

## **Panel 2**

### **Reimagining Poetry, Modern Media, and Interdisciplinary Engagements**

**“Waking Up from a Blind Dream”:**

**The Transformation of Poetic Form and Medium in Chinese Digital Visual Poetry**

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This study examines how Chinese digital visual poetry challenges the traditional notion of poetry by exploring the changing relationship between form and medium. Drawing on Niklas Luhmann’s medium theory, it argues that while engaging with various visual forms, this genre preserves the recognizability of poetic forms and transforms digital works from virtual presences to tangible objects, which demonstrates how a self-referential system of poetry adapts to the ever-shifting environment of the internet.

Focusing on visual poetry shared on two social media platforms, Instagram and Xiaohongshu, this study traces the transformation of visual forms and the materialization of its medium in Chinese digital visual poetry. Firstly, I look at how poets initially imitate the format of paper books and handwritten manuscripts, compensating for the lack of tactility in digital texts with visual design. Next, I discuss how some of them employ the techniques of text-text or text-image collages (for example, cutting words from other works and combining them to create new texts, or merging words with photographs) to break down the static, linear structures of poetry. Lastly, this paper examines the transformation of ephemeral digital text into artistic installations or literary goods, such as literary merchandise where producers print poetic lines on bags, chairs, walls, and other objects.

By analyzing these transmedia practices, this study highlights the formal experiment in Chinese digital visual poetry as a key phenomenon that engages with digital and physical worlds, which can offer more case studies and interdisciplinary insights into the fields of digital art and literature for future research.

#### **Biography**

Wang Zhijing is a PhD candidate in the Chinese Programme at the School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University. Her thesis explores contemporary Chinese transmedia poetry, focusing on digital poetry, poetry slam, and the interactions between poets and the arts in mainland China and Taiwan.