

Curriculum Vitae

Vivian Xu

Assistant Professor of Media and Art

Major Coordinator, Computation & Design (Digital Media Track)

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Personal Statement

Vivian Xu is a Beijing-born media artist, designer, researcher, and educator. Her work traverses the boundaries between bio and electronic media in exploring new forms of machine systems, speculative artifacts and sensory perceptions often taking the form of objects, machines, installations, and wearable. Her work has been presented at various institutions in China, the US, Europe and Australia, including the National Art Museum of China (Beijing), the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra (Shanghai), Between Art Lab (Shanghai), Shenzhen Media Art Festival (Shenzhen), China Design Museum (Hangzhou), Power Station of Art (Shanghai), NTU Center for Contemporary Art (Singapore), the New York Science Museum (New York), SymbioticA at the University of Western Australia (Perth), the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin), Art Laboratory Berlin (Berlin), and Humboldt University (Berlin). Most recently, she has begun investigations into data, networks, virtual space, and games.

She is an Assistant Professor of Media and Art and the Major Coordinator of the Computation and Design major Digital Media track at Duke Kunshan University. She has lectured and held research positions at various institutions including Parsons New School for Design, New York University Shanghai, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Vivian co-founded Shanghai-based trans-disciplinary design lab Dogma Lab with artist, designer, musician, and Professor Benjamin Bacon. She received her MFA in Design + Technology from Parsons The New School for Design in New York.

Education

- 2011 – 2013 **Master of Fine Arts**, Design + Technology
Parsons School for Design (The New School), New York
- 2005 – 2009 **Bachelor of Art**, Digital Animation and Film
Communication University of China, Beijing

Academic and Research Experience

- 2022 – present **Member**
XResearch Cluster
Duke Kunshan University / V2_Lab for the Unstable Media
Kunshan, China / Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2021 – 2023 **Major Coordinator**
Computation and Design Major: Digital Media Track
Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan
- 2020 – present **Co-Founder / Co-Director**
With Prof. Benjamin Bacon
Design, Technology, and Radical Media Labs (DTRM)
Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan
- 2020 – present **Assistant Professor of Media and Arts**
Media and Art, Division of Arts and Humanities
Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan
- 2018 – 2019 **Adjunct Faculty**
Roy Ascott Technoetic Arts Studio, Shanghai
- 2015 – 2017 **Faculty**
Shanghai Tech University, Shanghai
- 2016 **Adjunct Faculty**
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen
- 2015 – present **Co-Founder**
With Prof. Benjamin Bacon

Dogma Lab (www.dogma.org)

- 2013 – 2015 **Research Fellow**
Interactive Media Arts
New York University, Shanghai
- 2012 – 2013 **Member**
Genspace Biohacking Space, New York
- 2012 **Teaching Fellow**
Code Track, Design + Technology Summer Bootcamp
Parsons the New School for Design, New York

Solo Exhibitions and Collected Work

- 2021 **Silkworm Project**, Spun Artifact, collected by the Max Planck Institute
for the History of Science, Berlin
- 2019 **The Silkworm Project**, solo exhibition, Kapelica Gallery, Ljubljana
- 2019 **The Silkworm Project**, solo exhibition, Art Laboratory Berlin, Berlin
- 2018 **Sonic Skin**, collected by UNArt Center, Shanghai
- 2013 **Fantastical Machines**, Between Art Lab, Shanghai

Selected Group Exhibitions and Performances

- 2022 **Have We Met?**, The 9th Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism / Architecture,
Shenzhen (*forthcoming*)
- 2021 **World Design City Conference Theme Exhibition**, Tongji University
Curatorial Lab (*canceled due to Covid*)
- 2021 **Under the Viral Shadow: Networks in the Age of Technoscience and
Infection**, Art Laboratory Berlin, Berlin
- 2021 **Fiber Code**, China Design Museum, Hangzhou
- 2021 **Blue-Cables Vercel** (virtual show), Power Station of Art, Shanghai
<https://blue-cables.vercel.app>
- 2020 **The Final Prophet**, Shenzhen STArts (Science, Technology, Art)
Festival, Shenzhen
- 2020 **Spectrum Artium Festival**, Slovenia
- 2019 **Fiber Arts Festival**, Jinjiu Museum, Hangzhou
- 2019 **The Kind Stranger**, UNArt Center Inaugural Exhibition, Shanghai

2019	Quasi-Nature , Hyundai Motor Studios, 789 Art District, Beijing
2018	Radiation: Age of Machine , W Residency conclusive exhibition, Shanghai
2018	Trees of Life: Workshop - Shopwork, Knowledge in Material Part I , NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore
2018	AI networked performance with Shanghai Philharmonic, Flowers Concert , Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai. Collaboration with artist Benjamin Bacon and musician B6.
2018	Out of Control , Songjiang Art Museum, Shanghai
2017	Loom , Jinjiu Museum, Suzhou
2016	New Media Art Festival , Shenzhen
2016	Brew & Blend Festival , M50 Art District, Shanghai
2016	Praising Science and Prizing Art , Fudan University Medical Library, Shanghai
2015	Future Exhibition: Observer/Creator , CAFA Museum, Beijing
2014	BYOB , 1933, Shanghai
2014	KICK! , Gallery Ho, New York
2014	Hyper-Seeing , Project Space, CAFA Museum, Beijing
2013	Beijing Design Week , Dashilar, Beijing
2012	ReGeneration , New York Hall of Science, New York
2011	Weather Tunnel , Translife: International Triennial of New Media Art, National Art Museum of China, Beijing

Residencies and Grants

2022	FSTA Grant Production of <i>Treatise – A Sericulture Toolkit for the 21st Century</i> Duke Kunshan University
2022	Summer Research Scholar Grant <i>Experiments in Mycelium Cultivation for Design</i> Undergraduate Studies, Duke Kunshan University
2021-2022	Data+X Grant Research and production of <i>Antarctica: Palmer Station</i> (data driven game) Data Science Research Center, Duke Kunshan University PIs: Benjamin Bacon, Vivian Xu
2021-2022	Carry the Innovation Forward Grant

Duke Learning Innovation
Duke University / Duke Kunshan University
PIs: Benjamin Bacon, Vivian Xu

- 2020 **Artwork Production Grant**
Production for *Horologic Solum*
Shenzhen Science, Technology and Art Festival
PIs: Benjamin Bacon, Vivian Xu
- 2021 **Artist-in-Residence**
Points Center for Contemporary Art, Kunshan
PIs: Benjamin Bacon, Vivian Xu
(*Canceled due to Covid*)
- 2019 **Artist-in-Residence**
Research for *Treatise – A Sericulture Toolkit for the 21st Century*
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
- 2018 **W Residency**
Production of *Sonic Skin*
UNArt Center, Xinchang, Shanghai
- 2018 **Artist-in-Residence**
SymbioticA, University of Western Australia, Perth
- 2017 **Public Artwork Commission**
Xintiandi, Shanghai
PIs: Benjamin Bacon, Vivian Xu

Selected Publications

- 2022 Artwork *The Silkworm Project* included in curatorial publication
Climates. Habitats. Environments., ed. By Ute Meta Bauer, NTU Center
for Contemporary Art Singapore, MIT Press.
- 2021 Xu, Vivian. “[Radically Rethinking Sericulture.](#)” In [On Media, on
Technology, on Life – Interviews with Innovators](#), ed. by Arthur Clay and
Timothy Senior, River Publishers, 2021.
- 2020 Benjamin Bacon & Vivian Xu, “Memory, Storytelling and GIS Digital
Archive: Introducing the COVID-19 Memory Archival Project”, in *The*

Coronavirus: Human, Social and Political Implications, ed. James Miller (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), 13-22. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-9362-8_2

- 2014 Xu, Vivian, “Synthetic Times: When Biology meets Art”, *Art Bank Magazine*, March 2014.
- 2010 Xu, Bing. *Xu Bing Prints*, Translated by Jesse Robert Coffino and Vivian Xu (Beijing: Cultural Art Publishing House, 2010).

Selected Conferences, Invited Talks, Workshops

- 2022 **“The Design of Unnecessary Products”**
Master Workshop with Benjamin Bacon
Design School, Hunan University, Hunan, China
- 2021 **“Skin Series”**
Under the Viral Shadow: Networks in the Age of Technoscience and Infection Art
Laboratory Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2021 **“Inside Dogma Lab”**
ArtSci Salon + Leonardo LASER TALKS, University of Toronto, Canada
- 2021 **“The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Creative Industries”**
Luca School of the Arts, Belgium
- 2021 **“Trigger: Artistic Methodology panel”**
Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China (virtual)
- 2021 **“Research-Based Practice / Practice-Driven Research”**
Central Academy of Fine Art, Beijing, China (virtual)
- 2020 **On the Nature of Nature**, Making Nature: Talks on Design and the Wondrous, Sino-French Design Week, Westbund Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2020 **Speaker**, Near Future: Possible Life, International Academic Seminars, Ningbo, China
- 2020 **Speaker and panelist**, Inter-World-View, Young Scientist Summit 2020, Wenzhou, China
- 2020 **Speaker and panelist**, 预言 - 山中天 2020 科幻论坛 (2020 Science Fiction Forum), Shanzhongtian Art Center, Beijing, China
- 2019 **“Art x Tech”**, Australia-China Youth Dialogue, Australian Embassy, Shanghai, China

- 2019 **“The Silkworm Project and Other Works”**, artist talk, Matters of Activity, Cluster of Excellence, Humboldt University, Berlin
- 2019 **“The Artist-Silkworm Interface: The Agricultural Treatise as Source and Scrutiny for Creating an Artist Book”**, artist presentation and workshop, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 **“The Silkworm Project”** Artist Talk and Workshop, Art Laboratory Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2018 **“Future Materials & Bio Design”**, artist talk and discussion, BioFiction, Chronus Art Center, Shanghai, China
- 2018 **“The Silkworm Project”** artist talk and silk panel discussion with Liang Shaoji and Lisa Onaga, NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore
- 2018 **Bioart: Microbial Workshop Series, Part II: Invisible Encounters**, Hyundai Motor Studio, Beijing, China
- 2018 **Bioart: Microbial Workshop Series, Part I: Bacterial Leather**, Hyundai Motor Studio, Beijing, China
- 2017 **Artist talk and panel**, Nonhuman Subjectivities conference, Art Laboratory Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2016 **“The Silkworm Project”**, Chronus Art Center, Shanghai, China
- 2015 **“The Silkworm Project”**, NeoLife - Inaugural Rest of the World SLSA (Society of Literature, Science, and the Arts) Conference, SymbioticA, Perth, Australia
- 2015 **Wearable Technology Workshop Series, Part II: Soft Circuits**, NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, China
- 2015 **Wearable Technology Workshop Series, Part I: Molding Organic Materials**, NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, China
- 2014 **Artist talk**, Tongji Fab Lab, Shanghai, China
- 2014 Lecture and Dialogue **“Biological Variation and Art Practice”**, Rockbund Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2013 **Lecturer**, International Design, Technology and Art Lecture Series, China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China
- 2013 Artist talk **“Into the Bios”**, K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2013 **Artist talk and panel**, **“Hacked Matter: DIY Bio Showcase”**, Shanghai Maker Carnival, Shanghai, China

2013 **Guest speaker**, IM Interaction x Information Innovation Forum, Central Academy of Fine Art, Beijing, China

Selected Reviews, Interviews

- 2022 *Vivian Xu: Sensory Pathways*, ID Special: Super Nature, IDEAT Magazine (print magazine) (China)
- 2022 [*Vivian Xu & Benjamin Bacon: Virtual Societies, Disruptive Technologies and Material Ecologies*](#), artist interview with Benjamin Bacon, Clot Magazine (EU)
- 2021 *Electric Skin* and *Sonic Skin*, [reviewed](#) in Berlin Art Link (Germany)
- 2021 *Electric Skin* and *Sonic Skin*, [reviewed](#) in Art in Berlin (German)
- 2021 *Electric Skin* and *Sonic Skin*, [reviewed](#) in Clot Magazine (EU)
- 2021 *Horologic Solum* (collaboration with Benjamin Bacon), reviewed by LEAP magazine (China)
- 2021 *Horologic Solum* (collaboration with Benjamin Bacon), [reviewed](#) in The Art Newspaper (China)
- 2021 *Horologic Solum* (Collaboration with Benjamin Bacon), [featured](#) in Neural Magazine (print magazine) (Italy)
- 2021 [*First Looks: DKU's Covid-19 Memory Archival Project*](#), Position Politics
- 2020 “[Portraits of a Modern Chinese Woman: Vivian Xu](#)”, filmed and produced by Hong Kong artist Ophelia S. Chan.
- 2019 "[Kunst in der Petrischale](#)", Tagesspiegel, review of The Silkworm Project
- 2018 “[Crafting Knowledge](#)”, Plural Art Mag
- 2018 [Interview](#) with China Global Television (CGTV), English Channel
- 2018 IDEAT: Contemporary Life Magazine, featuring Dogma Lab with Benjamin Bacon
- 2017 Cover Story: Women in Tech, Shanghai Family Magazine (print magazine)
- 2017 Electric Skin featured in [Eps. 7](#) of Future Home Documentary Mini-Series, Creators Project, VICE China
- 2017 "[Maximum Exposure](#)", Elle US, featuring emerging female Chinese artists (print magazine)

2017 Anomaly Unreasonable [mini documentary](#), featuring Electric Skin and Dogma Lab

Courses

Duke Kunshan University

Data Visualization and Information Aesthetics
New Media and Society
Digital Imaging
Junior Seminar: Advanced Topics
Interaction and Physical Computation
Contemporary Documentary Film

Mini Term

Material Lab: Designing with Nature
The Planetary Sensorium: Artistic Explorations of a Networked World (with Benjamin Bacon)

Pedagogical Projects

The Covid-19 Memory Archival Project (with Benjamin Bacon)
Duke Learning Innovation *Carry the Innovation Forward: Exploring New Technologies* (with Benjamin Bacon)

Undergraduate Signature Work Mentorship:

Class of 2022 **Zhuoran Ma**, Media Art (Creative Practice)
Project: #GEN (wearable technology generative textile app application)
Paper: #GEN – Chinese Youth Virtual and Physical Identity Navigation and the Future of Clothing

Class of 2022 **Xinyu Cheng**, Media Art (Creative Practice)
Project: Unwound: A Journey Through Hair (artist book)
Paper: “Unwound: A Journey Through Hair” An Artist Book by Melody Cheng

Class of 2022 **Yidan Luo**, Media Art (Creative Practice)
Project: Social Media (serious game, card game)
Paper: Understanding Social Media Through Serious Games: An Analysis of Cards Game Social Media

- Class of 2022 **Tong Wu** (team), Media Art (Creative Practice)
Project: RiceJourney (interactive dining interface)
Paper: RiceJourney: An Interactive and Educational Dining Installation for Spreading the Culture of Rice Preparation in China
- Class of 2022 **Rongqi Bei** (team), Data Science
Project: RiceJourney (interactive dining interface)
Paper: RiceJourney: An Interactive and Educational Dining Experience Utilizing a Gesture-Based Interface
- Class of 2023 **Jia Long**, Media Art (Creative Practice)
Project: Design Research in BioTextiles
Topic: Sustainable Design with Mycelium Materials
- Class of 2023 **Jiaqi Ling** (team), Media Art (Creative Practice)
Project: Sister (a claymation about Alzheimer's disease)
Topic: Sound and Set Design: The Application of Theatre Arts in Claymation
- Class of 2023 **Mingyu Zhou** (team), Media Art (Art History)
Project: Sister (a claymation about Alzheimer's disease)
Topic: Adaptation and Visual Storytelling: Screenwriting and Cinematography in Short Claymation Film
- Class of 2023 **Yanzhang Song** (team), Media Art (Creative Practice)
Project: Sister (a claymation about Alzheimer's disease)
Topic: Producing Narrative Animation: Artistic Direction and Design in Claymation
- Class of 2023 **Leiyuan Tian** (team), Media Art (Art History)
 (Co-mentor with Benjamin Bacon)
Topic: How do recommendation algorithms shape public attention on social issues? An interactive arts approach.
- Class of 2023 **Jingcheng Wu** (team), Data Science
 (Co-mentor with Benjamin Bacon)
Topic: How do recommendation algorithms shape public attention on social issues? An interactive arts approach.

Roy Ascott Technoetic Studio

Thesis Studio
Cybernetics
Moist Media III: Material Lab
Moist Media II: Machine Life
Moist Media I: Design Fiction

Shanghai Tech University

Product Design
Design Thinking

Chinese University of Hong Kong

Wearable Futures

Service

Committee Service:

University:

2021 – present	Member, IACUC Committee
2021	Member, FSTA Grant Review Committee
2021	Faculty representative for Media Art Major University Accreditation Task Force <i>(Worked with faculty within the major, division chair, office of assessment, and the university accreditation task force)</i>
2020 – present	Co-Founding Member, DKU Creative Maker Space Lab Union <i>(With Kai Huang, Benjamin Bacon, Liqi Ren)</i>
2020 – present	Member, IRB Committee

Divisional:

2021 – 2023	Major Coordinator, Computation and Design (Digital Media Track)
2021	Member, Computation and Design Hiring Committee
2020 – 2022	Member, Media Art Major Realignment Task Force <i>(With Kim Hunter, Jung Choi, Seth Henderson)</i>
2020	Member, Media Art Hiring Committee
2020	Faculty Lead, Media Art Cluster Flexible Teaching Syllabus Redesign <i>(In response to COVID-19 Hybrid teaching adaptations, with Kaley</i>

Clements)

Student-Oriented Service

2022 Pathways to Success advisees: 2 students
2021 Pathways to Success advisees: 3 students
2021 Member, SELF Review Committee
2020 – present Academic Advising: 12 students
2020 – present Media + Art Speaker Series (co-organized with Benjamin Bacon)

Service to the Profession

2022 Member, XResearch Cluster, Duke Kunshan University / V2_Lab for Unstable Media, Kunshan / Rotterdam
2022 Juror, Hyundai Motor Studios Blue Prize: Art + Tech, Beijing
Theme: Decentralized Reworlding
<https://art-tech.hyundaiblueprize.com/apply>
2021 Juror, Hyundai Motor Studios Blue Prize: Art + Tech, Beijing
Theme: Disruptive Futures
https://art-tech.hyundaiblueprize.com/design?page_name=2022
2021 Reviewer, Technoetic Arts Journal
2021 Reviewer, Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology Journal