

Experimental Fields

Xi Li 李曦

Experimental Fields reveals how digital technology and the spiritual world intertwine to create a complex network of existence, examining the intersections of urban, fantasy, and cyber spaces with the self.

Xi Li's 3D visual animations craft fantastical fields that symbolise the coexistence of the virtual and real. This aesthetic blend is a metaphor, prompting reflections on the links between identity, body, technology, and contemporary civilisation and provoking critical dialogue that transcends the physical into the fields of thought.

Prosperity or Emptiness: This piece investigates the liminal fields where body, digital technology, and civilization intersect. It reflects on the tension between abundance and void, examining the intricate balance of excess and deficiency in contemporary society.

Idol Reveal: From Infatuation to the Mysterious: This VR video game project delves into the spiritual fields of idol worship in global pop culture, depicting stages of obsession and featuring mythological images and totems, influenced by Lacan's theory of the object petit a.

↔ I ↔ **(Within Web of Mask):** Using first-person 360-degree video, this work posits the self as a fictional concept, examining the fictitiousness of identity and the phenomenology of digital narratives. It highlights the illusion of self-autonomy and the inseparability of self and the "big Other."

Xi Li 李曦 is an interdisciplinary artist and researcher. Born in Harbin, China, and based in Tāmaki Makaurau, Aotearoa, she earned a Master of Fine Arts (with first-class honours) from Elam School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland in 2021. Her practice spans digital film, moving images, animation, 3D-printed sculptures, performance, spatial installations, virtual reality, games, and diagrams. Her work explores the interaction between physical experiences and the digital realm through grand narratives and extensive projects.

She integrates frameworks like psychoanalysis, postmodernity, semiotics, and phenomenology to create self-mythologies and critical dialogues. Her interests include the complexity of subjective and collective experiences, focusing on the construction and transformation of consciousness and subjectivity in digital technology, capitalism, cyberspace, and popular cultures.

Her cross-cultural background sparks interest in global diaspora, identity, gender and racial belonging, marginalisation, colonisation, geopolitical dynamics, and hyper-cultural landscapes. Xi Li is dedicated to merging theoretical research with artistic practice, creating expressions that link both realms.

Image List

1. Xi Li 李曦

Idol Reveal: From Infatuation to the Mysterious, 2022

4K QHD Video/ 3840x2160/ 22'22"

Commissioned by Te Tuhi

2. Xi Li 李曦

Prosperity or Emptiness, 2022

2K QHD Video/ 2560x1440/ 05'01"

Commissioned by Circuit Artist Moving Image Aotearoa New Zealand and Wellington City Council

3. Xi Li 李曦

↔I↔ ***(Within Web of Mask), 2023***

360° Video/ 4K DCI/ 4096x2048/ 6'40"

Commissioned by Aotearoa Digital Arts Network supported by Creative New Zealand

photo access

Supported by



ACT
Government

BentSpoke
BREWING CO



LERIDA ESTATE