

## Kexin Hao

external link:

<u>website | Instagram | Email</u>

I am a visual artist born in Beijing (1993) and based in The Hague. I have an interdisciplinary practice across art, design, and theatre with a focus on performance. I combine a variety of media including video, printed matter, choreography, and music, while borrowing archetypes in pop cultures such as aerobic workout, video games, online streaming, puppet theatre, aiming to provide the audience with playful, participatory, and on-site experiences.

What lies at the core of my art making is the creation of experiences addressing history, society and cultural heritage through bodily engagement. I am interested in the human body in relation to collective memory and political propaganda, as well as the entanglement of human and pest in health and hygiene campaigns.



# Revolution is A Dinner Party

2025 performance × puppet theatre × audio-visual

The hand puppet performance, reimagining Mao Zedong's phrase, "Revolution is not a dinner party", stages an afterlife dialogue between a sparrow and a rat. Drawing from political hygiene campaigns and colonial sanitation projects, it reflects on the entanglement of the human body and pest.

external link:
Revolution is a Dinner Party

Revolution Is a Dinner Party is a hand puppet performance reimagining Mao Zedong's phrase, "Revolution is not a dinner party," as an invitation to reflect on food and inter-species intimacy.

The play stages an afterlife dialogue between a sparrow and a rat. Drawing from Mao's "Smash Sparrows" campaign and the "Great Hanoi Rat Massacre," the two debate class conflicts. A silverfish interrupts and shows that all three characters are parts of one body. She guides them to a revolution where boundaries between self and others dissolve through the act of eating.

The performance unfolds in a hand-painted puppet theatre stage on which guts, flowers, mouths, and sewersintertwine—evoking the porous, unruly nature of bodies and echoing the play's theme on interspecies intimacy.

-----CREDITS -----

supported by: Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst costume: Laura Snijders × Vincent Wong

photography: LNDWstudio

----- PRESENTATIONS -----

2025 [NL] International Art Talent Festival, Felix Meritis

Amsterdam

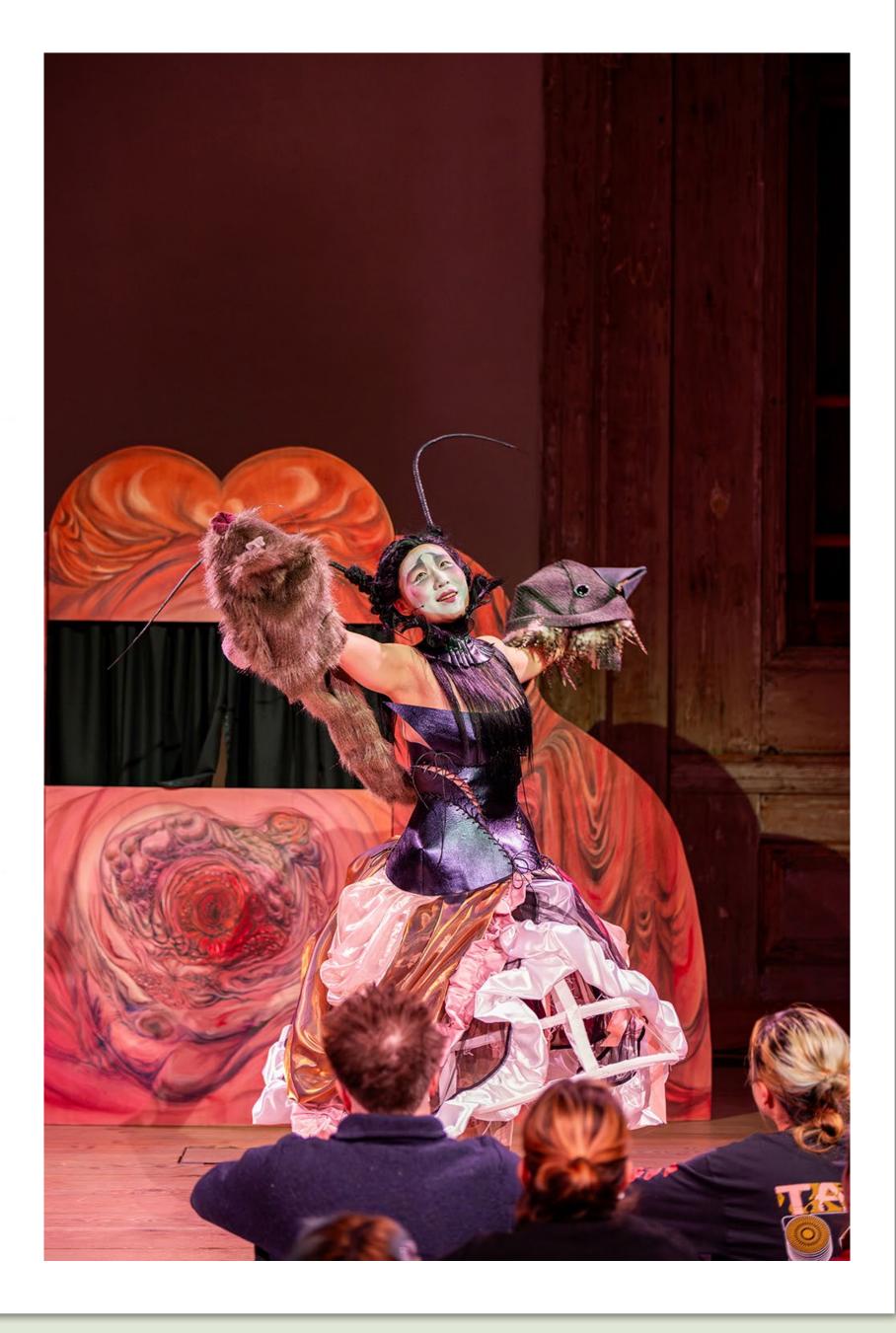
2025 [LV] Survival Kit #16: *House of See More*, Riga 2025 [NL] International Art Talent Festival, Amsterdam

-----PRESS-----

Arterritory When Simurgh Invites Us to See-More

Forbes 16 Highlights From Riga's Survival Kit Festival 2025









performance at International Art Talent Festival, Felix Meritis







# Lewd Banquet

2024

performance × audio-visual × immersive listening

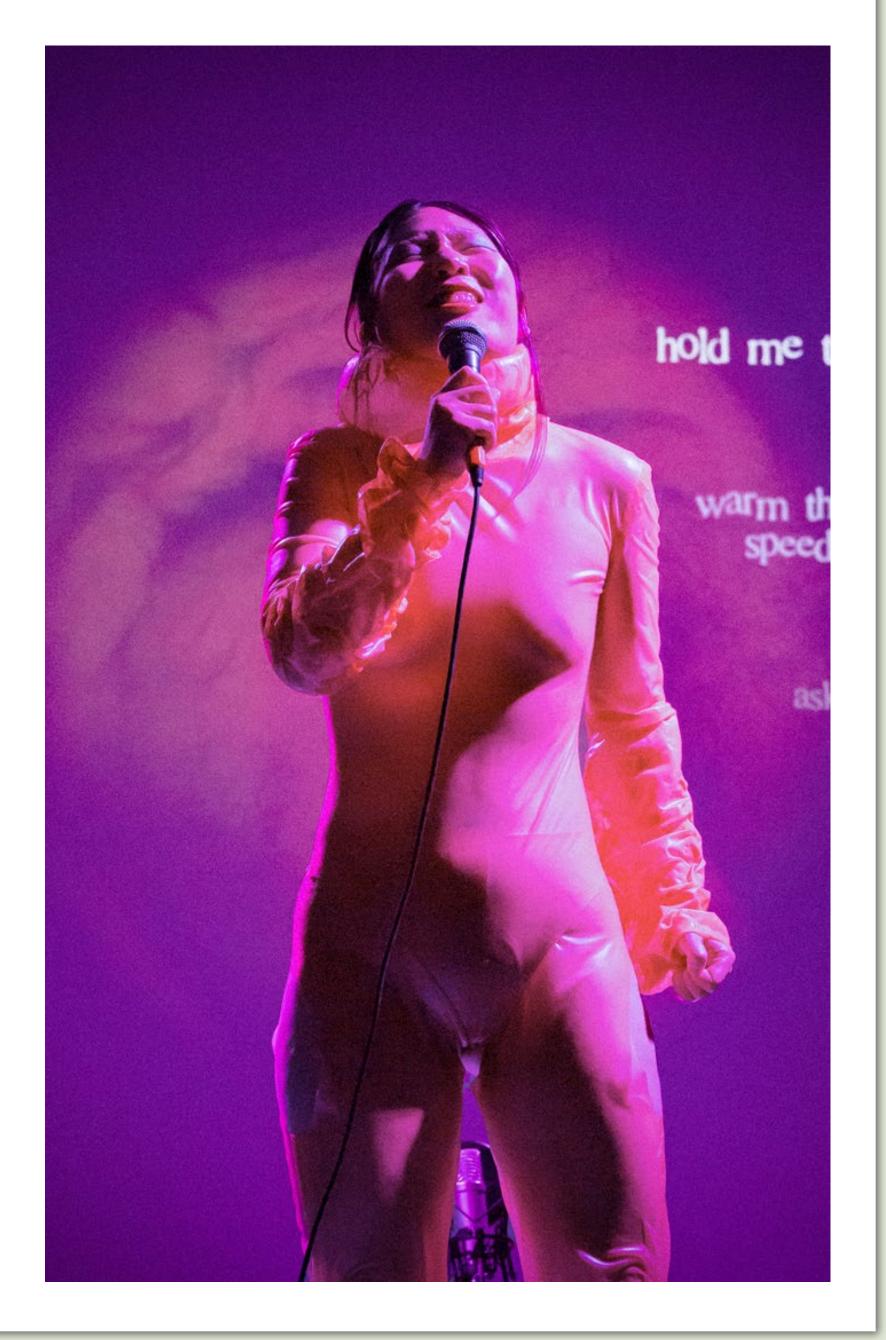
A performance piece and an audio-visual installation that treats compost as a sonic environment and amplifies the intimate relationship between the visceral and the underground.

external link: Lewd Banquet She chews, crunches, slurps, screams, sings, whispers, and moans...Through an erotic, sensual, and visceral listening experience of compost plated on a banquet table, Kexin unfolds intimate relationships and proximities between our bodies and the discarded residues of what we eat.

Borrowing from ASMR mukbang—a genre of online eating show in which a host consumes food and amplifies the sounds of eating and drinking to trigger a viewer's autonomous sensory meridian response—Kexin immerses visitors in a four-course meal and guides them into a world where guts morph into worms and tongues fondle soil. Titled Lewd Banquet, here the human digestive system, culinary routines, and sexual rituals intermingle with decomposing processes and compost organisms.

The aural feast is accompanied by a toast: "Canon of Filth," where haunting waves of melodies imitate, follow, and delay one another. As staggered voices harmonize over one another, the canon begins to resemble layers of compost and the synchronization between our intestinal and the extrinsic realms. Touring in rounds of dissonance, it celebrates the unwholesome and brings us ever closer to the dead, the rotten, and the underground, where we make life, where we make love.

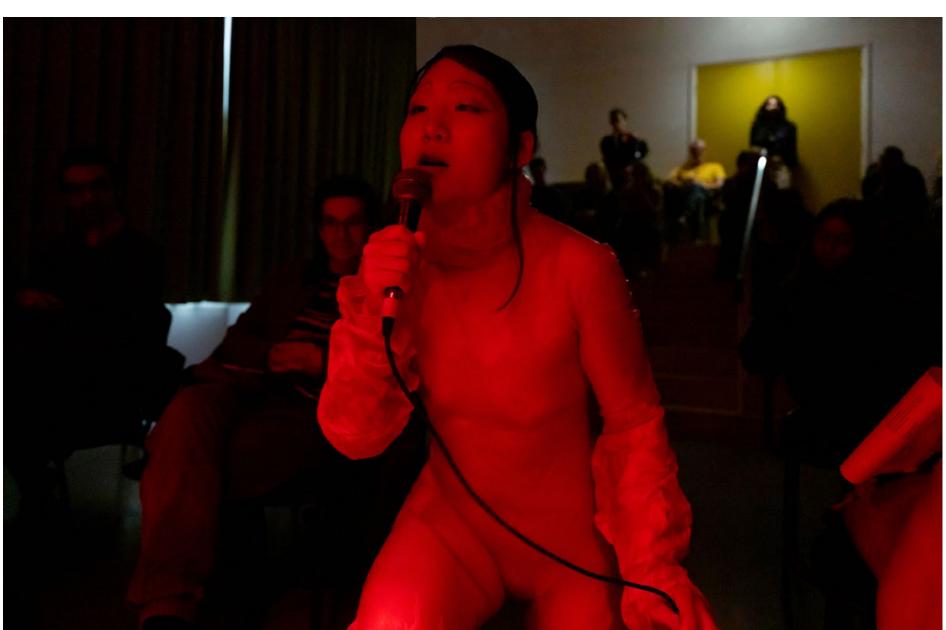
----- CREDITS ------Jan van Eyck Academie supported by: costume: Bastian Fisch music produced by: RADVLAD sound design in space: Matteo Marangoni ----- PRESS -----Metropolis M ----- Jan Van Eyck Open Studios 2024 ----- PRESENTATIONS -----Wasteland: Out of Signt, 2025 [NL] Het Nieuwe Institute, Rotterdam 2025 Rites of Play, Mediamatic Amsterdam JvE Open Studios 2024, Maastricht [NL] 2024







← Lewd Banquet in exhibition at JVE
 Open Studios 2024:
 6-channel audio-visual installation





→ performance at JVE Open Studios 2024



# Liminal Wild: live

5053

performance × music × image research

Once being the villainised and stigmatised animal, it has now become a rap star and spokesman of our ecological and political emergencies.

external links: <u>Liminal Wild: live</u> The research focuses on bats (in the coronavirus crisis) and sparrows (in the "eradicate 4 pests" hygiene campaign in China's Great Leap Forward) as carriers of symbolism and materials for personification in relation to political narratives in national health agenda, and how it reflects our understanding of ecology and immunity. The outcome is a performance combining music, spoken words, singing (rap) and movements encrypting the research outcomes and using human bodies as sites for metaphors to reenact the bodies of bats. Once a villainized creature, this bat has become a role model, a pop star, and a spokesman of our ecological and political emergencies.

In the post-Covidian times when we have moved on from the pandemic, we should still think about the conflicts the pandemic had directed us to and left us in: conflicts between nation state and people; between countries; and between ideologies. Certain narratives are created to serve people's need for an enemy. In this work, through embodying bats and sparrows, I found a good entry to the political engagement as an artist and researcher. These species provide materials to understand the causes, potentials, dangers, and damages of the hero-villain narratives. And they are the new materials which host resistance of a divided society and the lurking autocracy. The body of the bat, the place embedding so much about liminality, is where we find resolutions to the increasingly polarised world.

----- CREDITS -----

supported by: CBK Rotterdam 0&0 Grant

costume: DRAGA DINA

wings: Gökay Atabek (Volksamt!)

track: QB

riso printing: PrintRoom Rotterdam

----- PRESS -----

2024 <u>NEGOTIATING VALUES, NEURAL 73</u>

Heroes and Villains: Performance Art

And Social Stigma, Post Design Tangle

#### ----- SELECTED PRESENTATIONS -----

2023 [NL] UNFAIR, Amsterdam

2023 [NL] KOORTSDROOM/Feverdream

Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem

2023 [NL] Samodiva, Poing Rotterdam

2023 [NL] Clubhuis#WITCHESWANTED

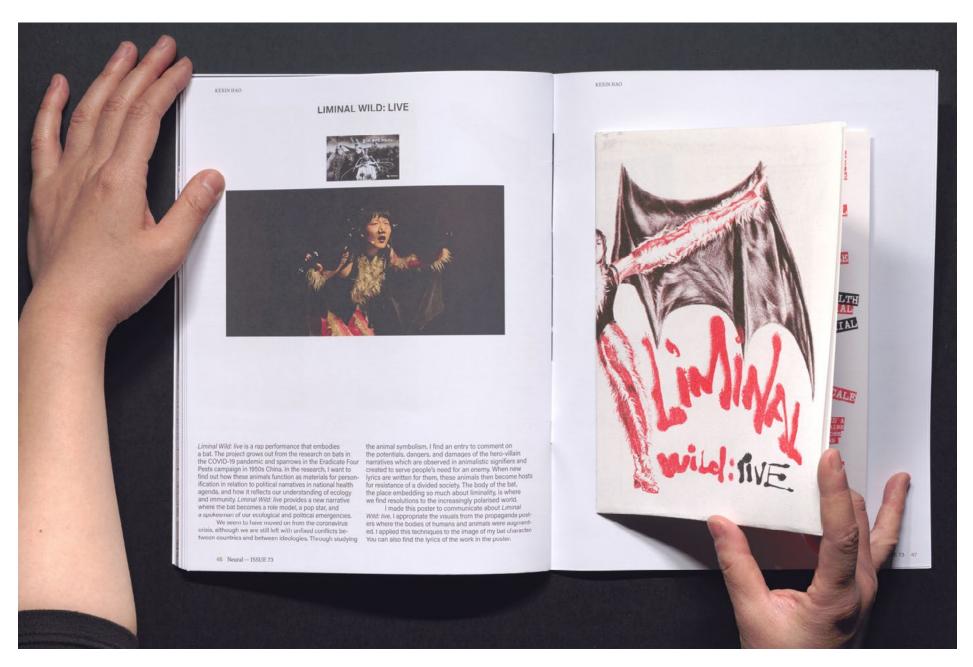
Het Huis Utrecht

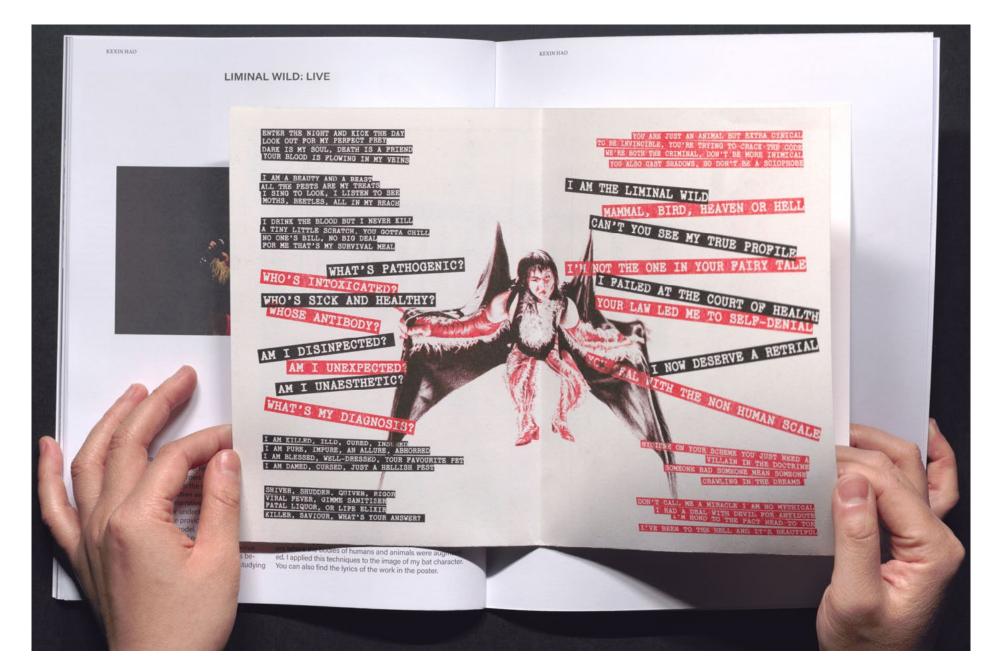
2023 [DE] Lost Weekend Meets Young Art, Munich

2023 [NL] Evidence in Motion #5: Empty Orchestra,

iii, The Hague







← riso print in NEURAL Magazine



→ performance at #WITCHWANTED, Het Huis Utrehct





# Forceful Catering

2022~2023

performance × trans-disciplinary × multi-sensory × catering × eletronic music × live singing

The tradition of pounding sticky rice becomes an experimental percussion instrument combined with techno music. The performance brings out a catering service and a clubbing experience.

external links: <u>Forceful Catering</u> "Forceful Catering" is a choreographic and musical performance growing out from the East/Southeast Asian tradition of preparing sticky rice cakes (mochi). The rice pounding utensils become experimental percussion instruments to produce bass beats to the electronic music; the pounding movements develop along the increasing viscosity of the rice.

Inspired by the traditional Chinese folklores and rice pounding work songs, this project tries to expand the rice pounding song to contain new narratives reflecting our current urgencies: can a woman's body become, contrary to a recipient, a giver of forces and penetration? What if fierce acts don't direct to violence and harm, but a process leading to nourishment and care? How does the transformation of rice translate the cycle and entanglement of birth and death, fertility and decay?

The performance brings out a clubbing experience and a catering service to the audience. "Forceful Catering" thrives on feeding the ones who treasure beats and intimacy.

## ----- CREDITS -----

The work was titled "Pound it!" and was developed during Summer Session residency 2022, supported by V2\_Lab for the Unstable Media. For this version, I collaborated with Rachwill Breidel on the music and Tingyi Jiang on the performance.

"Forceful Catering" is evolved from "Pound it!" and is a project develoed during WORM x Amarte residency 2023. For this version, I collaborated with 10\_r3n on the music and Marie Komatsu on the wood installation.

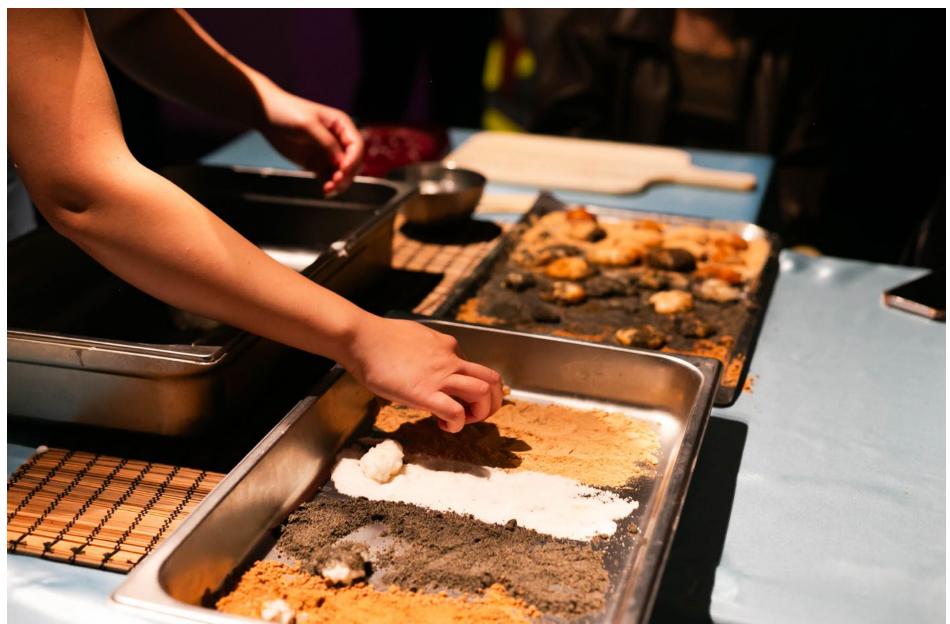
PRESS			
Interview Kexin Hao: Forceful Catering, WORM x Amarte Residency			
PRESENTATIONS			
2024 [NL]	Come as you are! FREE CLUB NIGHT WORM Rotterdam		
2024 [AUS]	Ars Electronica, POSTCITY Linz		
2024 [DK]	O-Days Festival, Copenhagen		
2024 [NL]	Synergy Festival, Amsterdam		
2024 [NL]	Amarte Wonderland,		
	Theater De Krakeling, Amsterdam		
2024 [NL]	On Point of Climax, iii, The Hague		
2024 [NL]	The Women Gather,		
	Het Nieuwe Institute, Rotterdam		
5053 [NT]	FeverTraumburg, Poing Rotterdam		
5053 [NT]	AFFECT, WORM, Rotterdam		
5053 [NT]	FIBER Festival, Amsterdam		
5055 [NT]	Test_Lab: Summer Session, V2_, Rotterdam		
5055 [DE]	Traumburg Festival, Gommern		







← performance and food serving at iii, On Point of Climax





→ foor serving at WORM, performance at Traumburg Festival



# Future Dance of Nostalgia

5055

interactive media × game art × participatory performance × choreography

An interactive dancing game and public performance that activates our moving bodies as alternative archives of the age of pre-industrial hard labor.

external link:
<u>Future Dance of Nostalgia</u>

What kind of movements were once embedded in our collective body at work? how do we preserve the body movements and restore our moving bodies as the living archives?

Taking the form of classic video dancing games, Future Dance of Nostalgia invites audience to perform the choreography that extracts the movements found in the pre-industrial manual labour. Motion tracking technology allows the body movements to be measured and evaluated. Historical archives of work songs provide the inspiration for the music that renders the old tales and melodies into clubbing beats that lead the dance.

Through ethnographic research into work songs and the moving body, the project draws much needed attention to alternative historical archives of our times. The gaming technology, visual, and music, bring people closer to the past through a tangible and modern experience. The work also brings fun and togetherness to audience through public participatory dance sessions and interactive gameplay.

## ----- CREDITS -----

Game development: Leonardo Scarin

Kexin Hao × Ludmila Rodrigues Choreography:

Rachwill Breidel Music production: Sound mixing: Dima Ibrahim Pedro Gossler Videography, 3D:

## -----SUPPORTED BY -----

Creative Industries Fund NL Creative Europe Stroom Den Haag Rewire Festival 2022 Production Residency at iii

-----PRESS ------

Gonzo Circus REWIRE 2022 IN TIEN

HOOGTEPUNTEN

Neural Magazine Future Dance of Nostalgia, preserving

history through dance

#### ----- SELECTED PRESENTATIONS -----

2024 [NL] Museum Night, Tetem Enschede

2024 [DE] A MAZE. / Berlin

5053 [NT] MOONSHOT: Digital Culture, Het Nieuwe Instituut, Rotterdam

5053 [NT] Boring Festival, Haarlem

2022 [HR] Student International Film Festival: All Game No Play, Rijeka

5055 [NT] Stimuleringsfonds 10 year anniversary

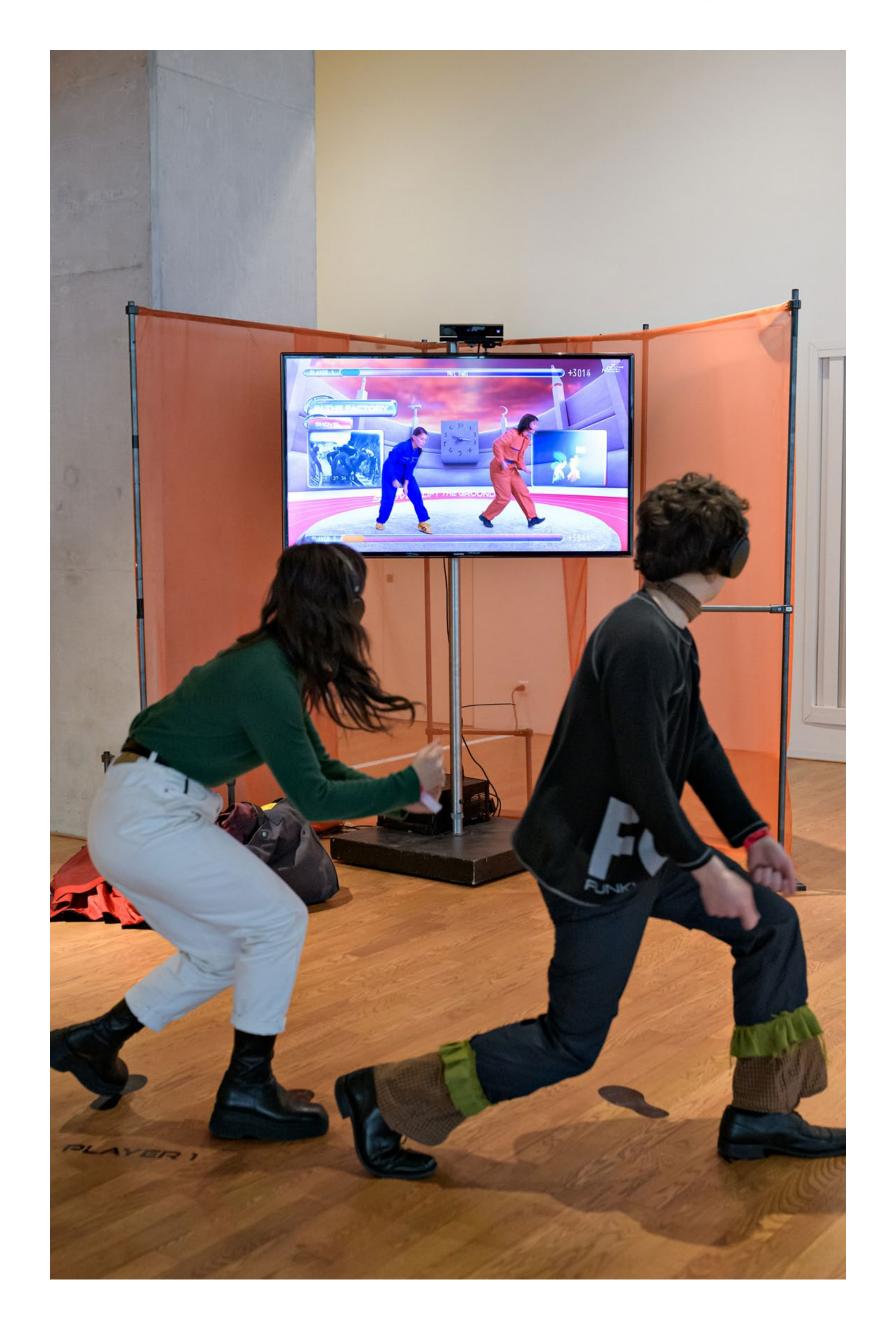
2022 [ES] L.E.V Festival, MATADERO Madrid

Never Ready: A Congress on the Visuality of 5055 [DE] the Internet, HFBK Hamburg

TecArt, Rotterdam 5055 [NT]

Rewire Festival, Proximity Music: Sensing 5055 [NT]

After Thought, Amare The Hague







All Game No Play, STIFF festival, Rijeka



Transcending Labor to Dance, workshop at iii



Never Ready, Congress at HFBK Hamburg



SCI 10 years anniversary party



Boring Festival, Haarlem



LEV Festival, MATADERO Madrid



# Total Body Workout

2021

participatory performance × digital media × public art × fitness × body politics × collective body memory

A workout routine that reconfigures the history of body politics in a head-to-toe sequence, and brings the past to the present by a modern, collective, and bodily experience.

external link: Total Body Workout

T)TAL B(JDY W(JRKOUT

Total Body Workout leads you through a 'total body' experience in which history unfolds not in chronological order but in a head-to-toe sequence.

How is our body scripted and shaped by the times it lives in? How are national agendas and political ideologies woven into bodily semiotics? How does one's body memory become an integral part of hegemonic historical narratives? And how do we inhabit a historical and totalised body?

Based on nationwide physical exercise routines and mass gymnastic performances in Asia, the Eastern Bloc and the United States, Total Body Workout proposes a recomposition of the existing corporal movements and a reconfiguration of the past in the present. Here and now, we work out the total body.

## ----- CREDITS -----

Photography: Helena Roig Pedro Gossler Cinematography: Dima Ibrahim Music: Mijs Goosen Make up:

Leon Lapa Pereira Fitness supervisor:

Performers: Leon Lapa Pereira × Ella Wang

> Olsson × Tom Šebestík × Tingyi Jiang × Pelle Schilling

Ruben Pater × Thomas Buxo Tutors:

----- PRESS ------

Dutch Designer Yearbook 2021 SPREAD MAG issue 5: Movement Body Sessions, ArtEZ Studium Generale

### ----- AWARDS ------

2021.7 Department Award | Graphic Design, Royal Academy of Art 2021.7 Nomination | iii Research Residency Award 2021.9 Young Blood Award | GOGBOT Festival 2021.10 Gold Award, Multidisciplinary Design, Young Blood Award | Lu Junyi Design Live

	SELECTED PRESENTATIONS
2025 [NL]	Books Are Bridges, PrintRoom, Rotterdam
2025 [NL]	Opening Art Island, Forteiland Ijmuiden
2024 [NL]	Spread Zine Fest, Groningen
2024 [NL]	LowLands Festival, Biddinghuizen
5053 [NT]	Embassy of Inclusive Society, DDW 2023,
	Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven
2023 [NL]	Synergy Festival, Flevopark Amsterdam
2023 [DK]	Post Design Tangle: Community, Coppenhagen
2023 [NL]	Dakota By Night, Nieuw Dakota, Amsterdam
5053 [NT]	Wobby Club Night, Wobby Club, Tilburg
2022 [NL]	Turning Towards Fluidity: A Tournament of
	the Unknown, W139, Amsterdam
2022 [NL]	DESIGN BOND China Calling,
	Conference at DDW, Eindhoven
5055 [NT]	Body Matters, CHAXART Amsterdam
5055 [DE]	Sinema Transtopia, bi'bak, Berlin

2 Body Practice, W139, Amsterdam

Film Festival, Rijeka

GOGBOT Festival, Enschede

5055 [NT]

5055 [CN]

2021 [HR]

2021 [NL]



NOW AND THEN, WE WORK OUT THE TOTAL BODY!



Total Body Workout, exhibition at KABK graduation show 2021





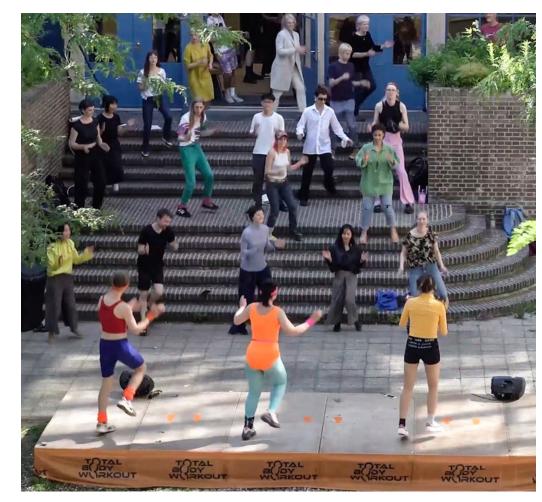




Body Matters at Vondelpark, Amsterdam



GOGBOT Festival, Enschede



KABK Graduation Show 2021, The Hague



PIP Expo, The Hague



Lowlands Festival, Biddunghuizen



Venice Biennale



W139, Amsterdam



← meeting the alderman Saskia Bruines and gifting her the first drawing.

# Stadstekenaar 2025

#### Haagse Stadstekenaar 2025

Since 2023, The Hague has appointed a Stadstekenaar—a City Illustrator—who observes everyday life in the city and captures its stories through drawings. This initiative is a collaboration between gemeente, Bibliotheek Den Haag, het Haags Gemeentearchief and Nest.

#### Local Animals as Narrators

In this role, I portray urban life and themes such as coexistence between human and non-human residents through the eyes of local animals. A lot of storytelling in my drawings are also inspired by artefacts found in the Gemeentearchief.

## Engaging Through Workshops

Throughout the year, workshops invite young people to create hand puppets and mascots that imaginatively reflect city life, with themes ranging from human and animal residents to food, nature, the sea, and history.

### Exhibitions & Visibility

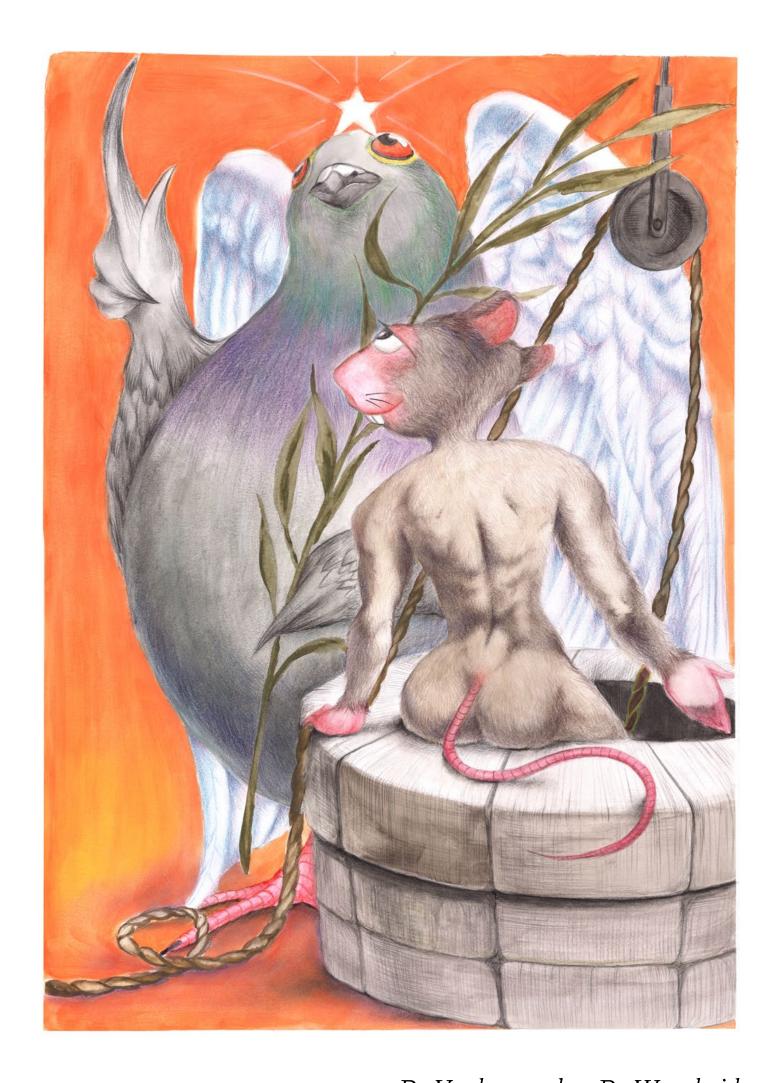
Each month, one drawing appears in the newspaper Den Haag Centraal. The works are also displayed at Nest, in public libraries across the city, and in the gallery at the Gemeentearchief. Ultimately, the full series is archived permanently for public access.



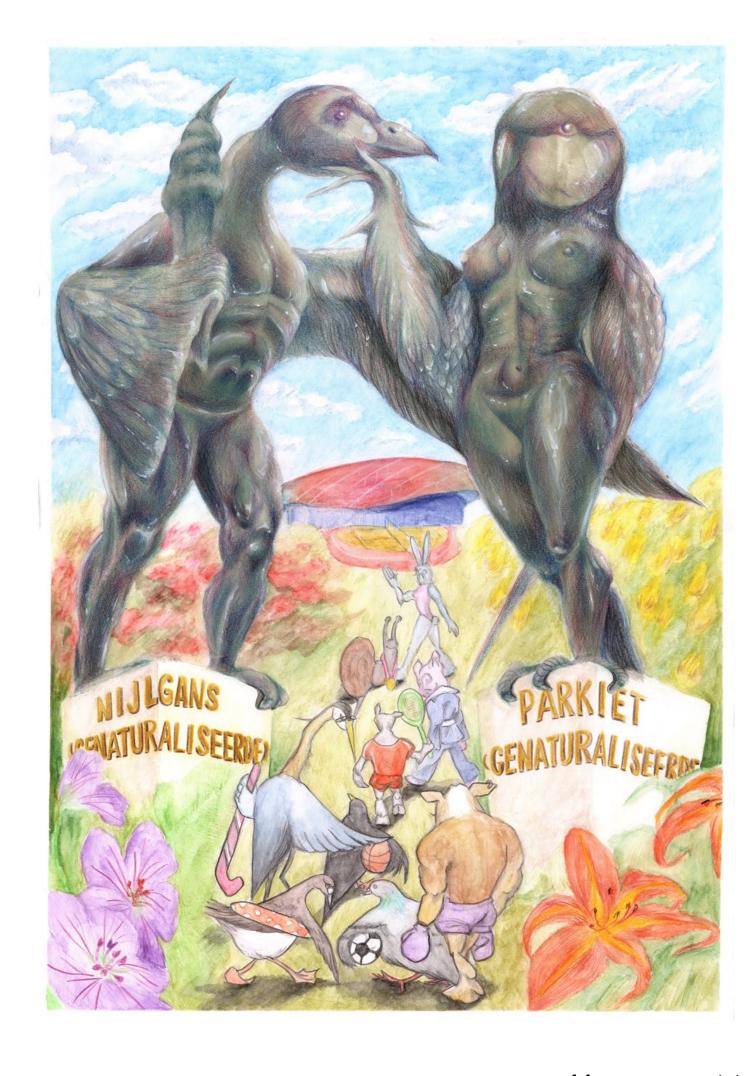




Op Onze Coalitie! 2025.3



De Vredesengel en De Waarheid 2025.4





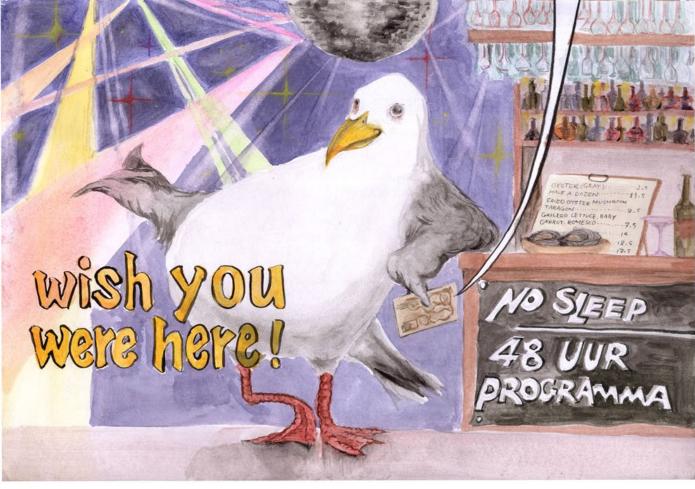


Beelden In Transitie 2025.6

The Morphing Hands 2025.5

Democratie: binnenstebuiten 2025.7



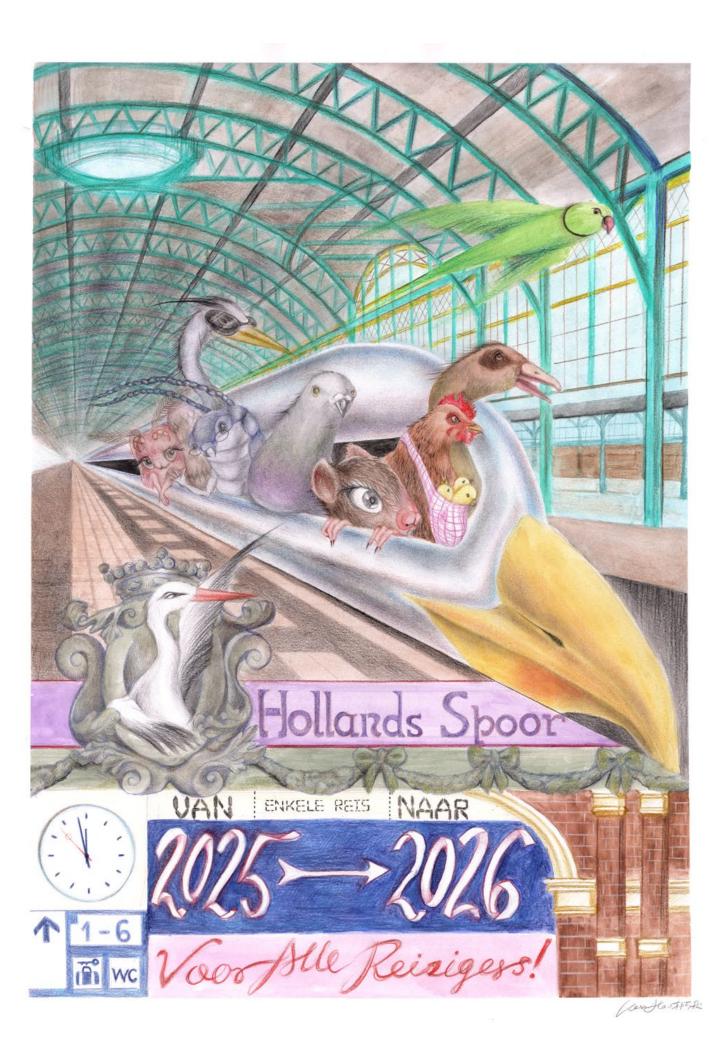


Wish You Were Here

2025.8



Theme Song of Binckhorst 2025.10



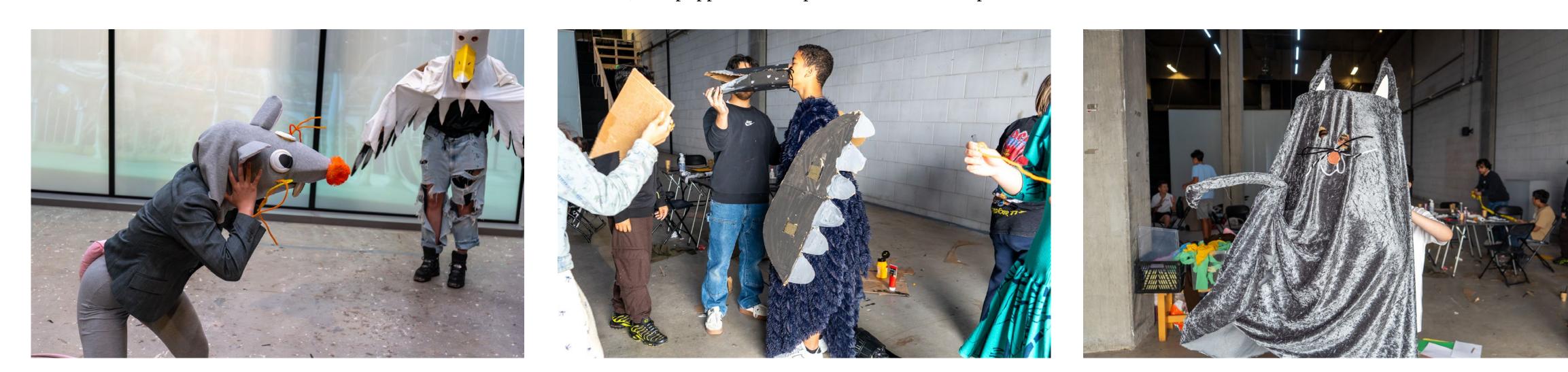
Voor Alle Reizigers! 2025.12







↑ sock puppet workshop ↓ mascot workshop







# A House of Our Own

2023 water colour, colour pencil

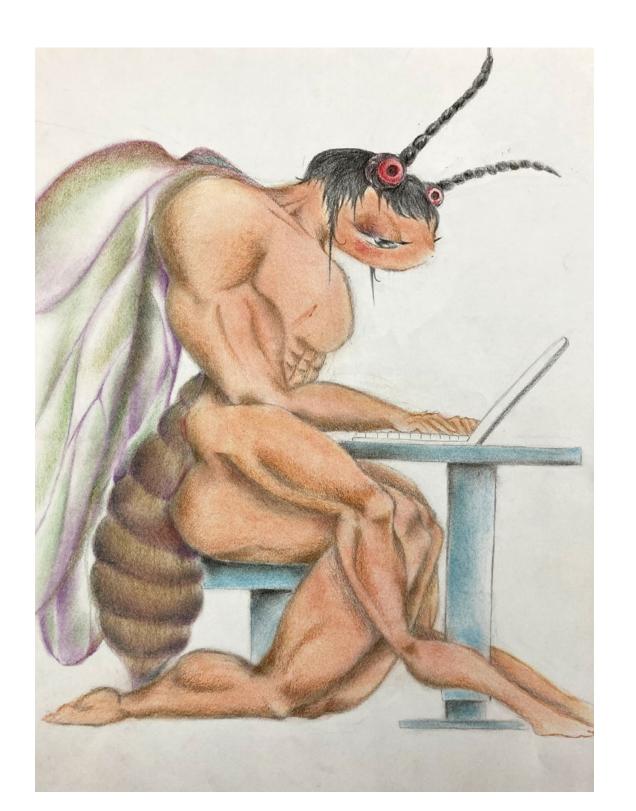


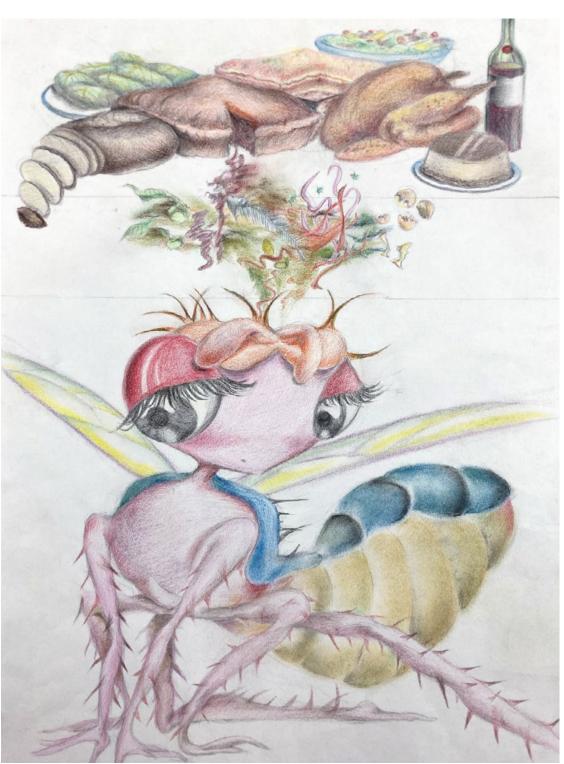
# Diary of Compost Creatures

2024 colour pencil, colour charcol











# Design Commissions

I obtained the defree in B.A Graphic Design from Royal Academy of Art and graduated with distinction and department award. I have been conducting visual identity design, website design & development, publication design for various clients, which include visual art organisations, artist initiatives, art academies, cultural spaces and individual artists.

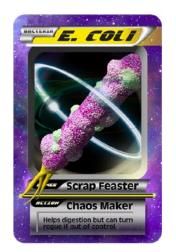
### Selected clients and commisions

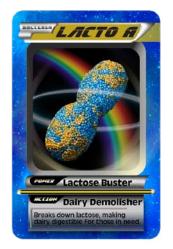
[campaign]	iii (instrument inventors initiative)
[campaign]	Stroom Den Haag
[publication]	Benjamin Li
[campaign]	KABK
[publication]	beuysbois collective
[campaign]	Alternative Art Guide
[campaign]	Photography Department KABK
[package]	Benjamin Li
[website]	Hgtomi Rosa
[publication]	Isabel Wang Pontoppidan
[campaign]	Spectrum.space
[publication]	Musuem2050
[campaign]	Simon Wald-Lasowski & W139
	[campaign] [publication] [campaign] [publication] [campaign] [campaign] [package] [website] [publication] [campaign]

Spill Your Guts
Not Rocket Science
Chinees-indisch Restaurant Stickeralbum,
Graduation Show 2023 and Open Day Campaign Design
BRAIDS Journal
Back To Normal, group exhibition
Cockroach Collective
Nr.39 met Rijst
Hgtomi Rosa
FAKE CHINA 假中国
MOVE! A Distant Memory

It is very difficult to be an island of perfection in a sea of misery, but please do not doubt our sincerity

Symposium 2019 + 2020

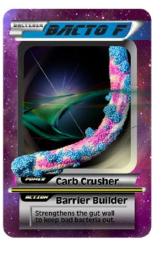




























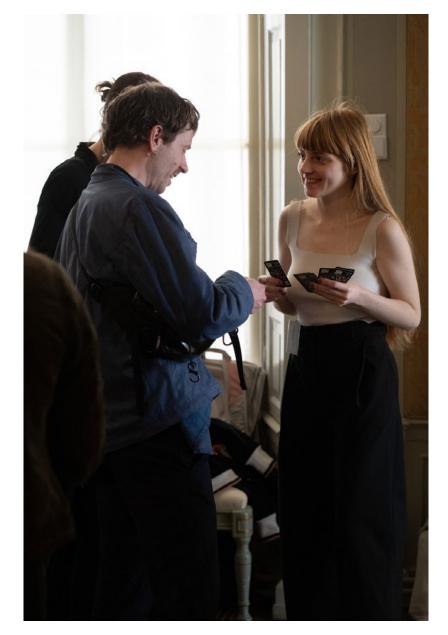














Spill Your Guts is a performative card game developed for the networking event of Proximity Music. It was designed to encourage interaction among creative professionals through a playful system of card exchange.

### Gameplay Mechanics:

Each participant starts with 7 identical gut microbe cards, representing a uniform microbiome. When two participants interact, they exchange one card each. With each swap, their microbiomes become more diverse.

The goal is to collect 7 different cards. Once achieved, the participant can claim a special drink at the bar—a symbolic "detox" marking the completion of the exchange cycle.

Before trading, participants are prompted to "spill their guts" by sharing something personal, professional, or simply conversational. This verbal exchange is considered part of the card-trading ritual.

#### The Drink:

The drink awarded at the bar is nonalcoholic and made with tapioca pearls, pandan leaves, and butterfly pea flowers. It features a thick texture and layered colours, creating a visual and sensory contrast that is both unusual and appealing simultaneously repelling and attractive.

Not Rocket Science invites contributors who use their practice to complicate, reimagine, or reflect on the scientific method. The event is connected to Agustina Woodgate's exhibition More Heat than Light, which uses the principles of quantum communication to build a communications system based on temperature. Not Rocket Science expands this focus, presenting imaginations of what the sciences are after quantum mechanics. This programme is part of Entangled Codes, Stroom's exploration of the body as a medium for technology, with particular attention to accessibility in the digital world.

Besides the graphic identity for the event, I also brought out a game for the audience:

### Schrödinger's Scratch Cats

The thought experiment Schrödinger's cat posits that 'before opening the box, the cat is dead and alive at the same time'. My scratch card game intervention Schrödinger's Scratch Cats invokes excitement for the unknown, the uncertain states, the anticipation of a reveal, and the belief in luck as in the interpretation and application of quantum physics. Upon entry, every visitor will receive a scratch cat. Like an unseen observer, Entangled Quties will guide visitors to scratch a single box before each contribution. By the end, 2 lucky winners get a €30 allocation to spend in the Stroom book shop.

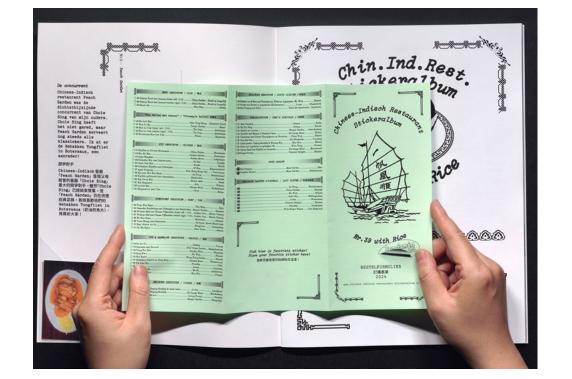




















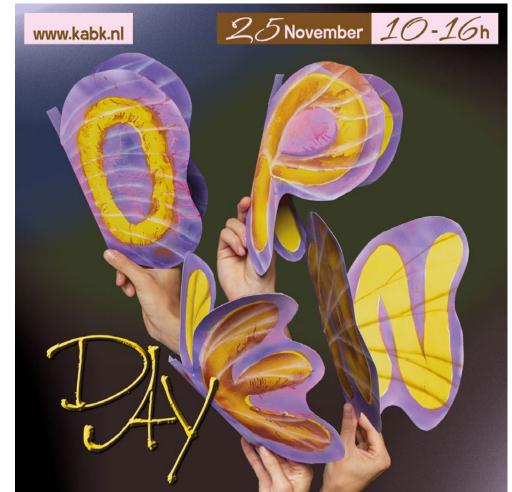


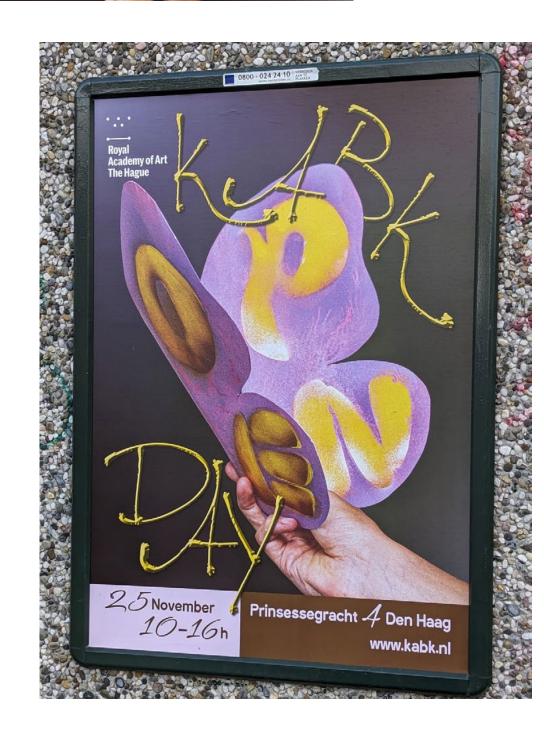














Everyday, when I look in the mirror I don't recognize

Not only am I a stranger to you, I am a stranger to myself — only through your strange(r) strangeness can I find the edge of myself and look into the shadow to realise my desire. Can you help me look across that edge?

I open my mouth and words come out but still, I don't recognize myself.

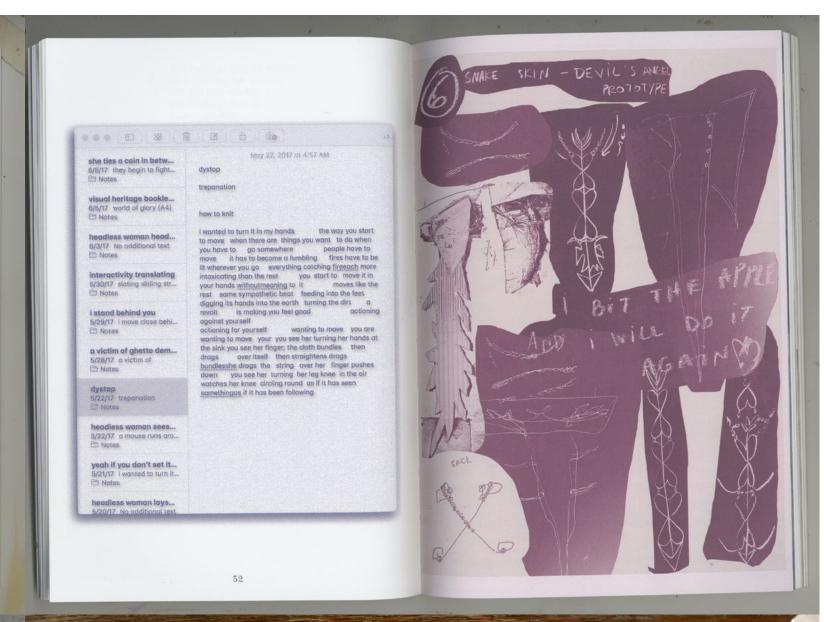
> As long as I can remember, I've been fascinated by the idea of identity. The simple principle that a body with a face and a context is someone. It would give me immense pleasure to think of myself as a writer, as a loner, as a best friend to someone I admire. In my fascination I would

perform behaviours I thought were appropriate for a given identity. I would observe those who are professional (through the eyes of a child meaning a ballet teacher, a parent, an elegant saleswoman, a tram driver) and feel what it would be like to be this precise identity: be this

potential version of myself, or myself in this version. But it wasn't acting. In the moment of being that 'someone', I was that someone. You wear the mask, you are the thing. \(^1\) I would perform behaviours I thought would satisfy others: 'the good student'; 'the substitute mother'; 'the girl.' I'd

adjust myself to please others in order to be rewarded; the behaviour became my safe space. And I didn't attract as much attention as those who stuck outside of the limit and caused friction. I thought: "people who cause friction suffer the consequences."

> I was convinced that at some point in life, I would find my real identity; I would discover a version of myself that fits, that knows what to do, that belongs. I was waiting for a 'click' that would turn my life into a rhythmic climb; I was waiting for a moment all the bending would seize and I would become a straight line. I thought that only then, could I become aligned.





It is categories in the mind and guns in their hands which keep us enslaved. Those who have power — the men decide which divisions they find expedient. They decide, for whatever reasons, who is not them and so who is to be hated. Those without cocks, those who are hungry involuntarily, those who refuse to work assiduously, those who want to play always, those who do not believe in male worship, those born with color, those who love their own kind, those who follow the wisdom of the great mother, these are the ones the men have decided to hate." 3

When we gossip we share vital information. Even though the word 'gossip' currently has a negative and derogatory connotation, in the Middle Ages the word carried a similar meaning to the word 'friend'; to be precise, it was originally the word for the friendship of women. In Witches, Witch-hunting, And Women, Silvia Federici argues that establishing capitalist society required the

destruction of communal relationships which were largely mediated by women.4 Consequently, the witch-hunt could be seen as a war against women in order to destroy their social life, demonize them and illegitimatize their social power. Therefore, "Gossip, like the witch, was persecuted as if she were an outlaw, instead of at the heart of her community. Her superpower is hanging out - giving, sharing, spending and wasting time together: she provides material for this activity. She brings news, warnings and information. Worlds appear from her big

Consequently, to gossip is to share and produce knowledge. "Labeling all this production of knowledge 'gossip' is part of the degradation of women — it is a continuation of the demonologists' construction of the stereotypical woman as prone to malignity, envious of other people's wealth and power, and ready to lend an ar to the Devil. It is in this way that women have been silenced and to this day excluded from many places where decisions are taken, deprived of the possibility of defining 6. Federici, S. (2018). Witches, Witch-hunting, And Women. Pm Press. misogynous or idealized portraits of them" <sup>6</sup> Therefore their own experience, and forced to cope with men's

I say; let us lend our ear to the devil. Let us gossip. Let us be a force of malignity. Let us not only be envious of other people's wealth and power, but let us take back the wealth and power we deserve.

> To gossip within the context of the Queer Braiding Circle is to take back agency over the derogatory connotation of gossiping. To do so, opening our big mouths, whispering and gossiping suggests to disturb the order in which our mouths were shut silent. While using the discourse of disorientation and becoming oblique, we gossip as

a method to bring news, warnings, and information in order to lend our ear to the devil and rebel against the given. When we are gossiping we prepare our disorientation like an altar. We dissent from a world that

has continually been seeking to delegitimize and discard us. In this moment we become a living, fighting and loving memorial for all the witches and queers who came before us. Therefore gossiping, sharing and caring is grief work, melancholy work and anti-violence work. It is a work of virtue. It is a method to right historical wrongs and wrong contemporary righteousness. It is a way to regain knowledge, share and produce knowledge and knowledgeably share the production of our deviance. "The queer 7 body is not alone; queer does not reside in a body or an object, and is dependent on the mutuality of support."8 To disturb all orders in which our lives are orientated towards I believe we are dependent on each other. I suggest that in fact, we are not alone. We have never been alone. But only if we come together we can

queer ourselves towards a future in which we all inhabit space, are recognized and live a life worth living.

Through gathering with our comrades, gossiping with each other, sharing food and wine with each other, and caring for each other's hair; we create a kinship so strong no one can deny us. The value of kinship within this practice is vital. Kinship is defined by the undeniably strong connection of a community. They are so close, one could say they were family.

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