

Yingchen Mu – Art Portfolio

This portfolio presents a selection of conceptual and time-based works exploring behavior, projection, spatial rhythm, and sculptural language.

Email: 10049239@network.rca.ac.uk

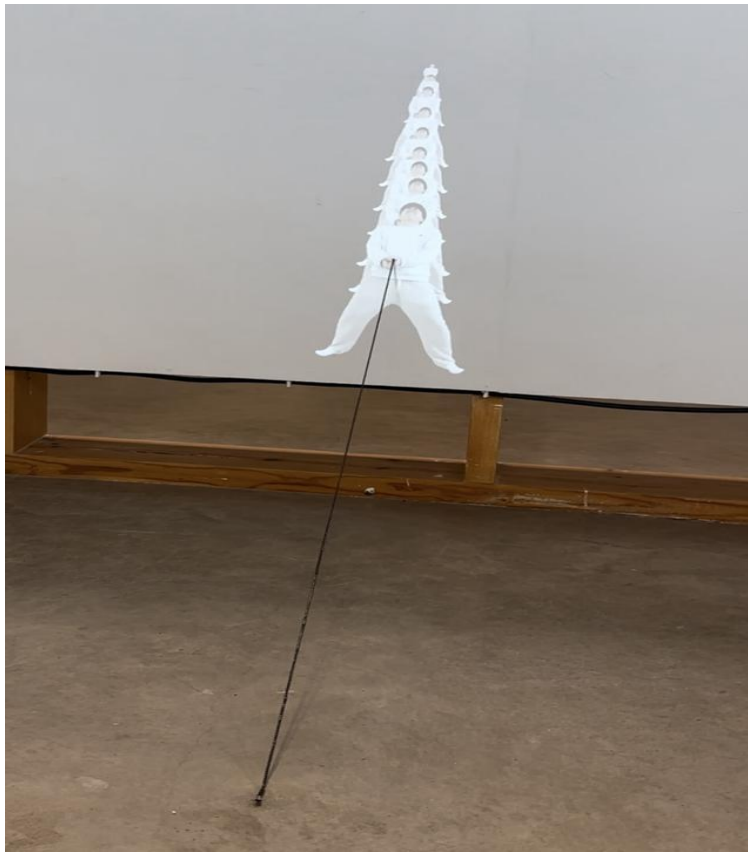
Artist Statement

Chen is a cross-media video installation artist who integrates performance art, sculpture, and streaming media technologies. He cleverly incorporates the humor and highly interactive styles of popular social media platforms like TikTok and Instagram into his performances, combining them with sculptures in real physical spaces to create a multifaceted experience where virtual and reality intersect.

In his works, Chen expresses himself through highly personal performances, utilizing changes in bodily rhythm and the interplay between virtual imagery and real space to transcend linguistic barriers and reflect social issues faced universally today. For example, in the piece Ah!, he uses duplicated video images of himself exploring the corner formed by two walls, generating a tense and charged spatial atmosphere that examines widespread social anxieties such as catastrophic thinking and uncertainty.

Chen's practice achieves an unprecedented fusion of performance art and sculpture: he endows performance art with a sense of spatiality characteristic of sculpture, while imbuing sculpture with the vitality, temporality, and narrative of performance. By breaking disciplinary boundaries, he builds a unique artistic system rich in philosophical depth and human empathy.

Work: But I am not the only one



This series of absurd and humorous sculptures attempts the impossible — to lift the ground itself — challenging the very foundation on which human life and social order rest. The work questions the result-oriented logic of our time and encourages viewers to, like the sculptures, hold fast to their inner beliefs. The title comes from a lyric by John Lennon: “You may say I’m a dreamer, but I’m not the only one.” When you look at the sculpture, it seems to say to you, “You may say I’m a dreamer.” And as the sculpture looks back at you, it whispers, “But I’m not the only one.” At that moment, you and the work together complete the sentence. You don’t need an outcome to validate what you believe in — your conviction and pursuit hold value in and of themselves.

Video link: <https://youtube.com/shorts/3KgYqibUrMI?si=esQIS73NRalxufC>

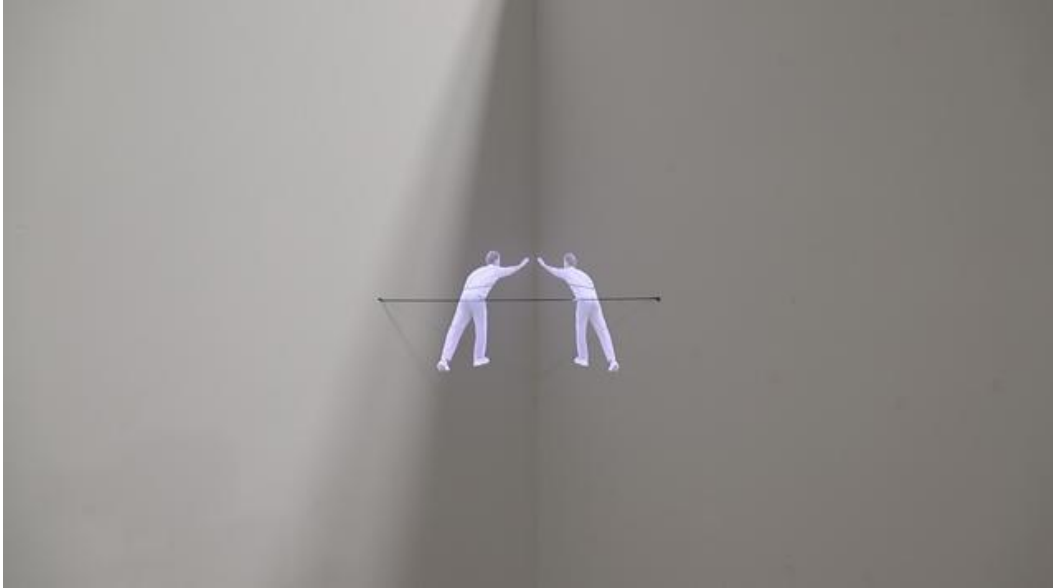
Work: How are you



In today's society, human relationships are wrapped in polite distance — casual greetings like “How are you?” serve as social scripts, thin masks maintaining order. With “How dare you”, I tear through that mask, exposing the repressed emotional undercurrents beneath. It's not about promoting confrontation, but about questioning why “normalcy” must always suppress the unstable but real parts of who we are.

[Video link;https://youtu.be/l4OZVizJG3E?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/l4OZVizJG3E?feature=shared)

Work: Ah!



In another work, two versions of “myself” wander along the edges of two adjoining walls, driven by anxiety and seeking a point of contact. They suddenly meet at the corner — a charged, claustrophobic space — and in seeing each other, they see a reflection of their own fear. Shocked, both scream “Ah!” and recoil. The piece explores catastrophic thinking — where imagined risks are inflated into a constant rehearsal of disaster. The corner becomes a hidden stage of psychological tension, a symbolic crack in the façade of everyday life. The work ends with two versions of me shouting “Ah!”, and a startled “Ah!” from you, the viewer — turning the sculpture into a shared psychological experience. It is no longer just an object, but a site of absurd resonance between the anxious mind and its witness.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/Tm48meR9g-U?feature=shared>

Curriculum Vitae

Education

- MA Sculpture, Royal College of Art, London, UK
- BA Sculpture, Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts, China

Exhibitions

- 2025, Final Degree Show, Royal College of Art, London
- 2024, Festus Group Exhibition, UK
- 2023, Zeng Zhushou Sculpture Exhibition, China

Lectures

- Guest Speaker at University for the Creative Arts, UK
- Guest Critic at Middlesex University, UK

Research Interests

- Behavioral structures as sculptural language
- Video–performance in streaming media culture