

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 explores the boundaries between bio and electronic media in creating new forms of machine logic, speculative life and sensory systems 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), Matters of Activity, Cluster of Excellence, 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 (Shenzhen). 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**  
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](http://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

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

## Residencies and Grants

2022	<b>Summer Research Scholar Grant</b> Funding for 2 Student Researchers Undergraduate Studies, Duke Kunshan University
2021-2022	<b>Data+X Grant</b> Data Science Research Center Duke Kunshan University PIs: Benjamin Bacon, Vivian Xu
2021-2022	<b>Carry the Innovation Forward Grant</b> Duke Learning Innovation Duke University / Duke Kunshan University PIs: Benjamin Bacon, Vivian Xu
2020	<b>Artwork Production Grant</b>

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**  
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
- 2018 **W Residency**  
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

- 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](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

- 2021 **Artist Talk**  
Under the Viral Shadow: Networks in the Age of Technoscience and Infection -  
Art Laboratory Berlin, Berlin
- 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, Pompidou Museum, Shanghai
- 2020 **Speaker**, Near Future: Possible Life, International Academic Seminars,  
Ningbo
- 2020 **Speaker and panelist**, Inter-World-View, Young Scientist Summit 2020,  
Wenzhou
- 2020 **Speaker and panelist**, 预言 - 山中天 2020 科幻论坛, Shanzhongtian Art  
Center, Beijing
- 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
- 2019 **“The Silkworm Project”** Artist Talk and Workshop, Art Laboratory  
Berlin, Berlin
- 2018 **“Future Materials & Bio Design”**, artist talk and discussion, BioFiction,  
Chronus Art Center, Shanghai
- 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
- 2018 **Bioart: Microbial Workshop Series, Part I: Bacterial Leather**,  
Hyundai Motor Studio, Beijing

- 2017 **Artist talk and panel**, Nonhuman Subjectivities conference, Art Laboratory Berlin, Berlin
- 2016 **“The Silkworm Project”**, Chronus Art Center, Shanghai
- 2015 **“The Silkworm Project”**, NeoLife - Inaugural Rest of the World SLSA (Society of Literature, Science, and the Arts) Conference, SymbioticA, Perth
- 2015 **Wearable Technology Workshop Series, Part II: Soft Circuits**, NYU Shanghai, Shanghai
- 2015 **Wearable Technology Workshop Series, Part I: Molding Organic Materials**, NYU Shanghai, Shanghai
- 2014 **Artist talk**, Tongji Fab Lab, Shanghai
- 2014 Lecture and Dialogue **“Biological Variation and Art Practice”**, Rockbund Museum, Shanghai
- 2013 **Lecturer**, International Design, Technology and Art Lecture Series, China Academy of Art, Hangzhou
- 2013 Artist talk **“Into the Bios”**, K11 Art Museum, Shanghai
- 2013 **Artist talk and panel**, “Hacked Matter: DIY Bio Showcase”, Shanghai Maker Carnival, Shanghai
- 2013 **Guest speaker**, IM Interaction x Information Innovation Forum, Central Academy of Fine Art, Beijing

## Selected Reviews, Interviews

- 2022 [Shared 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 Tanc, LEAP, Art News China (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)

- 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)

#### *Signature Work Mentorship:*



Class 2022	<b>Zhuoran Ma</b> , Media Art (Creative Practice)
Class 2022	<b>Xinyu Cheng</b> , Media Art (Creative Practice)
Class 2022	<b>Yidan Luo</b> , Media Art (Creative Practice)
Class 2022	<b>Tong Wu</b> (team), Media Art (Creative Practice)
Class 2022	<b>Rongqi Bei</b> (team), Data Science
Class 2023	<b>Jia Long</b> , Media Art (Creative Practice)
Class 2023	<b>Jiaqi Ling</b> (team), Media Art (Creative Practice)
Class 2023	<b>Mingyu Zhou</b> (team), Media Art (Art History)
Class 2023	<b>Yanzhang Song</b> (team), Media Art (Creative Practice)
Class 2023	<b>Leiyuan Tian</b> (team), Media Art (Art History) (Co-mentor with Benjamin Bacon)
Class 2023	<b>Jincheng Wu</b> (team), Data Science (Co-mentor with Benjamin Bacon)

### ***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***

Future Wearables

## **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**  
(Worked with faculty within the major, division chair, office of assessment, and the university accreditation task force)
- 2020 – present **Co-Founding Member, DKU Creative Maker Space Lab Union**  
(With Kai Huang, Benjamin Bacon, Liqi Ren)
- 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**  
(With Kim Hunter, Jung Choi, Seth Henderson)
- 2020 Member, Media Art Hiring Committee
- 2020 Faculty Lead, Media Art Cluster Flexible Teaching Syllabus Redesign  
(In response to COVID-19 Hybrid teaching adaptations, with Kaley 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 Juror, Hyundai Motor Studios Blue Prize for Emerging Curators, Beijing
- 2021 Juror, Hyundai Motor Studios Blue Prize for Emerging Curators, Beijing
- 2021 Reviewer, Technoetic Arts Journal
- 2021 Reviewer, Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology Journal