Panel 7
Text-Image: Philosophy, Discourse and Rewritings

Reconfiguring Discourse:
Language, Environment, and Subjectivity in Contemporary Text Art
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Contemporary text art, which uses language, words, and symbols as its core media, has gained renewed relevance in the digital age for its portability, translatability, and cross-media potential. However, language always contains within itself its speakers' own context, thus ignoring its limitations and complicity with systemic power. Mainstream Western text art research methods have long been expressed from a single perspective and through static methods, which are insufficient to cope with today's complex cultural and emotional ecology. This paper proposes a new model of discursive practice grounded in post-1990s text art, informed by the philosophies of Foucault and David Abram on language, nature, and subject formation.

By integrating qualitative research and studio-based practice methodologies, this research explores how individuals negotiate subjectivity in relation to social, technological, and natural environments. Artistic practices involve progressive layers of information visualisation, interactive systems, and socially engaged strategies. These practices aim to reconfigure the space of communication by connecting the individual, society, and nature beyond dominant linguistic structures.

This interdisciplinary inquiry not only expands the aesthetic and theoretical boundaries of text-based art but also offers a framework for alternative modes of expression that challenge reductive narratives of mainstream discourse. By blending text art studies, digital media, and participatory art, the project envisions language as a dynamic, perception-based system that enables people to facilitate emotional connection, cultural reinvention, and social transformation. Ultimately, it seeks to provide a pathway toward reshaping our understanding of identity, language, and intersubjective relations in an increasingly digitised and ecologically fragile world.

Biography

Xiong Xiaoyu is an artist from China and UK. Her practices are concerned with how words shape individuals and social structures, as she attempts to reconstruct a fluid, inclusive, and emotional discursive space based on perceptual connections. She works mainly on interactive moving images and socially engaged practices. Xiaoyu has long been

concerned with the interweaving of text, images and sounds in natural environments, gender discourse, and the generation of discourse structures in cross-cultural spaces.

Xiaoyu's artistic practice is widely recognised, she has received important awards such as the First Place of Art for Impact: Beijing+30 Digital Art Competition supported by the United Nations, The John Calcutt Prize for Critical Writing, GOLD Award for Information Design of GDC Award. She has also received support through the China Scholarship Council between 2022-2024, CtC-UK China Connection Grand Award and Alumni Award in 2021 and 2022 by the British Council. She graduated from the Glasgow School of Art (MFA). Her personal website can be found here: https://xiongxiaoyusherry.xyz/