

# Yue WU

Selected artistic practices (2023–2025)

My artistic practice spans **water ink painting, calligraphy, performance,** and **multimedia installations.** This plurality of mediums is essential to how I integrate my experience as a woman and reflect on ecological concerns.

I explore the intersection of art and science with a focus on sustainability, while foregrounding overlooked narratives of women's experiences.

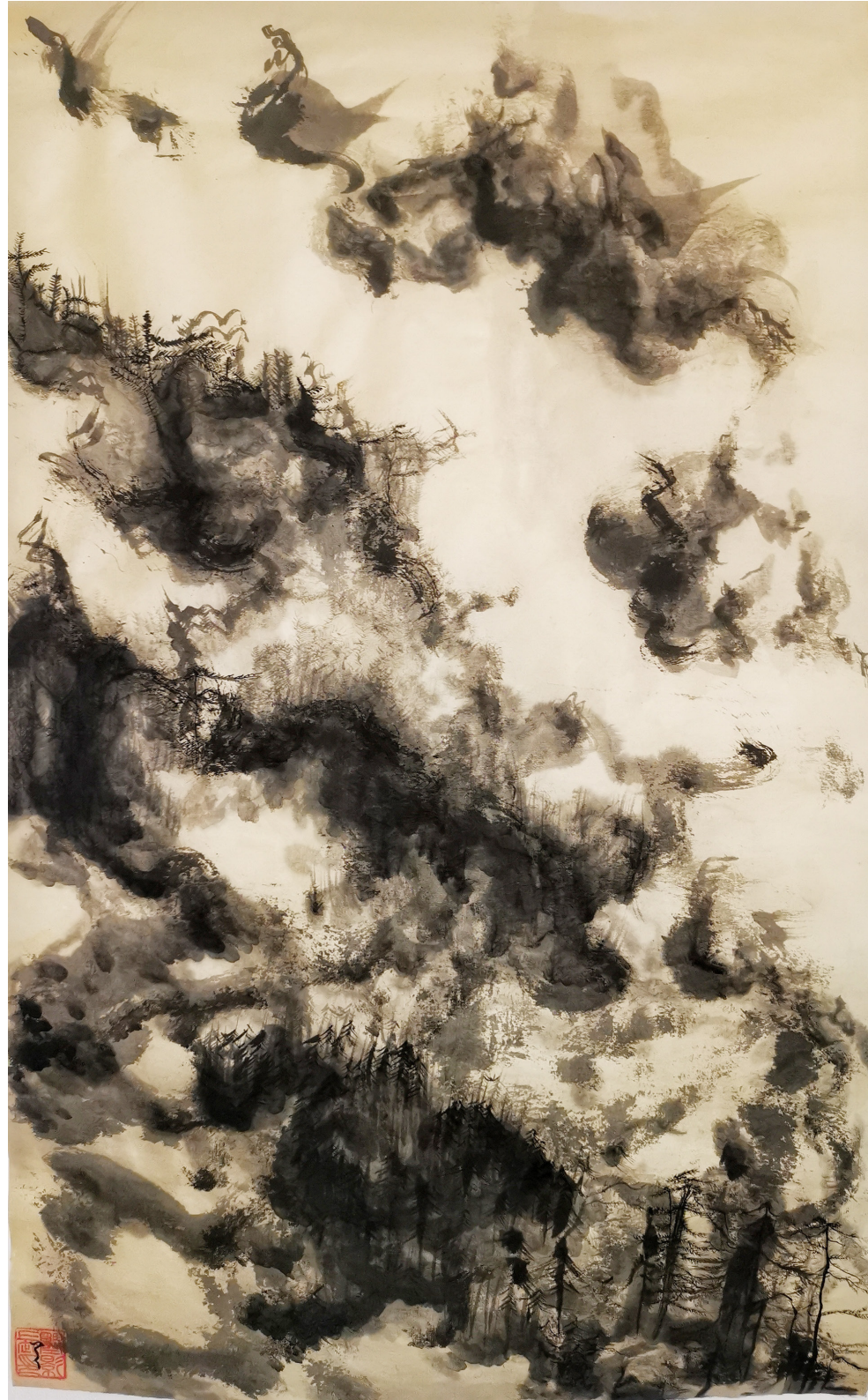


**Calligraphy**, unlike alphabetic writing that unfolds linear time perception, intimately incorporates the observation of nature into each stroke—embodying a philosophy of life in which every form, whether organic or inorganic, holds vitality.

Similarly, in my **water ink paintings**, I depict collapsing glaciers, withering lotus leaves, and mountains dissolving into rain, as a response to the vulnerability and ongoing shifts of ecological systems.



mountain mist, 2025  
Rice Paper, Water Ink,  
78cm x 48cm



breathing of ecosystem, 2025

Rice Paper, Water Ink,

78cm x 48cm



reflecting, refracting, 2024  
Rice Paper, Water Ink,  
78cm x 48cm



the moment, and before its time, 2024

Rice Paper, Water Ink,

78cm x 48cm



two scripts of "dream", 2025

Rice Paper, Water Ink,

52cm x 48cm

祥龍石者立於張碧池之  
南晉洲橋之西相對則勝瀛  
也其勢騰湧若虬龍出爲  
瑞應之狀意容巧態莫能具  
絕妙而言之也廼親繪縑素  
聊以四韻紀之彼美蜿蜒勢若  
龍挺然爲瑞獨稱雄雲凝  
好色來相借水潤清輝更  
不同常帶暝煙疑振鬣每  
乘宵雨忽凌空故憑彩筆  
親模寫融結功深未易窮

節製節畫并書



selection of daily practice I, 2025

Rice Paper, Water Ink,

52cm x 34cm

風林世艱，雲忠臣彰赴難。  
銜須授命，結纓殉國，英聲  
煥乎記牒，徽烈著於旂常。  
豈若疊起蕭牆禍，生蕃翰  
強踰七國勢，重三監其有蹈  
水火而不辭，臨鋒刃而莫顧。  
激清風於後葉，抗名節  
於當時者，見之弘義明公  
矣。君諱誕，字玄憲，安定朝  
邠人也。昔立効長丘，樹績東  
郡，太尉裂壤，槐里司徒胙土於  
而門，是車服旌其器，能茅表  
其勲，德銘功衛鼎，騰美晉  
鍾，垂天之羽，父使持節驃騎  
大將軍，開府儀同三司，隨州  
刺史，長樂恭侯，橫劔桂桴。

selection of daily practice II, 2024

Rice Paper, Water Ink,

68cm x 34cm

天下皆知美之為美斯惡已皆知善之為善  
斯不善已故有無之相生難易之相成長短  
之相形高下之相傾音聲之相和前後之  
相隨是以聖人處無為之事行不言之教  
萬物作而不辭生而不有為而不恃功成不  
居夫唯不居是以不去不尚賢使民不爭  
不貴難得之貨使民不為盜不見可欲  
使心不亂是以聖人之治也虛其心實盜  
其腹弱其志強其骨常使民無知無欲使  
夫知者不敢為也為無為則無不治矣  
道沖而用之或不盈淵乎似萬物之宗挫  
其銳解其紛和其光同其塵湛兮似若  
存吾不知其誰之子象帝之先  
天地不仁以萬物為芻狗聖人不仁以百姓  
為芻狗天地之間其猶橐籥乎虛而不屈動  
而愈出多言數窮不如守中

selection of daily practice III, 2025

Rice Paper, Water Ink,

68cm x 34cm



As water flows through the landscape and a flower knows when to bloom, water creates life, breath embodies hope, and light finds its arrival in its departure. This understanding shapes my **performance**.



Light Knows Where to Go before Arriving, 2024

Live Performance: 29 June, 15:00

Performers: Yue Cao & Yue Wu

Duration: 30 minutes

The music for the performance is composed by Paul Taro Schmidt.

\*This video is the documentary film of the live performance: <https://youtu.be/ETCr612Kokw?si=M512LlqNrccI42JT>





Mother Forest Part I, 2024

Live Performance  
Duration: 15 min



Mother Forest Part II, 2024

Live Performance  
Duration: 20 min



I am Walking II, 2023

Live Performance: 25 March, 15:30  
Duration: 15 min

\*This video is the documentary film of the live performance:  
<https://vimeo.com/1061234632/59633e867e>







In this **video installation**, I explore Suzhou's urban memory and its remaining physical boundaries. Documented footages are represented.



in front of a Communist Courtyard, 2024

Video documentation  
Duration: 3 min



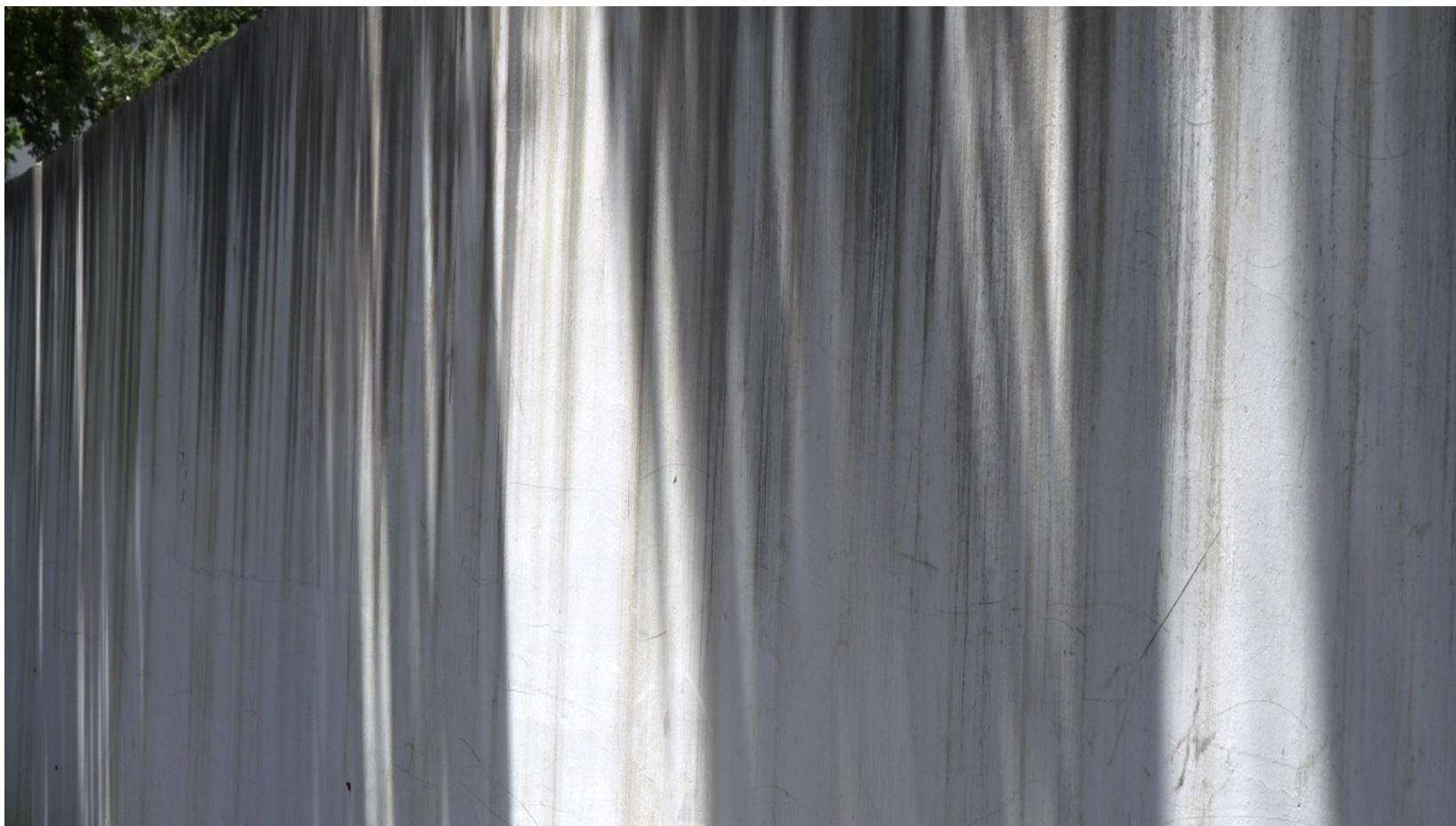
in front of a high school, 2024

Video documentation  
Duration: 6 min



in front of a derelict home, 2024

Video documentation  
Duration: 4 min



in front of a wall, 2024

Video documentation  
Duration: 2 min



The six-channel **video installation** based on conversations with three climate scientists and one environmental scientist.

The installation reflects on the urgency of understanding climate change—its causes, such as the introduction of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, and its far-reaching effects on life. The narration introduces three major ecosystem types in Switzerland: What are they? Are they affected by climate change? And how might they, in turn, influence it?

Color plays a central role—monochrome fields fill the screen, structuring the image-based narrative, while the scientists' voices shape the auditory experience. The colors were consciously chosen based on the hues of natural mineral and organic pigments. By identifying their digital codes, I transformed these pigments into enveloping monochrome fields. This visual language was informed by research on ancient Chinese Buddhist sculptures in the Mogao Caves of Dunhuang, China.



The Mute Colours, 2023

6-channel-video installation,  
audio recording (Dr. C. Schnadt Poberaj, Dr. P. Pothapakula, Prof. R. Jnglin Wills, Prof. N. Buchmann)

Duration: 35 min 42 sec







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## INTRODUCTION

I am a visual artist and artistic researcher committed to equitable knowledge production. My practice spans writing, performance, video, and Chinese ink painting and calligraphy. I explore art and science collaboration with a focus on sustainability, foregrounding overlooked female experiences.

## EDUCATION

**Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)**, Zürich, CH

**MA**, Fine Arts | June 2025 (expected)

Thesis: Evolving pronouns: gender fluidity, cultural identity, and power dynamics in Chinese linguistic and social structures.

Thesis advisor: Prof. Dr. phil. Dominique Lämmli

**University of Fine Arts Essen (HBK Essen)**, Essen, NRW, DE

**BA**, Fine Arts | 22. Sep 2021

Academical award: A performance reflecting how patriarchy and capital fuel beauty anxiety via social media earned me the 2020–2021 Germany Scholarship.

**Nanjing Xiaozhuang University**, Jiangsu, CN

**BS**, Chemistry | June 2015

Publication: Appearance and application of the colors of phenolphthalein in solutions of NaOH, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and NaHCO<sub>3</sub>

## GRANTS/AWARDS

April 2025 – February 2026 | School of Commons Grant

– Awarded for the proposal *The Colours of Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystems: A Collaboration Between Artist and Environmental Scientists*. The jury highly valued its thoughtfulness and potential impact.

2024 | Sustainability ZHdK Grant

– Awarded for the research project *A Collective Work Between Artist and Environmental Scientists*, recognized for its integration of sustainability and climate communication.

2023 | International and Intercultural Student Project Scholarship

– Granted for the proposal *Roots, Relations, Recollections*, which was recognized for the reflection on identity construction and cultural memory among international students.

2022 | NRW Artist Grant

– Supported for sustaining artistic practice during the COVID-19 period.

2020–2021 | Germany Scholarship

– Merit-based award recognizing academic excellence.



## INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCIES

Artist Residency: Road in the Woods, Suzhou, China | July 2024

- Created interactive sound installations in a historic Chinese garden.

Artist Residency: Medienfrische – Bschlabs, Tirol, Austria | June 2024

- Learned from locals about how climate change impacts ecosystems.
- Engaged local communities to explore forest conservation and policy in action.
- Created a live performance in nature.

## EXHIBITIONS

*Stories That Educate Us: First Issues* Zürich, CH | January 11-19, 2025

*Resonanzkörper - Skulptur und Sound im Raum* Zürich, CH | June 28 - July 14, 2024

*Of Each Absence* Zürich, CH | October 31 - November 2, 2023

- Exhibition holds as part of *ETH-Klimarunde 2023* to engage broader audiences in climate dialogue.
- \*Organized by the Center for Climate Systems Modeling, ETH Zurich.

*loslassen – loswerden* Zürich, CH | March - April 2023

*IM TAKT +BASEMENT*, Essen, DE | May - June 2022

- First solo exhibition, exploring time perception through multimedia installations and works. I installed one interactive acoustic installation, one interactive video installation, a series of sketches and a handmade artbook.
- \*Funded by NRW Artist Grant (2022).

*NORMALITÄTEN* Frauenmuseum, Bonn, DE | December 2021 - February 2022

- \*Organised by Bonn Frauenmuseum.

*SATELLITES / laboratory for sound and soul*, Bochum, DE | August 2021

- \*Supproted by Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler (BBK) and city Bochum.

*Windows / Conversations*, Bochum, DE | June 2021

- \*Funded by Bochum-Fonds.

Art in Garden, Botanischer Garten, Wuppertal, DE | May 2021

## CONFERENCE

eLTER Science conference 2025 | 23–27 June 2025

- Key words: Role of groundwater in ecosystem dynamics | Ecosystem restoration | Global socio-ecological sustainability
- Accepted proposal "The colors of CO2 fluxes: enhancing public understanding of the "breathing" of ecosystems"  
By Dr. Liliana Scapucci, Yue Wu, Dr. Yi Wang, Dr. Iris Feigenwinter, Dr. Sabina Keller, Prof. Dr. Nina Buchmann

## PRESENTATIONS

"A Collective Work between an Artist and Environmental Scientists" – Final presentation of the ONH funding program 2024 | Zurich University of the Arts, Zürich, December 2024

"Collective Work Between Artist and Environmental Scientists" – Ideaforum of Sustainable University Day 2024 | the University of Zurich and ETH Zurich, Zürich, November 2024

"Roots, Relations, Recollections" – Presentations of 2023 funded projects of ZHdK Dossier Internationales | Zurich University of the Arts, Zürich, March 2023



## PUBLICATIONS

Wu, Yue, "Richard Jackson — Painting, Evidence of Process", in *kunstbulletin*, 2022

Long, Qi and Xiaoting Ding and Yue Wu, "Appears and application of the colors of phenolphthalein in solutions of NaOH, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and NaHCO<sub>3</sub>", in *Journal of Science of Teachers' College and University*, Issue 4, 2015

## ARTIST CATALOGS

*Loslassen - Loswerden: Sinnlichkeit im gekachelten Waschraum*. Verein Waschraum, 2023

*Normalitäten*. HBK Essen Verlag, 2022

*KUNST IM GARTEN*. HBK Essen Verlag, 2021

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Internship in the gallery thalberg Zürich, CH 04/2023 - 10/2023

- Supporting the administration and regular updates of the gallery website.
- Coordinating with social medias, newsletters, artwork lists, press release.
- Drafting contracts for borrowing, purchasing, and selling artworks.
- Assisting with the installation and deinstallation of exhibitions.
- Assisting at the front desk and supporting the daily operations and maintenance of the gallery spaces.

Assistant of the gallery obrist Essen, DE 05/2022 - 10/2022

- Managing the daily appointment calendar and updating meeting agendas.
- Providing event support during evening openings and art fairs.

Member of the experimental music and dance theatre filidonia DE 03/2022 - 06/2022

- Contributed to collaborative performances blending music, dance, and experimental art forms.
- Supported production activities, including sound design, and live performances.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Participated "lighting for diverse skin tones" workshop, ZHdK Seminar | April 2024

- Against Racism in Film Technology.

Co-hosted "real-talk: cultural sensitivities" workshop, ZHdK Teaching Day | September 2023

- Shared insights on cultural micro-violence experienced by diaspora women within institutional frameworks.