

QIONG ZHANG 张琼

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Qiong Zhang is a poet and artist-researcher based in Helsinki, Finland. Currently a doctoral candidate at the Theatre Academy of Uniarts Helsinki, her research project explores how national identity might be constructed through individual and collective fantasies and imagination. She investigates the entanglement of surveillance, witchcraft, social imaginary, and technological ghosts in everyday lives through performative practices and writing.

Born and raised in a multi-ethnic area on the edge of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau in Gansu, China, Zhang's artistic practice intertwines performative gestures and choreographed images to reveal hidden political issues, dismantling ubiquitous surveillance and patriarchal narratives in various socio-cultural contexts.

Zhang initiated the performance artist collective Hijack打劫 in Shanghai (2016) and GA Physical Theatre in Dali (2015). She holds an MA in Performance Research from the University of Bristol (2014) and a BA in Chinese Literature from Peking University (2010).

EDUCATION

- 2021 - PhD of Artistic Research in Performing Arts, Theatre Academy, University of Arts Helsinki, Finland
- 2013 - 2014 Master of Arts in Performance Research, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK
- 2006 - 2010 Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Literature, Peking University, Beijing, China

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2024 Finnish Cultural Foundation Grant, Finland
- 2023 Tutke Production Grant, Theatre Academy, Uniarts Helsinki, Finland
- 2019 Performing Arts in the Digital Age Fellowship, Goethe-Institute, Germany
- 2010 Weiming Poetry Prize, Peking University, China
- 2009 Qingxiang Literature Prize, Beijing Institute of Technology, China
- 2009 Sakura Poetry Competition Prize, Wuhan University, China
- 2009 Academic Committee Scholarship, Peking University, China

SELECTED PERFORMANCE & EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 GIFTS/PRESENTS/PRESENCE, Cable Factory, Helsinki, Finland
- 2024 The Other Side Opening, Vantaa Art Museum Artsi, Helsinki, Finland
- 2023 As You May Sense – Environment, Data, Contamination, Helsinki Biennial, Academy of Fine Arts gallery, Helsinki, Finland
- 2022 Vase, Solo Exhibition (Hijack), CT20, Folkestone, UK
- 2021 花瓶/Vase, Solo Exhibition (Hijack), Making Space, Guangzhou, China
- 2021 POW! Surface Tensions 2020 'ART UNDER Lockdown', Power OF Women Fringe Festival, UK
- 2020 POWER PLAY 2020: Invisible Lines, The Arts House, Singapore
- 2020 2020: Twenty Years towards A World Theatre, OCAT, Shenzhen, China
- 2020 白日摸瞎/ Shooting in the Dark, Hop Projects, Folkestone, UK
- 2019 UP-ON International Live Art Festival, Chengdu, China
- 2019 Wishing Tower, Tate Modern gallery, London, UK
- 2019 Bless Your Heart, EMBASSY gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2019 Hairy Death Spiral, Center for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, UK
- 2019 Biting Room and Nice Room, GSA MFA Degree Show, The Glue Factory, Glasgow, UK

- 2017 I Say I Have Problem And You Shoot Me, INSTANT Niaoniao, Shanghai, China
- 2017 Bodied Space Live Art Festival, Hangzhou, China
- 2017 StArt Festival, Sinan Mansions, Shanghai, China
- 2017 Desire Machine, Shanghai Biennale, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China
- 2017 Flow/ Flux, Design Harvests, Gallery of Design and Innovation, Tongji University, Shanghai, China
- 2016 Galaxy, Niaolympic, Ming Contemporary Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2016 Table Manner 2, Niaoniao Festival, Basement 6, Shanghai, China
- 2015 Action Book - Seeing and Seen, Hounaoshao Art Space, Hangzhou, China
- 2015 15 Rooms, Long Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2015 Table Manner, Performance Marathon, Ponderosa, Stolzenhagen, Germany
- 2015 Chuangku Live Art Festival, Chongqing, China
- 2015 The Shadow Street, Ga Physical Theatre, Dali, China
- 2014 The Valley of Burning Strings, Wickham Theatre, Bristol, UK

COMMISSIONS

- 2022]performancespace[, Folkestone, UK
- 2021 CT20, Folkestone, UK
- 2020 HOP Projects, Folkestone, UK
- 2019 EMBASSY Gallery, Edinburgh, UK

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2021 CT20 'Lake Lazarillo', Folkestone, UK
- 2021 刺纸Prickly Paper, Guangzhou, China
- 2020 HOP Projects, Folkestone, UK
- 2017 Design Harvests, Shanghai, China

ARTIST TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- 2019 Bless Your Heart - Performance Workshop with Hijack打劫, EMBASSY Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2017 Talk at Forum "Community Practice in Art/Design", Siping Space, Shanghai, China
- 2017 Body Reflux and Virtual Healing - Performance Workshop, Xianqiao Village, Shanghai, China

OTHER

Initiator, Director

- 2016 - 2021 Hijack打劫, Shanghai & Glasgow
- 2015 Ga Physical Theatre, Dali, China

Author, Contributor

- 2018 - 2019 Nowness, Shanghai, China
- 2016 Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Shanghai, China

Stage Manager/ Project Manager, Interpreter

- 2016 - 2017 *Sleep No More*, immersive theatrical production by Punchdrunk, Shanghai, China
- 2016 *Skin Tight - Swiss Window in Asia*, Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Shanghai, China

Literary Translator (Professional English > Chinese)

- 2011 - 2013 Elephant in the Room Theatre & Ibsen International, Beijing, China