

## **Artist Statement**

As a film essayist and multimedia artist, I am dedicated to exploring the poetic and political dimensions of the moving image. My work focuses on examining the impact of urbanisation on communities and how historical traumas shape contemporary daily life. I am particularly interested in creating multi-layered narratives that capture the experiences of urban legends, rumors, and societal gossip, using an essayistic structure in my moving image practice. By blending elements of fiction and documentary, I aim to redefine reality and provide my personal perspectives on societal issues.

My moving image practice has two main routines. The first focuses on mainland Chinese society, exploring the relationship between Chineseness, montage, and transgenerational trauma by documenting and fictionalising stories set in historical buildings and contemporary urban architectural designs. The second routine transcends regional boundaries, making the context international and relevant to all human beings, regardless of their country of origin or residence. This routine focuses on love stories in urban settings, exploring how individuals become emotional when they encounter love in their daily lives, with narratives often deconstructed by disrupting the sequence of time.

In both contexts, montage serves not only as a technique but also as a research method to deconstruct concepts of time and space in my film essays. Besides these, I also have experience in creating multimedia works, such as large prints and installations. My background in painting, printmaking, and filmmaking has given me a combined vision to understand the relationship between art and life.

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# Yuting Cai

(Artist Name: Bei Yu)

Tel: +44 7380853042 | Email: yutingcai.beiyu@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

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**University of Leeds** | Leeds, United Kingdom | Oct. 2019- July. 2024

Doctor of Philosophy: Fine Art (**Practice-led**)

- **Thesis Produced:** Title: *Montage in motion: Exploring Chineseness and transgenerational trauma through filmmaking practice* (35,000 words excluding footnotes, bibliography, appendices, and other supplementary materials).
- **Essay Films Produced:** *Rain, Tear, and Sweat* (00:14:28, 2022), *Microdistrict* (00:02:27, 2022), *Secret Archives: Red Carpet House* (00:04:23, 2021), *Secret Archives: Knowing What Not to Know in Such a White Box* (00:03:54, 2021), *Secret Archives: Three Minutes in the Open-door Apartment* (00:05:15, 2021), *A Tale of Duo Cranes* (00:09:09, 2021), and *Sentimental Meeting of Love* (00:16:08, 2020).

**Royal College of Art** | London, United Kingdom | Sept. 2018-Sept. 2019

Master of Research: Fine Art & Humanities

**Royal College of Art:** | London, United Kingdom | Sept. 2016-June. 2018

Master of Art: Fine Art & Print

**Nanjing University of the Arts:** |Nanjing, China | Sept. 2012-June. 2016

Bachelor of Art: Fine Art & Painting

## FILM FESTIVAL & EXHIBITION EXPERIENCE

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Name of Film | Name of Film Festival | Location of Film Festival | Time

**Rain, Tear and Sweat | Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam 2023** | Rotterdam, Netherlands | Oct. 2023

- Official Selection- Short Film
- Details of Screening: <https://www.afr.nl/en/films/rain-tear-and-sweat/> (Available at Dec 2023)

**Rain, Tear and Sweat | Odyssey 2023: A Chinese cinema season** | London, United of Kingdom | Aug. 2023

- Official Selection- Urban Development
- Details of Screening: <https://www.odysseychinesecinema.uk/film/rain-tear-and-sweat/>(Available at Dec 2023)
- Selected in 12 Films you shouldn't miss at the 3rd Odyssey:  
<https://asianfilmfestivals.com/2023/06/24/films-you-shouldnt-miss-odyssey-chinese-cinema-season-2023/>

**Rain, Tear and Sweat | International Art Film Festival** | Birmingham, United of Kingdom | Dec. 2023

- Official Selection- Animation
- Details of Screening: <https://www.iaffestival.com> (Available at Dec 2023)

**Rain, Tear and Sweat | Screener Shorts Films Festival** | London, United of Kingdom | Dec. 2023

- Official Selection- Animation
- Details of Screening: <https://screenershortfilm.wixsite.com/mysite/5th-edition-ssf> (Available at Dec 2023)
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**Rain, Tear and Sweat | International Experimental Film Festival** | Athens, Greece | Sep. 2023

- Official Selection- Short Film
- Details of Screening: <https://theinstitute.info/call-out-international-experimental-film-festival-2024/> (Available at Dec 2023)

**Microdistrict | 12<sup>th</sup> Video Art and Experimental Film Festival** | New York, United States | Aug. 2022

- Official Selection- Programme: *On the Edge*
- Screened at Tribeca Film Center and Producers Club Theaters
- Details of Screening: <https://videoart.net/microdistrict-by-bei-yu/> (Available at Dec 2022)

**A Tale of Duo Cranes | 7<sup>th</sup> Urban Film Festival** | Miami, United States | Sept. 2021

- Official Selection- Programme: *Best of UFF Screenings*
- Screened at Dorsey Library
- Nominated for Best International Short Film.

**Secret Archives: Red Carpet House | 6<sup>th</sup> Art Visuals & Poetry Festival Vienna** | Vienna, Austria | Dec.2021

- Official Selection- Programme: *Best of International Short*
- Screened at Kunsterhaus Wien
- Details of Screening: <http://www.poetryfilm-vienna.com/index.php/en/2021/audience-award> (Available at Dec 2022)

**Secret Archives: White Art Museum | 10<sup>th</sup> International Video Poetry Festival** | Athens, Greece | Sept.2022

- Official Selection- Programme: *Documentaries / Short Films Zone*
- Screened at Theater EMBROS
- Details of Screening- [http://drive.google.com/file/d/117Z78laTokrJ2GV\\_dqnPzAnXQP6woOqM/view](http://drive.google.com/file/d/117Z78laTokrJ2GV_dqnPzAnXQP6woOqM/view) at Page 46 (Available at Dec 2022)

**Secret Archives: Three Minutes in the Open-Door Apartment | 8<sup>th</sup> Amsterdam Life-Off Film Festival** | Amsterdam, Netherlands | Oct.2022

- Official Selection- Programme: *Judges' Select Shorts*
- Details of Screening- <https://liftoff.network/amsterdam-lift-off-film-festival-2022/> (Available at Dec 2022)

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

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Name of Award | Location of Film Festival | Time

**The Sixth Art Visuals & Poetry Film Festival** | Vienna, Austria | Nov. 2021

- Official Selection-International Audience Award
- The four-day event opened on November 9, 2021, at Stadtkino im Kunsterhaus with the international Audience Award. In a live voting the best international poetry film 2021 in the narrative-documentary genre was awarded. The winners in the audience's favor were ex-aequo the Chinese film by **Bei Yu** "**Secret Archives: Red Carpet House**" with Mariam AI-Dhubhani's "No words" (poet Ahmed Abdul Raqeeb Alkhulaidi).

<http://www.poetryfilm-vienna.com/en/2021/festivalreview>

- The Sixth Art Visuals & Poetry Film Festival was held for the first time at Künstlerhaus Wien from November 9 to 13, 2021. The festival has been held since 2013 and in 7 years has grown to become the second largest poetry film festival in the world.

#### **London Independent Film Awards** | London, UK | Sep. 2021

- Official Selection- Monthly Winner
- London Independent Film Awards is an IMDB qualifying monthly festival with annual screenings, recognising and awarding the work of independent filmmakers worldwide. Our aim is to give the directors, writers, animators, and actors involved a helpful step forward in their future careers.  
<https://lifawards.com/august-2021/>

#### **Gamma Young Artist Competition** | Seoul, Korea | Sep. 2019

- Official Selection- Shortlist
- 2019 GAMMA Young Artist Competition' lasted from May 6th to June 18th and attracted many artists from the fields of painting & sculpture, contemporary media art, and architecture & design. From the first round of selection, 7 candidates from painting & sculpture, 10 candidates from contemporary media art, and 6 candidates from architecture & design fields were chosen. 3 finalists among 23 shortlisted candidates have been chosen by an international team of juries and they will have an opportunity to present their works at 2019 GFMC at Paris.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W5e3nvOyGBLFukv\\_rSsZ5CUzMgiYtCkj/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W5e3nvOyGBLFukv_rSsZ5CUzMgiYtCkj/view)

#### **Visual Art Open Prize** | Chester, UK | June. 2018

- Official Selection- Finalist
- The Visual Art Open competition is a not-for-profit event open to both amateur and professional artists based in the UK and internationally. The aim is to give artists the ultimate platform to develop their passion and career in the arts sector. Finalists will benefit from exhibiting, selling and showcasing their work to art critics and buyers alike.  
<https://www.visualartopen.com/vao24>

### **FELLOWSHIP, TEACHING AND CONFERENCE**

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Position | Name of Institution | Location | Time

#### **Visiting Artist and Researcher** | Fukuoka Asian Art Museum | Fukuoka, Japan | 2025

- Fukuoka Asian Art Museum is the only museum in the world that systematically collects and exhibits Asian modern and contemporary art.

#### **Speaker** | Birkbeck College, University of London | 2024

In December 2024, Bei Yu presents his film practice and research at the "Memory and Trauma" international conference, organised by the London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, at Birkbeck, University of London.

#### **Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow** | Leeds Arts and Humanities Research Institute, University of Leeds | October 2024- September 2025

In his postdoctoral fellowship, Bei Yu is exploring the relationships between sensory experiences and memory through his short essay film, "Parrot Non-Fiction." Central to his work is the concept of montage, as articulated by Andrew Irving, which he uses to investigate how everyday movements and encounters create complex juxtapositions of sensory information. By examining the ways in which montage reflects the multifaceted nature of reality, he aims to uncover the poetic dimensions of lived experience, weaving together the threads of sight, sound, and memory.

**Visiting Assistant Professor** | Tongji University | 2024-202

He serves as a visiting assistant professor teaching fine art, film, and AI at Tongji University in Shanghai, China.