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/

EDUCATION

2019 - 2021 Studio for immediate spaces Amsterdam, Sandberg Instituut diploma

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

EXHIBITIONS

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

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

PROJECTS

2025 Vita Nova Doolhoven Netherlands 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 life and nature, Vita Nova Doolhoven aims

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

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

2025 Art Rotterdam, Prospect 2025 Rotterdam Ahoy Rotterdam, Netherlands www.artrotterdam.com/
Group

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

2025 Hortus of Heterodox Phantasmata Garnalenkerk Amsterdam, Netherlands
Solo

2025 erfgoedspektakel Missie museum Steyl, Netherlands erfgoedspektakel.nl/
Group

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

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

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

2024 WITTE GOUD CAMPIS Assen, Netherlands www.campis.nl/
Group

2023 NNN Fair 2023 Framer Framed Amsterdam, Netherlands nnnfair.com/fair/nnn02/
Group

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 Netherlands 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 Netherlands 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 and sexual minority groups. Whereas the

2023 Springboard Art Fair Werkspoorkathedraal Utrecht, Netherlands springboardartfair.nl/artist/jun-zhang/ Group

2023 Breath 2023 CICA Museum Gimpo, Republic of Korea cicamuseum.com/ Group

2023 Covted III Kaiser Gallery Cleveland, United States www.kaisergallery.com/past-exhibitions.html Group

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

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

2023 DNA kunstexpeditie 2023 Streekmuseum Kalk Oven Dedemsvaart, Netherlands kunstexpeditie-dedemsvaart.nl/archief/ Group

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

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

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

2022 Ambition West Bund Dome Shanghai, China Group

2022 Roots and wings Het Hem Zaandam, research of salt offers an alternative solution for such a crisis.

2022 Nomadic Washerwomen Netherlands 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.

Netherlands hethem.nl/
Group

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

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

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

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

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

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2025 Kunstenaar Project Mondriaan Fonds, Amsterdam (NL) Netherlands

2024 Project grant Het Cultuurfonds Netherlands

2022 Kunstenaar Start Mondriaan Fonds Amsterdam Netherlands

2022 ontwikkelbijdrage voor Beeldend kunstenaars Amarte Fonds Netherlands

2022 Mijn Eerste Aanvraag grant AFK, Amsterdam Netherlands

REVIEWS

2025 tubelight picks art rotterdam 2025 Website Veerle Driessen Netherlands 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



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Blubber Town, 2024