JUN ZHANG

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My artistic practice, which I describe as ‘Imaginal Ethno-Cosmology’, intersects anthropological and ethnographic research while engaging in the reimagination of worldmaking. I work through comparative readings of myths, folklore, alternative medicine, and local customs, seeking to uncover indigenous cosmologies and alternative knowledge systems that have been marginalised by colonial and capitalist modernity. Through these cross-cultural investigations, I examine how the colonial expansion of human activity into natural domains has generated shifting complex entanglements with the nonhuman entities and the preternatural. I am especially drawn to sites where landscapes, stories, and material practices record these encounters, exposing moments of negotiation, resistance, and mutual transformation rather than a one-sided narrative of domination. Working across installation, sculpture, ceramics, and archival fiction, I create speculative ethnographies and natural histories that give presence to the nonhuman actors—animals, spirits, geological forces—that continue to shape our shared environment. Through this practice I aim to challenge anthropocentric perspectives and invite viewers to imagine a world in which human, nonhuman, and preternatural agencies remain in dynamic relation rather than fixed hierarchy.

WEBSITES

jun-zhang.com/

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/junnnnnnnnnnnnuj/

OPLEIDINGEN

2019 - 2021 Studio for immediate spaces Amsterdam, Sandberg Instituut Diploma behaald

2018 - 2019 jewellery -- linking-bodies Amsterdam, Gerrit Rietveld Academie

TENTOONSTELLINGEN

2026 Ontogenesis in the Liminal Heat of Remains ACEC(Apeldoorns Centrum voor Eigentijdse Cultuur) Apeldoorns, Nederland
Solo

2025 Larnaca Biennale - Along Lines and Traces Larnaca Biennale Larnaca, Cyprus biennalelarnaca.com/
Groep

PROJECTEN

2025 Vita Nova Doolhoven Nederland stems from an in-depth study of doolhoven, a unique cultural heritage site from the 17th-century Dutch Republic. Combining archival and in-situ research, Vita Nova Doolhoven seeks to explore and revive the spatial structure and sociohistorical context of doolhoven, thereby uncovering its forgotten cosmologies and social functions. By integrating diverse cultural perspectives on

2025 RE_NATURE 2025 Ruigoord Amsterdam, Nederland re-nature.org/events/lu-offerings-ritual-walk/
Groep

2025 Secret Spaces, Borders Art Fair 2025 Palazzo Albrizzi-Capello Venice, Italië www.itsliquid.com/call-secret-spaces-venice-2025.html
Groep

2025 Art Rotterdam, Prospect 2025 Rotterdam Ahoy Rotterdam, Nederland www.artrotterdam.com/
Groep

2025 Rolling Snowball-Threshold Folds Powerlong Art Center Xiameng, China www.ceac99.org/
Groep

2025 Hortus of Heterodox Phantasmata Garnalenkerk Amsterdam, Nederland
Solo

2025 erfgoedspektakel Missie museum Steyl, Nederland erfgoedspektakel.nl/
Groep

2025 AIR in Zuidoost #2025 CBK Zuidoost Amsterdam, Nederland www.cbkzuidoost.nl/tentoonstellingen/nu-en-verwacht/air-in-zuidoost-2025/
Groep

2024 Limburg Biennal Marres & Oda Park Maastricht & Venray, Nederland marres.org/limburg-biennale/
Groep

2024 Unimaginable: Clarion Caals From Rising Seas Bradwolff Projects Amsterdam, Nederland www.climateimaginariesatsea.org/festival-program-2024-2/
Groep

2024 WITTE GOUD CAMPIS Assen, Nederland www.campis.nl/
Groep

2023 NNN Fair 2023 Framer Framed Amsterdam, Nederland nnnfair.com/fair/nnn02/
Groep

life and nature, Vita Nova Doolhoven aims to reconstruct a ritualistic space that shares diverse cosmologies. The project not only studies historical issues such as religious oppression, urban expansion, and immigration policies in 17th-century Amsterdam, but also explores a series of social and ecological issues caused by the dualism of nature and culture. This project commits to reimagining life transmutation and queer futurity through artistic practice, responding to current challenges related to cultural identity, immigration, and ecological issues while fostering transcultural understanding and community engagement.

2024 Blubber Town Nederland jun-zhang.com/Blubber-Town is an ongoing project, that delves into the history of Dutch whaling between the 17th and 20th centuries. It traces the centuries-long natural colonization of the Arctic region by Dutch whalers. But long before whaling grew into a bloody commercial industry by colonial powers, whales were seen as magical creatures. Worldwide, countless legends and folk tales exist, in which magic powers were attributed to the bones and whale oil. These pluralistic knowledge systems have been increasingly marginalized amidst the global expansion of colonialism. By intertwining the documented history of whaling with marginalized knowledge systems related to whales, this project seeks to reimagine the narrative of Blubber Town from the perspectives of decolonizing nature and envisioning ecological futures. It aims to construct speculative scenarios of symbiosis between marine life and posthuman worlds.

2023 Cavern of Saline Genesis Nederland jun-zhang.com/Cavern-of-Saline-Genesis researched salt extraction in the Overijssel area. This project explores decolonizing the body through investigation of local beliefs and folk medicine knowledge related to salt and fertility, as well as new technology of using salt caverns for energy storage in the Netherlands. Many countries in Asia and Europe, particularly in East Asia, are currently facing an unprecedented population crisis. Such a crisis often leads to human rights violations against women

2023 Springboard Art Fair
Werkspoorkathedraal Utrecht, Nederland
springboardartfair.nl/artist/jun-zhang/
Groep

2023 Breath 2023 CICA Museum Gimpo, Zuid-Korea cicamuseum.com/
Groep

2023 Covted III Kaiser Gallery Cleveland, Verenigde Staten
www.kaisergallery.com/past-exhibitions.html
Groep

2023 Tale of Tales NEVERNEVERLAND Amsterdam, Nederland
www.nevernever.nl/
Solo

2023 Apprentice / Master exhibition Kunst Podium T Tilburg, Nederland
kunstpodium-t.com/projects/apprentice-master
Groep

2023 DNA kunstexpeditie 2023 Streekmuseum Kalk Oven Dedemsvaart, Nederland
kunstexpeditie-dedemsvaart.nl/archief/
Groep

2022 Calm before the Storm: A Shelter in the Anthropocene Radius Delft, Nederland
www.radius-cca.org/en/exhibitions/underland-chapter-4-calm-before-the-storm
Groep

2022 DU 2022 De Heilig Hartkerk Venlo, Nederland
www.destinationunknown.nu/jun-zhang-2/
Groep

2022 ARE residency show XPO Enschede, Nederland
edwindertien.nl/xpo/uncategorized/jun-zhang-witte-goud/
Groep

2022 Ambition West Bund Dome Shanghai, China
Groep

2022 Roots and wings Het Hem Zaandam,

and sexual minority groups. Whereas the research of salt offers an alternative solution for such a crisis.

2022 Nomadic Washerwomen Nederland jun-zhang.com/nomadic-washerwomen is based on the artistic research about the “openbare wasplaats” as well as its derived folklore and Dutch soap industry. Through video and site-specific installations, this project tries to re-create the narrative of night washerwomen legend under post-COVID context, so as to correct the discrimation and stigmatization to washerwomen and Asian female. Through a supernatural being with divine powers intervening in the life-and-death transformation process of mundane life, this project attempts to think about local ecosystems from a folklore perspective. It explores how the supernatural is intertwined with the local environment through belief narratives and ritual performances so as to participate in reconstructing local ecosystems.

2021 Respiration jun-zhang.com/respiration is a speculative scenario situated in the context of the climate crisis and respiratory epidemic. This work is composed of exhaling devices, lime plaster objects, and fiction. Based on the research of Dutch shell lime industry and lime-related culture, tries to integrate western material science(shell lime industry) with eastern occult science(soul transmigration belief), to speculate a future planetary atmosphere and a new species whose life system could adapt to such atmosphere. takes the human body as a medium and the planet’s atmosphere as a trigger to construct a post-Anthropocentric ecosystem.

Nederland hethem.nl/
Groep

INTERNATIONALE UITWISSELINGEN / ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCIES

2026 Longyearbyen, Noorwegen OCA/Artica Svalbard Residency upcoming
www.articasvalbard.no/future-residents/jun-zhang-and-yindi-chen

2025 Amsterdam, Nederland Bijlmair Residency
amsterdamart.com/en/locations/bijlmair/

2022 Enschede, Nederland ARE Holland
areholland.com/artists/jun-zhang/

2022 Venlo, Nederland Destination Unknown
www.destinationunknown.nu/jun-zhang-2/

PRIJZEN EN STIPENDIA

2025 Kunstenaar Project Mondriaan Fonds, Amsterdam (NL) Nederland

2024 Project grant Het Cultuurfonds Nederland

2022 Kunstenaar Start Mondriaan Fonds Amsterdam Nederland

2022 ontwikkelbijdrage voor Beeldend kunstenaars Amarte Fonds Nederland

2022 Mijn Eerste Aanvraag grant AFK, Amsterdam Nederland

RECENSIES

2025 tubelight picks art rotterdam 2025 Website Veerle Driessen Nederland
www.tubelight.nl/tubelight-picks-art-rotterdam-2025/

2025 Tique six-questions interviews Website Welmer Keesmaat & Jun Zhang
tique.art/interviews/six-questions/jun-zhang/



Vita Nova Doolhoven - Hortus of Heterodox Phantasmata, 2025
ceramic | textile | gypsum plaster | | foam | silicone | sound pieces, mutiple dimensions



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Vita Nova Doolhoven - Lu offering ritual walk, 2025
ceramic | PLA plastic | PU foam water pump | video,
mutiple dimensions



Vita Nova Doolhoven - Lu offering ritual walk, 2025
ceramic | PLA plastic | PU foam water pump | video,
mutiple dimensions



Vita Nova Doolhoven - Lu offering ritual walk, 2025
ceramic | PLA plastic | PU foam water pump | video,
mutiple dimensions

Blubber Town, 2024