm*25cm*3.5cm
2020

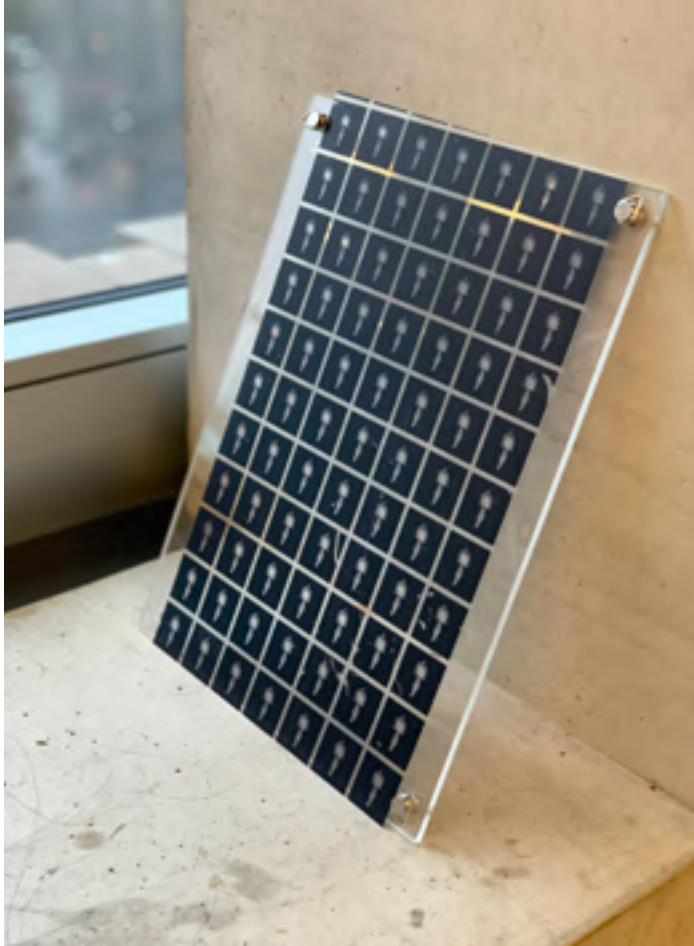


<https://vimeo.com/435552609>
This link points to a video of the book's production process and effect display.

The video will show: There is a particular structure between the upper and lower pages of this book. One can pull the side strips to open the picture covered like a curtain, and see the photography below.

"VISIBLE BLIND BOX"

Blind boxes represent uncertainty. The image of the doll in the box cannot be judged by its appearance. After purchasing the box, the consumer can open the box for confirmation. In an era of material abundance, young people pay more attention to the spiritual satisfaction and power brought by objects rather than their practical value. It almost satisfies the characteristics of artworks and gives consumers a belief. As a combination of art and commerce, it has artistic attributes and is also sold as a commodity. This not only lowers the threshold for everyone to buy art, but also reduces the time and cost for everyone to buy art.



Visible Blind Box

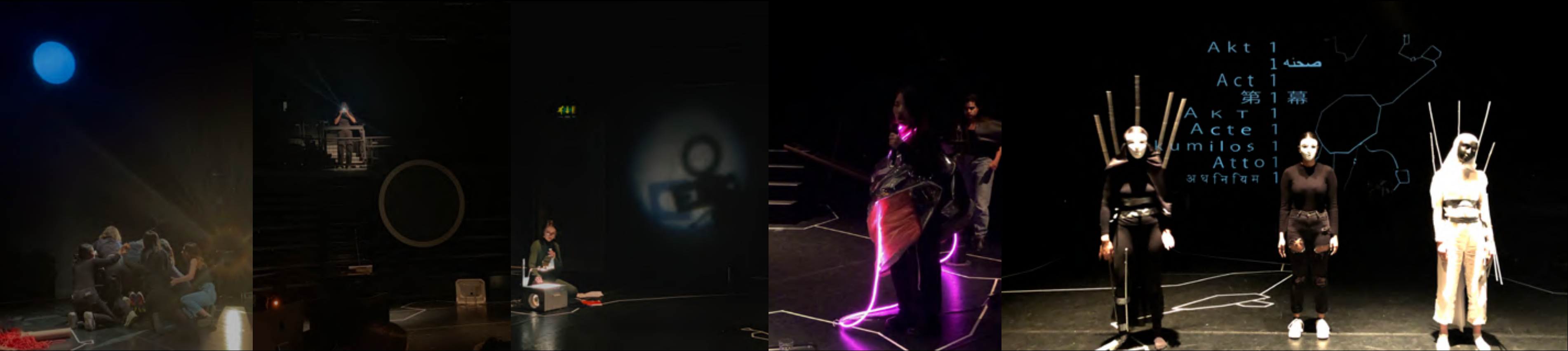
X-ray Film, wood, PVC, Wire, Acrylic, Arduino, Plastic Balls

Installation

75cm*45cm

2020

In this work, I set up a device similar to a Gashapon machine. The commonality between the blind box and the capsule game is similar to the lottery transaction process and cannot be predicted. Different rules and instructions make viewers and consumers wonder what they will get. X-rays and CT revealed this mystery in a relatively naked manner. This work is also carried out in conjunction with the theme "Sale" of the entire exhibition. At the beginning of the exhibition, visitors first need to use screen printing to make their own coins (the green banknotes in the picture), and can choose artists and works for trading. The different behaviors of the participants will trigger thinking. Whether they will change their minds after X-ray and CT intervention is what this work wants to explore.



Rethinking the Total Work of Art
Collaboration with Waste Paper Theatre Company
It has been performed in a ticketed production
CSM Platform Theatre, London
25 October 2019

“RETHINKING THE TOTAL WORK OF ART ”

We explore and question the form and content of Bauhaus theatre in order to understand their ideas about 'holistic artworks' and the process of creating a multi-modal performance piece. We explore the 'total artwork' through discussion, movement and vocal exercises, production and construction, writing and play. The aim of this complete, multi-modal theatre piece is not to reinterpret 14 years of Bauhaus performance for the 21st century, but to scrutinise the parameters that informed its creation and redefine them. The work explores and questions the history, legacy and driving art and productions of the Bauhaus School by creating a narrative environment, combined with an algorithm that changes in real time, to create a non-linear narrative play in conjunction with the performance.



“SWAN & GUN”

In the project, my concern is the conflict between Chinese traditions and modern professional women. I use reshaping the structure of kitchen utensils and appliances to explore the pressure on modern professional women, which is caused by the indoor environment. Under the development structure of modern society, the old family status of women has not suitable for today's career women rhythm of life, and self-appeal. Therefore, I use different images to express in the installation and critical thinking about this topic.



The chose for cleaner and cooking utensil is as they are tools for maintaining the house cleaning, and also they represent the heavy loads of housework. By the recombination and transformation, they become the weapon to preserve female freedom.

Swan represents the innocence and kindness, and the free professional females who haven't suffer from interior violence. I choose the cleaner as its main function is cleaning yet while it's operating for cleaning, it stores dust. The cracked wings metaphor the professional females who are depraved freedom gradually by heavy loads of housework.

SWAN
Pans, rice cookers, water pipes, bowls
Sculpture
74cm x 118cm
2017

The gun represents the violence and maintenance, it symbols the weapon for protection and resistance by heavy interior pressure.



GUN
Broom, vacuum cleaner, kitchenware, steel wire, spoon, shovel
Sculpture
144cm x 42cm
2017

“FEMMININE ENDINGS”

The communist slogan of ‘women is half of the sky’ as well as contemporary free market structure encouraged creation of freedom in terms of more liberty for a career driven life and more independence, economically. This has combined with expectation of domestic duties like daily chores, and, responsibility for patriarchal elder, and, childbearing and caring respisibility, which was supported by the still popular confucious social structure, and it is rarely experience by Chinese men. The production of the work is combined with my research on ants, bees and other insects. A part of the insect race has maintained the survival mode of the maternal clan society from the primitive society to the present, and has never changed. I integrated this understanding of biological habits into my image creation, and through interactive projection combined with shooting to discuss the conflicts between traditional expectations or dogmas faced by Chinese women and modern professional life.



Femminine Endings

<https://vimeo.com/386124075>



In this film, my work focuses on the survival of adult women under the dual status of housewife and professional woman. The performance works show the spatial narrative through the interaction of the kitchen of daily life scenes and the dance square symbolizing the free and open body.

I focus on the research of the kitchen space. The modern open family kitchen is similar to the dance floor space in Pub, and the functional partitions can be replaced with each other. Their ordinary subjects are women, but there are differences in women's social status and personal conditions.

Manternal Crevice

<https://vimeo.com/386120810>



Femminine Endingds, Manternal Crevice

Two monitors, Media players
Film
Dimension Variable
2018 - 2019



“URBAN CREVICES I”

The project studies through the enlarging process of the city, there are increasing useless crevices, which have lost the origin values among buildings. I made sculptures to present the urban city in crevices.

Many useless spaces among half-refurbished, old houses. Those closed states clocked people’s sight and their inner feeling. People as the major part of city have different connections with those crevices.

Using silicone to rollover negative space become a floating state, make audiences feel the closed states and imagination of urban cities.



URBAN CREVICE
Silicone, FRP, Hardener, Mixing agent, Iron Wire
Sculpture
125cm x 192cm per slide
2017



YAN DI SHI

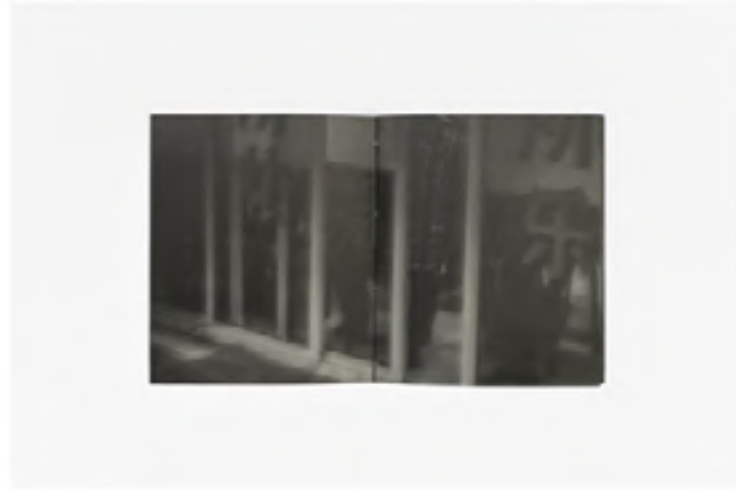
Yandi - one of the oldest emperors of China. Legend has it that a bird threw down a wheat seed, which Yandi picked up and planted, and that those who ate the fruit would live forever.

This project explores the impact of changing family structures on older people in China by examining the relationship between older people and healthcare products. The traditional Chinese model of the extended family of three generations has gradually disintegrated. Nuclear families are becoming more common. However, there are still many older people in these families who are emotionally dependent on their children. Children often do not have the time to meet the emotional needs of their parents.

Medical products provide virtual security for older people and give them a sense of dependency and trust. As a result, a family relationship of dependence and trust seems to arise between medical products and older people. However, the relationship between the fictional security of medical products and the deteriorating health of the elderly presents an ambivalent relationship. Using books and photography, I attempt to explore the transformation of socio-economic and family structures, and the contradiction between the individual's quest for health, longevity and modern industrialised pharmaceuticals (regulated or not).

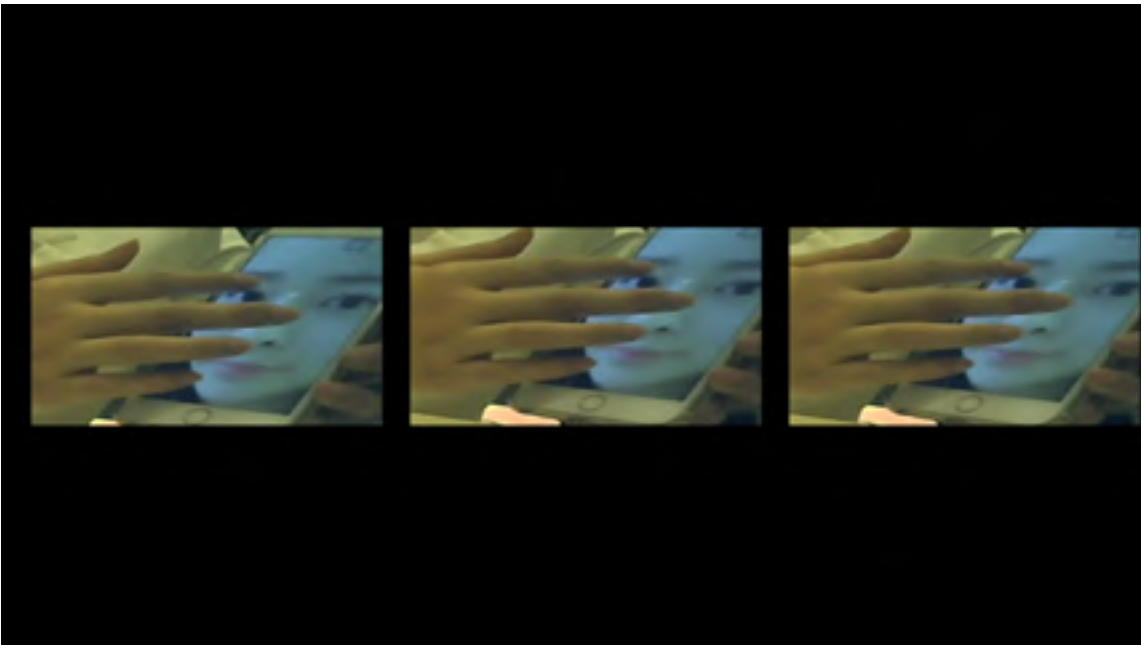
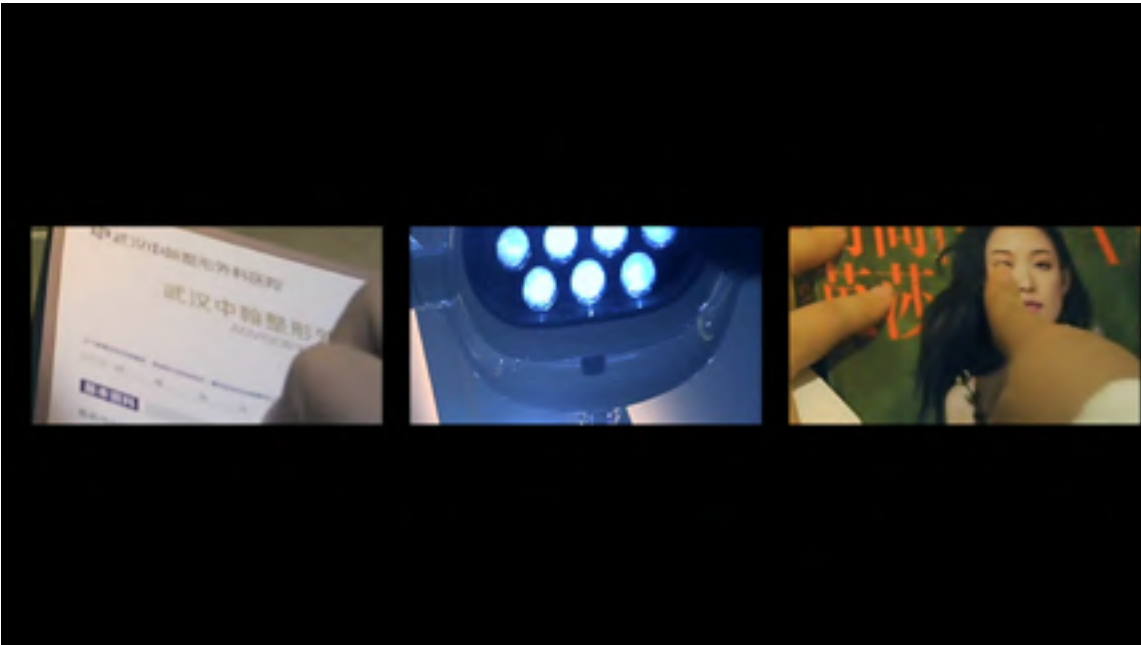


YAN DI SHI
C-print
Variable
Photography
2017



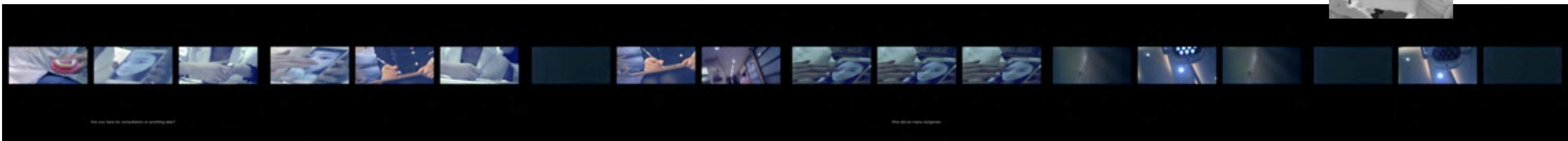
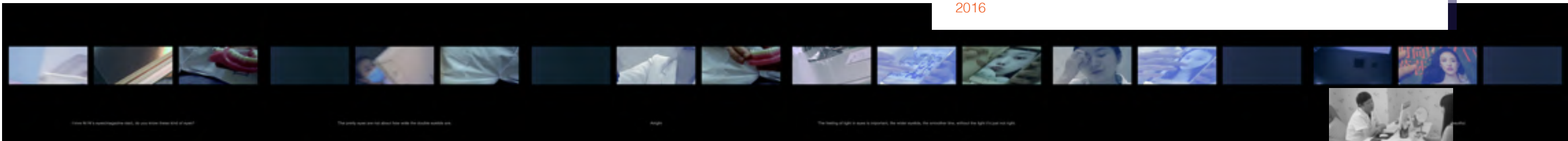
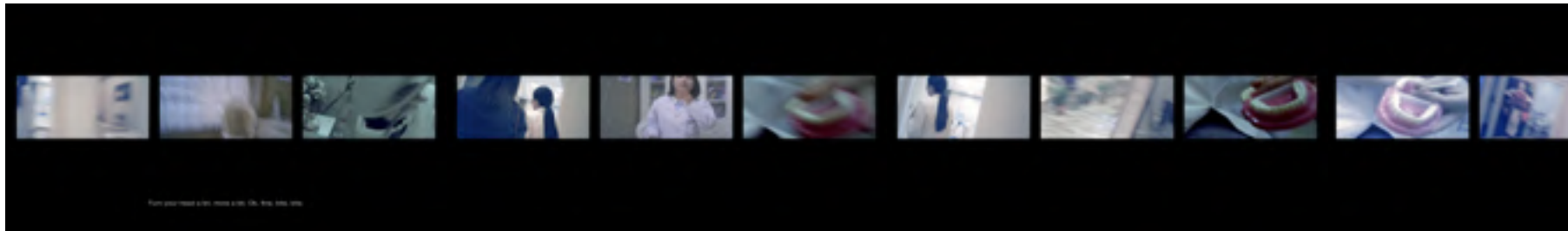
Collaborative project: with Chen Mi, I was responsible for photography and post-production





HIGHLIGHT

I took a micro-camera into cosmetic surgery hospitals in Korea and China to take the scene, to make people who already take surgery yet not admitted and people who have bad thinking of surgery experience the process in a fair view.



"BEAUTY JOURNEY"

Beauty Journey demonstrates the phenomenon that people wish to be prettier by plastic surgery under the surrounding of booming development of plastic surgery industry. I used secret photography and three-screen shooting to make people whom chase for beauty can have a reality surgery experience in fair perspective.

Micro-camera
Three-Screen Film
Dimension Variable
2016



<https://vimeo.com/200051040>



"EXPERIMENT: PIG,HEAD,SURGERY"

For a performance show, I made a cosmetic surgery on a pig. I use pig cartilage and head bone as the material, it is because the pig has a dialectical nature, the perception of the pig is a common and normal. For surgery, a third perspective is exactly necessary.

In modern cosmetic surgery, using ear cartilage as filler, Grinding jawbone surgery is common.

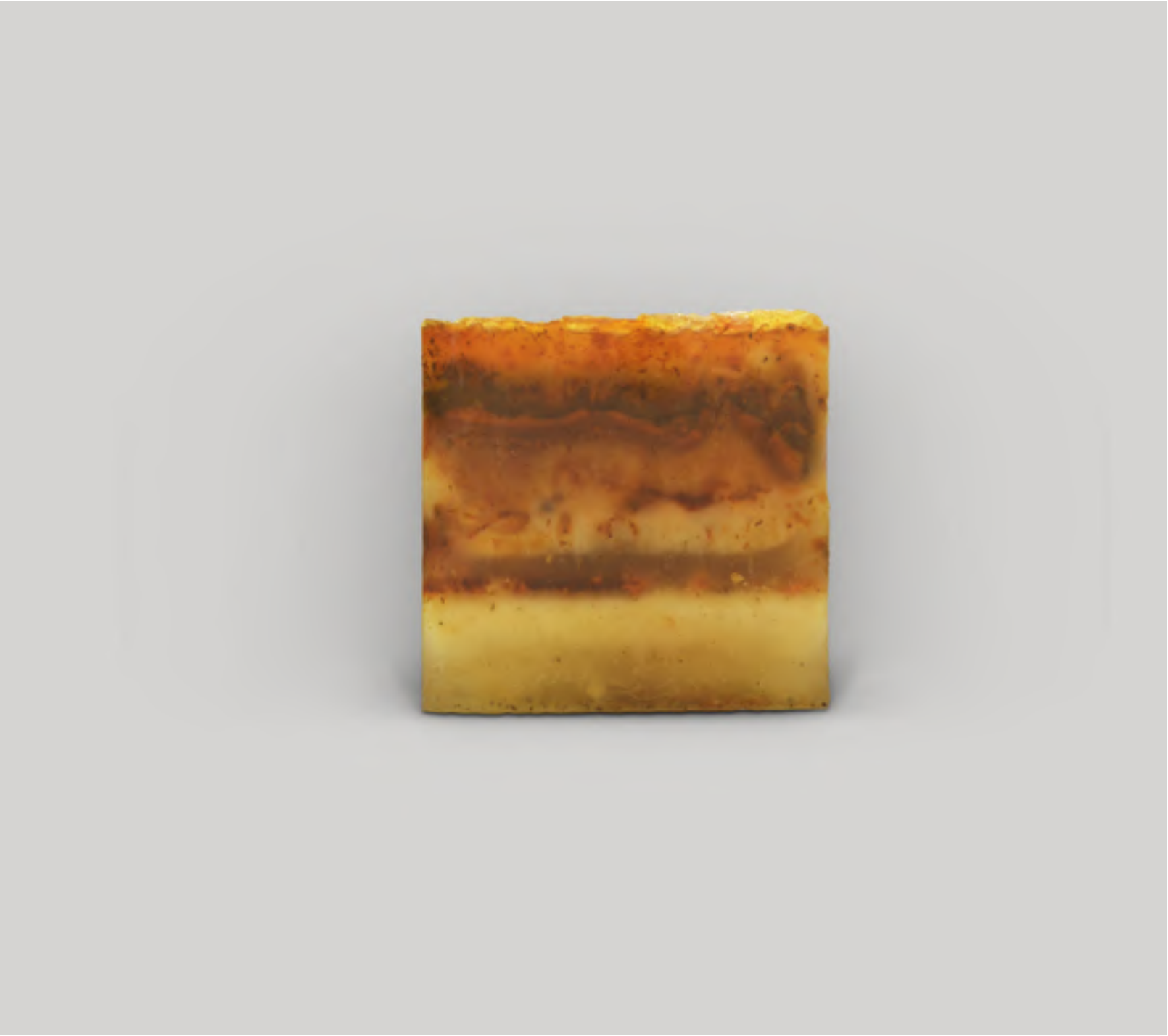


Metamorphosis
Pig Bones, Acrylic, Scalpel
Sculpture
35cm x 4cm
2016

"BEAUTIFY, SELF-PORTRAIT"



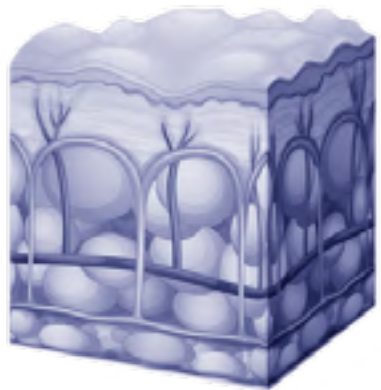
Ideal Self-image
Propylene, Digital Synthesis
Painting
73cm x 48cm
2016



14,600 RMB FAT
Lv Shou Powder Slimming Products, Oligofructose liquid, Lactobacillus, L-carnitine
Sculpture
25cm x 25cm x 25cm
2017

“14,600 RMB FAT”

The project discussed the relationship between people's desires and object dependence, through discarding, smashing, and changing the form of objects to make the obsessions pinned on objects disappear. through the phenomenon of which the items humans store have not set a person free, instead they transform people into slaves. I discuss the issue that people should log themselves as the leading character; I encourage them to scan the relationship between themselves and the objects correctly , to learn to cut off, abandon, getting away from the obsession of the items and knowing their deeper inner self.

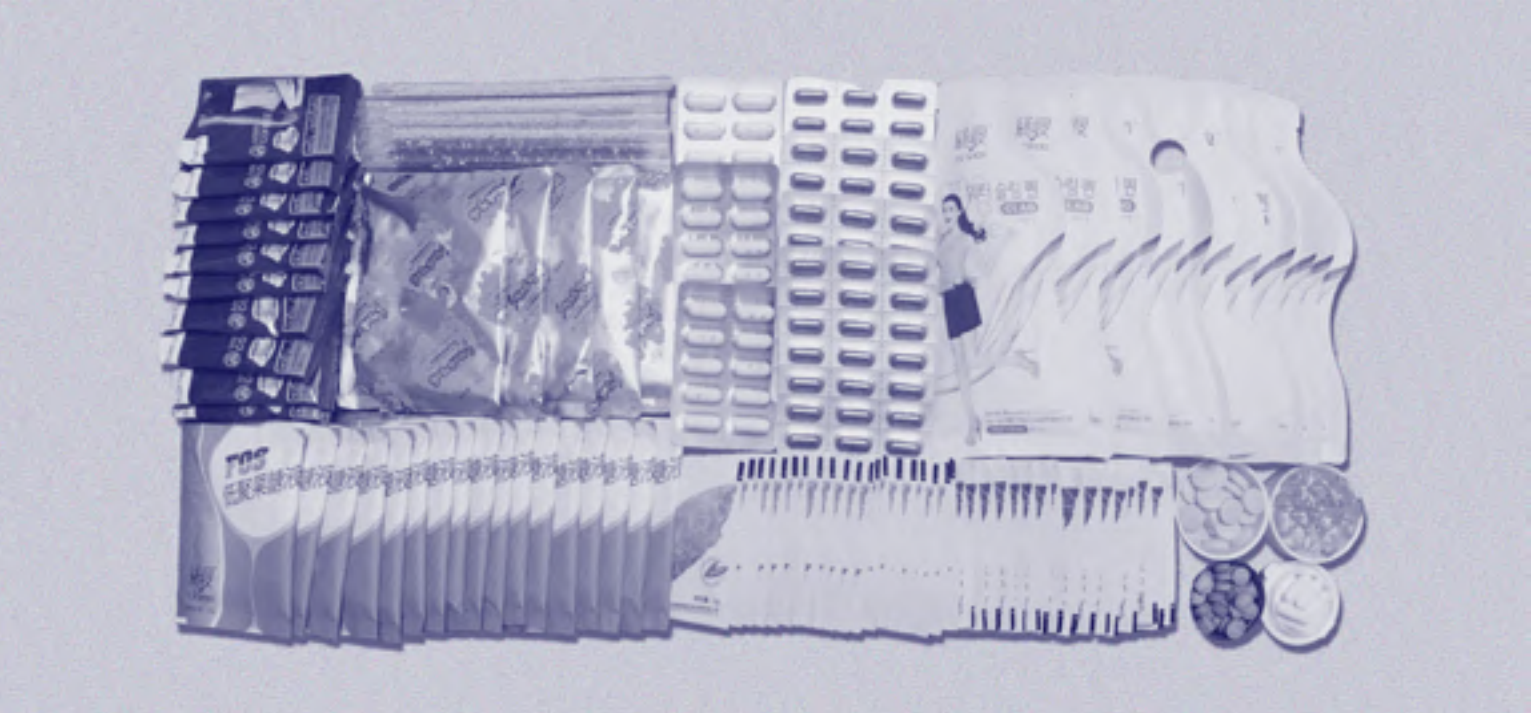


“I just cannot let go so I put them in drawer. Pills occupy much, however because of the high price or the possibility of losing weight, I just cannot throw them away. The losing weight is just an annoying thing for me and becomes my burden.”

Piling objects in the home spread, people found their feelings are always cheerful not up. Aware of their own into the pain of material desires, but that can meet their own digestion of this pain, which makes people into a vicious circle. These things, whether it is goods, information, or interpersonal relationships, in a no, uncomfortable, uncomfortable state but do not know how to deal with.

For example, I have always been a strong desire to lose weight, trying to use weight loss drugs such objects to help themselves achieve their aspirations, but the more weight loss pills to buy more, but also piled up a lot, lost also reluctant to lose, but looked at home very bother.

In the anatomy and pathology literature of the 1990s, fat was ignored before it was defined as an organ. With the development of science, fat has been widely used in medical beauty in the 21st century. The physiological response of weight loss drugs after entering the body increases interest in certain parts of the body (such as fat). The safety problems that may exist after the weight-loss drug is taken make people more hesitant when taking the weight-loss drug. All this intensified hoarding and placement.



I deal with pills by crushing, decomposition, melting, and forming into a variety of ways to simulate the form of fat. I am trying to simulate the metaplasia reaction of diet pills entering the body organs

"FARM"

"Farm" project found that the there are giant amount of insects in natural farmland through the study, but the transgenic tech affected the existence of insects; From the objective perspective I have explored whether the genetically modified crops have effects on human health or not, I use book design and other visual means to explore the genetically modified crops: although those crops satisfy most families daily demand, but in the rapid development of science and technology at the same time, it affects the ecological balance indeed.

1



I classically visualized pest and put them into the books according to certain proportion, and it formed a contrast naturally and I marked the connection between the insect and ecology.

Surge
Mixed Media
Zine
15cm x 14cm x 1cm
2016



2



Matcha Chocolate
Matcha Chocolate, Insect Sculpture
9cm x 15cm x 1cm
2016

Candy is the product to satisfy people demand, and also the genetically modified (gm) crops, they can meet the demand of the public, I hope that through in the form of this beautiful appearance yet containing scared, disgusting bugs can make people aware of genetically modified (gm)'s both two sides.

3



Protagonist
Insect, led Photograph
Dimension Variable
2016

“INDOOR GROWTH”

The project aims to explore the relationship between human and nature. By the camera capture of the subtle, bizarre or abnormal phenomena, it reflects that human society is always an integral part of nature however it develops and evolves.

From the Age of Enlightenment, human has always put themselves in a dominant position, distinguishing themselves from the nature. The development of culture, technologies and social behaviours have strengthened peoples’ dominant factors. Man can conquer the nature has become an arrogant slogan. Natural disasters like greenhouse effect and pollution are all attributed to human behaviours. Human are at the same time destroyer and saviour. Therefore, those slogans we chant are hypocrisy in the essence. Because we didn’t not find the correct position. We are just part of the nature, the ecology, instead of the dominator.



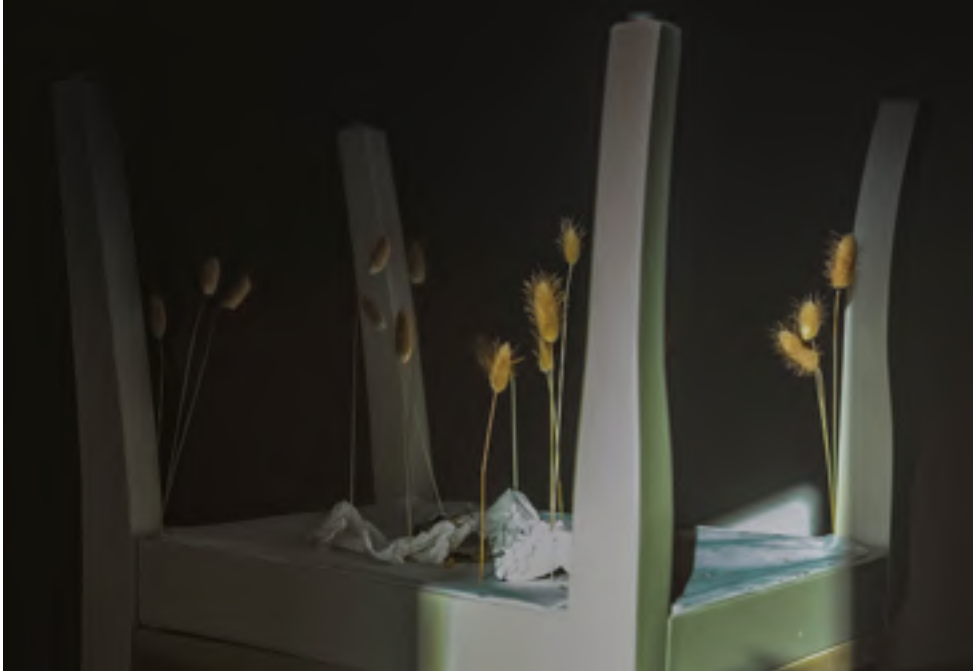
INDOOR GROWTH I
C-print
Photography
Dimension Variable
2017



INDOOR GROWTH II
C-print
Photography
Dimension Variable
2017



INDOOR GROWTH IIII
C-print
Photography
Dimension Variable
2017



INDOOR GROWTH III
C-print
Photography
Dimension Variable
2017



INDOOR GROWTH IV
C-print
Photography
Dimension Variable
2017

Modern society forces people to over-pursue their resumes, and we never read a person's résumé at a funeral, One side is to show themselves to the outside world, one side is to introspect their own, how to live is how to live a real self. Can these two kinds of self-balance? Perhaps, we do not need to choose one from the other. People live in self-struggle and struggle, eager to secular success, but also to follow the inner voice, it seems difficult to do but is contradictory.

LIVING IN THE RESUME OR EULOGY

Living In The Resume Or Eulogy discussed the phenomenon that in current society, the resume is overlooked yet it doesn't equal to eulogy. I have pointed out the contradiction that people are the existing contradictory points with stage play, speech video and video-documentary books.

I've been thinking about the difference between the résumé virtues and the eulogy virtues. The résumé virtues are the ones you put on your résumé, which are the skills you bring to the marketplace. The eulogy virtues are the ones that get mentioned in the eulogy, which are deeper: who are you, in your depth, what is the nature of your relationships, are you bold, loving, dependable, consistency? And most of us, including me, would say that the eulogy virtues are the more important of the virtues. But at least in my case, are they the ones that I think about the most? And the answer is no.

LIVING IN THE RESUME OR EULOGY

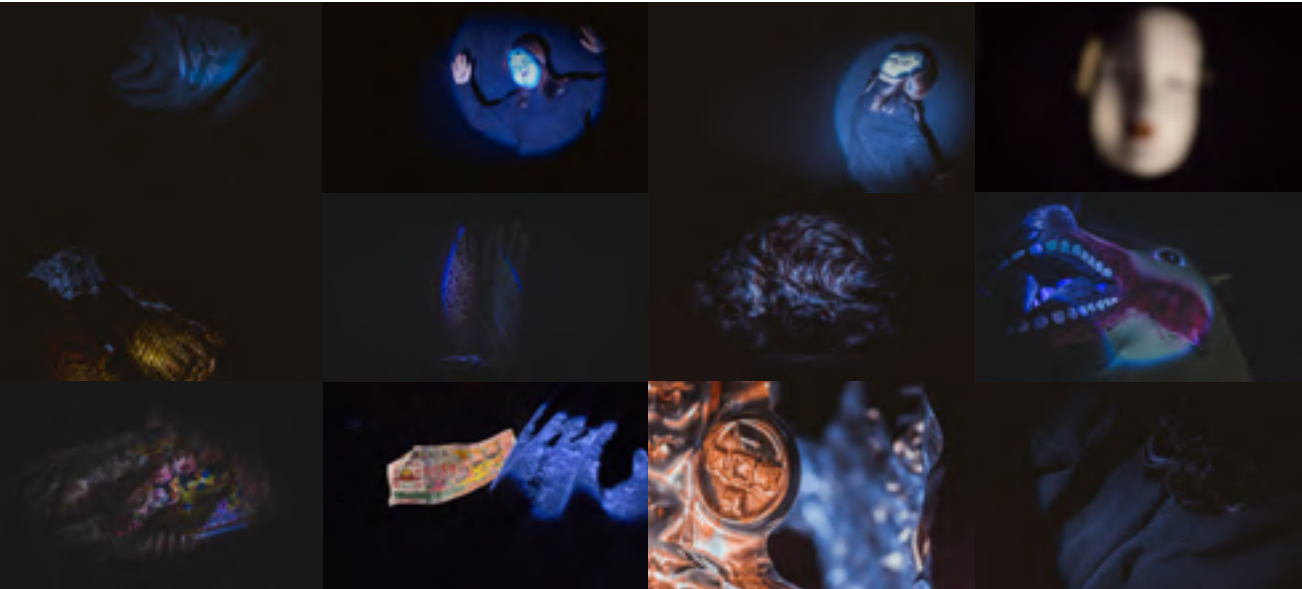
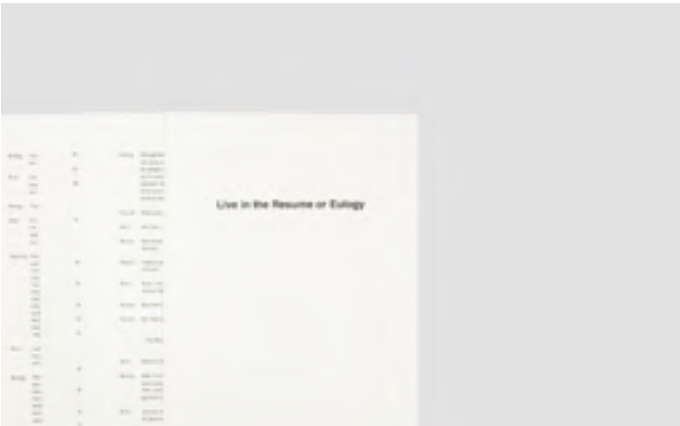
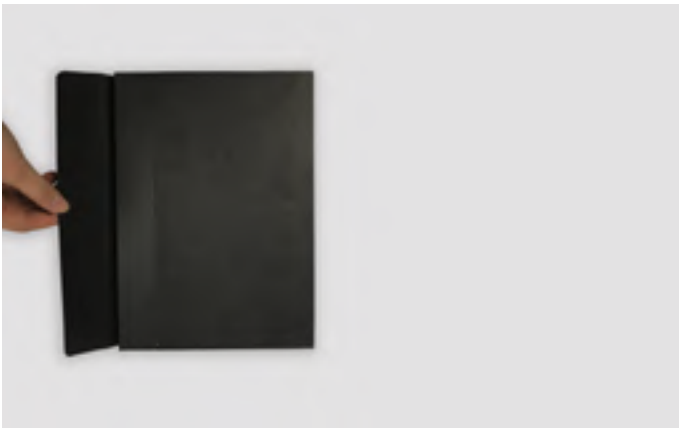
Mixed Media
Performance Film
Dimension Variable
2016



LIVEING IN THE RESUME OR EULOGY



C4300 220g Printed Paper
Photobook Album
15cm x 28cm x 2.6cm
2016



I created a script called Should you live for your resume or your eulogy, it tells a women who wanted to be famous all her life and she died and had a second chance of rebirth, she found the it was eulogy which decided the next life instead of resume. And life was just not that perfect, she finally got the same life. I wrote it, directed it and performed it. All the properties, lines just have different meanings. I hope people can get something and I made a photography album to enhance my video, some lines enhance the story content.