

Portfolio

Tansiyu Chen

"Donna Vitruviana" (2022)

plaster sculptures
/painting on canvas
/ceramics
/animated video

link of video:
<https://chentansiyu.art/donna-vitruviana/>

"Donna Vitruviana" is a group of mixed media works about false dilemmas.

Started from a small painting of a dog owner hitting on a corner of a wall while her two dogs leading her towards different directions. Then I developed the metaphoric image into sculptures and animated video, a woman squeezed on to an invisible corner with her two dogs peeing on invisible walls, dreaming about getting rid of the either-or options that were offered by the social norm and running freely without barriers

I was born and raised in a conservative society where people believe in dualism. A typical consensus is: follow the old rules or you will be the black sheep of the family. I started my artistic practices because my words were censored and prohibited. I had to create my own language to speak out my ideas which are dissent from Chinese propaganda.

I made the painting according to my experience as a dog owner first, the slightest dilemma from everyday life as a metaphor of a false dilemma: the situation of trying to choose from two conflicting options they offered and getting stuck in a corner, until you turning around choosing none of them and create a brand-new path.





This work was exhibited early this year during graduation show of art academy of KHIO in Kunstnerens Hus where drew lot of attention, it is exhibiting now in Deichman Bjørvika until 2023



Tansiyu Chen
Tansiyu Chen er en kinesisk kunstner som bor i Oslo. Hennes kunstnerskap blander en rekke uttrykk og materialer. "Donna Vitruviana" er et mixed media verk skapt over et falskt dilemma.
Det startet med et lite maleri av en hundeier som treffer et hjørne mens hennes to hunder leder henne i to ulike retninger. Chen utviklet så dette metaforiske bildet til en skulptur og en video. En kvinne står klemt opp mot et usynlig hjørne mens hennes to hunder står og tisser på hver sin usynlige vegg. Hun står der drømmende om bli kvitt presset som samfunnet legger på henne om å velge enten eller, for å så fritt løpe ut i verden uten at noe holder henne tilbake.
deichman.no



"Treadmill" (2021)

animated video/ installation

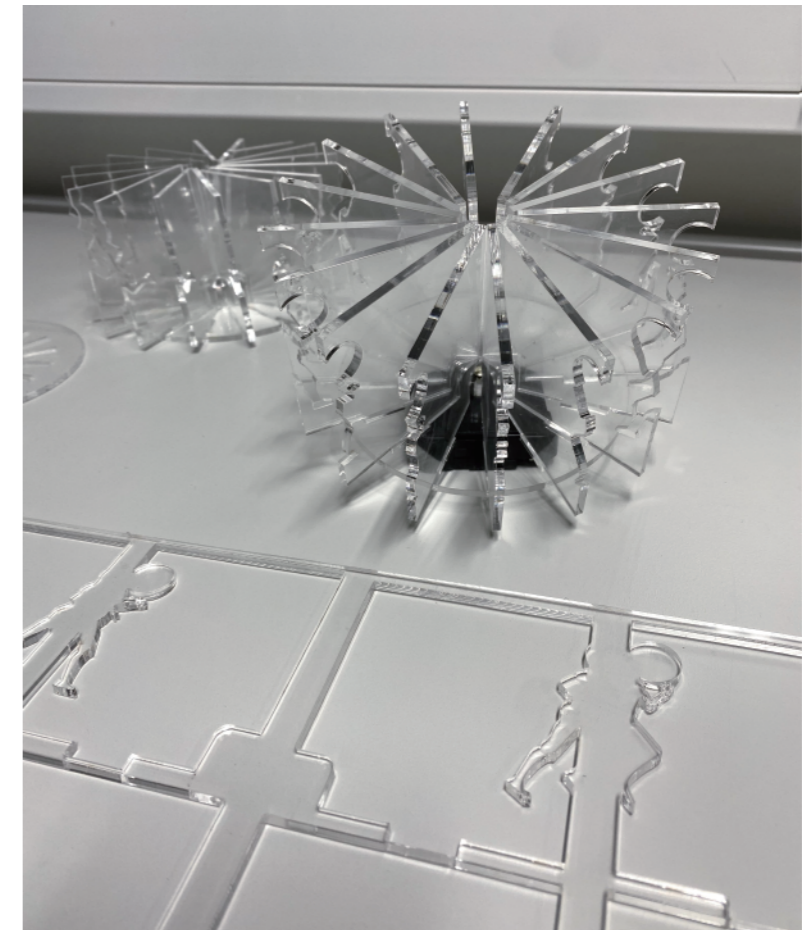
link of video: <https://chentansiyu.art/treadmill/>



This work was inspired by Ai Weiwei's social media campaign in defense of freedom of press. Aside from his initial idea, I tried to tell stories of a fast-runner boy I met and his people: the Uighurs. When I visited Kashgar where most native residents are Uighurs, as a Chinese inlander visitor, I noticed that there are only children and the elders natives on the street and I can imagine where the young people go. According to lots of evidence, they might have been kept in concentration camps by the Chinese government.



I felt sad for them and for myself being powerless to help. I met a 7 year-old boy there and played football together on a square. He was a promising football player, running fastly like the wind. His grandmother stared at us when he played football with me and constantly demanded that he go back home. I saw the fear in her eyes. Those innocent people disappeared while others pretended that they never existed, I felt terrible as a self-defined story-teller. How could I tell the stories of those who are forced to be invisible?



I used transparent acrylic as material to make this electric gear-driven work, with the spinning of the motor, frames of image of a person becoming constant as animation. The transparent person runs for their life, becoming visible only if there is light on them.

"Exit" (2021)

painting on canvas
/installation
with animated video

link of video:
<https://chentansiyu.art/exit/>



"Exit" tells a story of escaping. Inspired and homage to the movie "Thelma and Louise", I made an animated video projecting on installation for the story on the road. Traffic signs and lights became the stages, human figures and traffic elements inside of signs are actors. What would happen if the figures in signs try to escape? Could they really make it? It's also a metaphor of my life on the run.

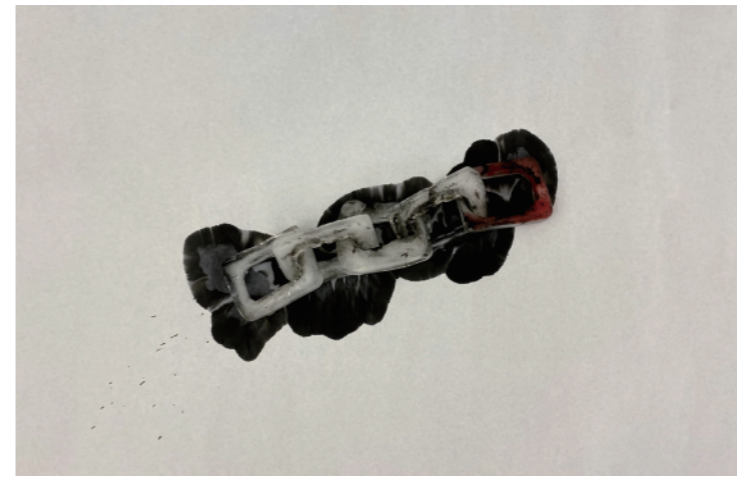
"Water Chain" (2021-2022)

Ice sculpture/ Installation
/performance



"Water chain" is the second work of my chain series. Being a Chinese woman is dancing while being shackled and chained. Obstacles and restrictions even become part of our life. I used ice as material to make chain-shaped sculptures. During the first exhibition I hung the chain in front of a curtain, filming the process of melting.





The second time I used the water chain to paint while it was melting. I put the chain on paper together with drops of ink, waited for the unpredictable results when it was gone. This resembles the Chinese philosophy: go with the flow.

The third attempt of water chain was made when a video of a chained woman in a doorless shed sparked public outrage on social media, revealing the reality of the ubiquity of human-trafficking in China. The authorities censored the word "chained woman" throughout the internet and arrested volunteers who tried to help the poor woman.



"Medusa"(2022)

Sculpture with light



I used iron wire and plaster as material to make an abstract shape combining snakes and water splash, with light installed inside as the symbol of the gaze. I tried to tell a story of the stigma and power of women. I was obsessed with figures of femme fatale in mythologies all over the world. They are always being described as powerful monsters with tragic stories. However, the more we dig into them, the more we understand how stigmatized images of powerful women are used as patriarchal indoctrination. Facing the power of Medusa is the first step to retell the story of women.