

Across RCA 2023/24 Being Digital

**ERA'S FOOTPRINT:**

**FROM MICE TO CLICKS**

Murong Li | Mengdong Luo | Yujing Xiang | Xiaotong Liu

# TERM 1

## BRAINSTORMING on Miro Board

**Digital Across RCA** 🔍

**19 (online)**  
10:15:00 - 16:00: Team tutorials

**22 (online)**  
9 Academic Skills lecture  
2:30 Academic Skills seminar 4  
5:00 Academic Skills seminar 4

**1.29**  
3 Group seminar (online)  
3:30 Project team time

**5.9 (online)**  
9 Academic Skills lecture  
2:30 Academic Skills seminar 5  
5:00 Academic Skills seminar 5

**2.12**  
lect team time

**19 (online)**  
10:15:30 - 16:00 Group tutorials

**3.4**  
lect team time

**11 (online)**  
3:30 Assessment Support

**3.14**  
final submission and final statement

**Outcomes**

- AI generated content
- Immersive space experience
- Interactive design

**Concept**

**Share your research**

**image inspired**

**Anna Uddenberg**

**A Cyborg Manifesto**

**Human spirit/人性/情感 in the high-tech future**

**Can You Upload Your Mind & Live Forever?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b33NT4uF5E>

**Futurism 系列视频**

**Digital Existentialism, fading boundaries, alienation and instrumentalisation of the human**

- Meaning of life, how do we define a better life?
- Value

**Starting from contemplating the future of humanity, we envision a scenario where technology reaches its zenith, with artificial intelligence capable of fulfilling all human needs. However, humans face the challenge of adapting to changing ecological environments, compelling them to modify their own bodies to survive these extreme conditions. This induces a cycle of self-repaign: where creation and being created, dominion and being dominated interplay, it fosters a relationship of mutual difference and life-sharing.**

**Humanity continually transforms itself, becoming more mechanical and inorganic, symbolizing the advancement of knowledge and consciousness. As we proceed in an animation akin Blue. Sometimes, after the transformation, it's even harder for one to understand what I have become, and it's even harder to remember what I was."**

**In the future world, with the development of science and technology, humans will gradually forget the view of their former body organs, as well as how humans think, act, and live.**

**Human spirit/人性/情感 in the high-tech future**

**Can You Upload Your Mind & Live Forever?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4b33NT4uF5E>

**Futurism 系列视频**

**Digital Existentialism, fading boundaries, alienation and instrumentalisation of the human**

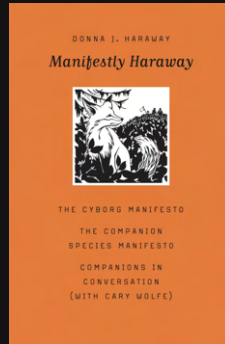
- Meaning of life, how do we define a better life?
- Value

# PROCESSES/ PRIMARY RESEARCH



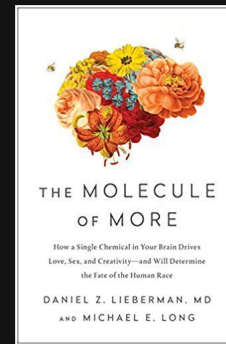
"The Future Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Humans and Human Rights"  
(Livingston & Risse, 2019)

"In pursuit of health, happiness and power, humans will gradually change first one of their features and then another, and another, until they will no longer be human."



"Manifestly Haraway, The Cyber Manifesto"  
(Haraway, 2016)

"We are all chimeras, theorized and fabricated hybrids of machine and organism; in short, we are cyborgs."



**The Molecule of More:** How a Single Chemical in Your Brain Drives Love, Sex, and Creativity—and Will Determine the Fate of the Human Race  
(Daniel Z. Lieberman, Michael E. Long)

If the dopamine system is overactive, the individual may fall into an obsessive reward-seeking state, constantly seeking more rewards.

- Digital Addiction
- Visualization of desires
- Emotions and Reward Control

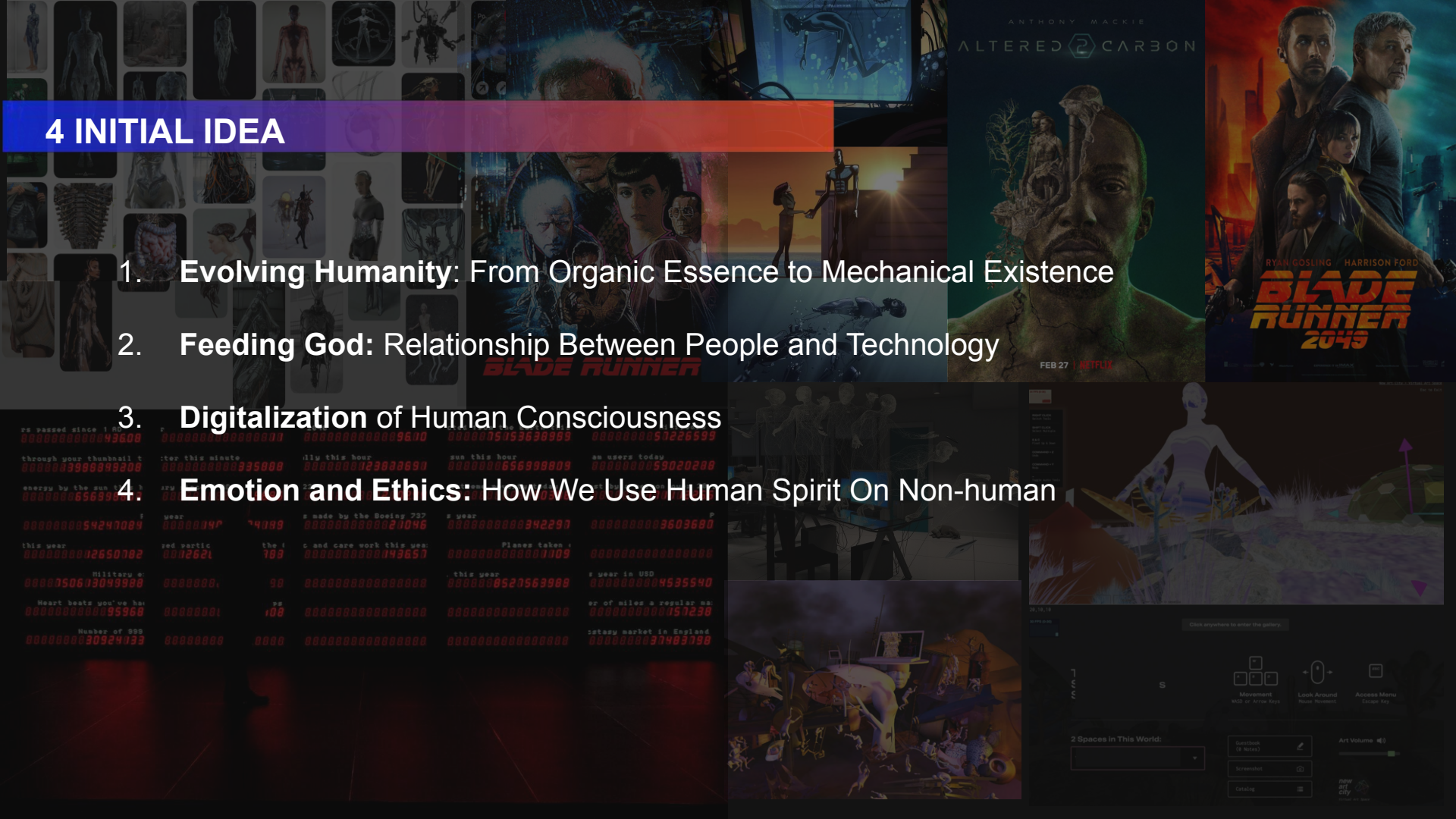


**The Spiral of Silence:** Public Opinion—Our Social Skin  
(Elisabeth Noel Neumann)

If people see their own views are widely welcomed, they will actively participate in it. But if the idea is not responded people will remain silent. This leads to a spiral process in which one side's voice becomes stronger and the other side becomes more and more silent.

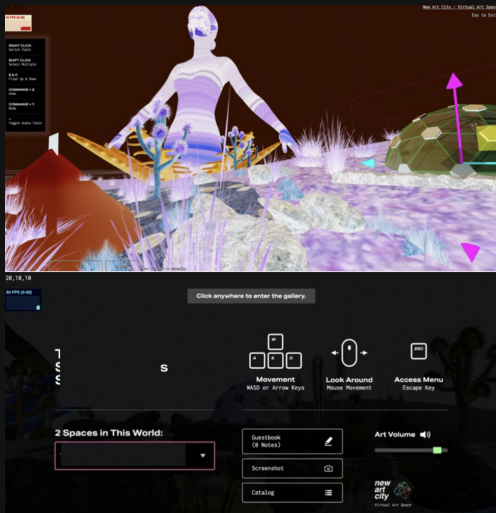
## 4 INITIAL IDEA

1. **Evolving Humanity:** From Organic Essence to Mechanical Existence
2. **Feeding God:** Relationship Between People and Technology
3. **Digitalization of Human Consciousness**
4. **Emotion and Ethics:** How We Use Human Spirit On Non-human



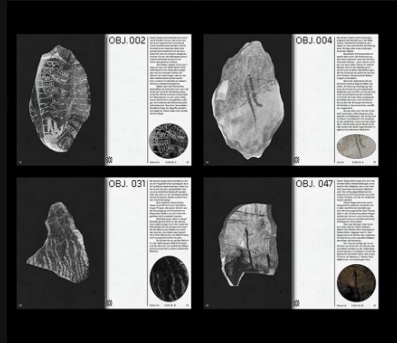
# POSSIBLE OUTCOME FORMS

- Immersive & Interactive Digital space experience



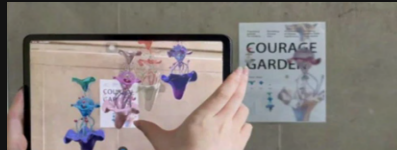
New Art City

- Future archaeology



Book or Toolkit

- AR



- Video

Closer, bigger, vague



## TERM 2

## RESEARCH



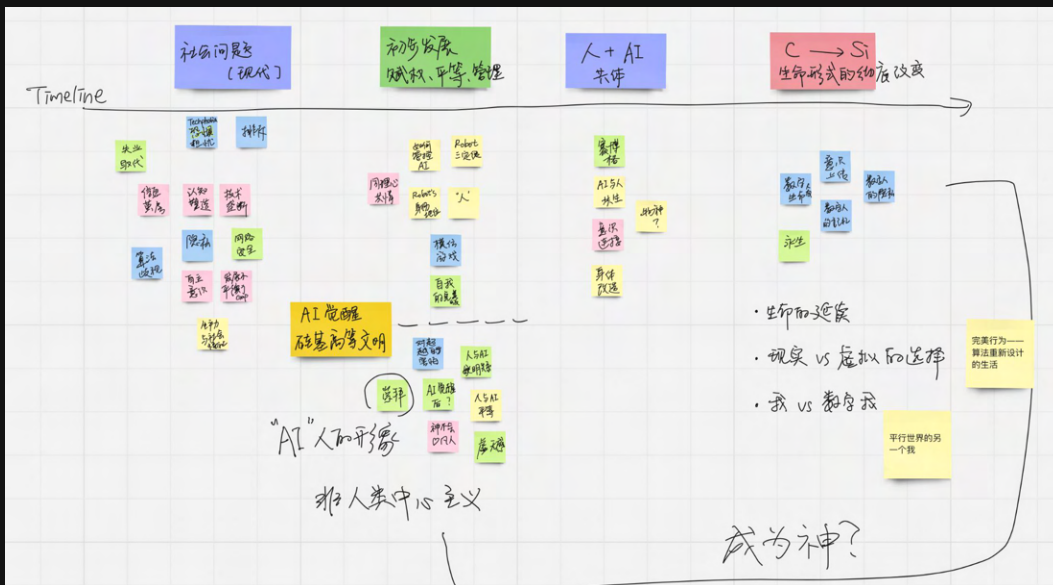
To narrow down our concept and theme, we researched emotion and ethics related problems...

- Empathy
- Surveillance, Security, Self-conscious, Truman's world
- Identity, definition of ourselves
- What if they gain real Intelligence?
- Fear of betrayal, malfunction, and loss of control: *The Three Laws of Robotics*
- Fear of replacement, unemployment
- Uploaded intelligence, digitalization of human life
- AI? God?
- Will god fall in love with human?

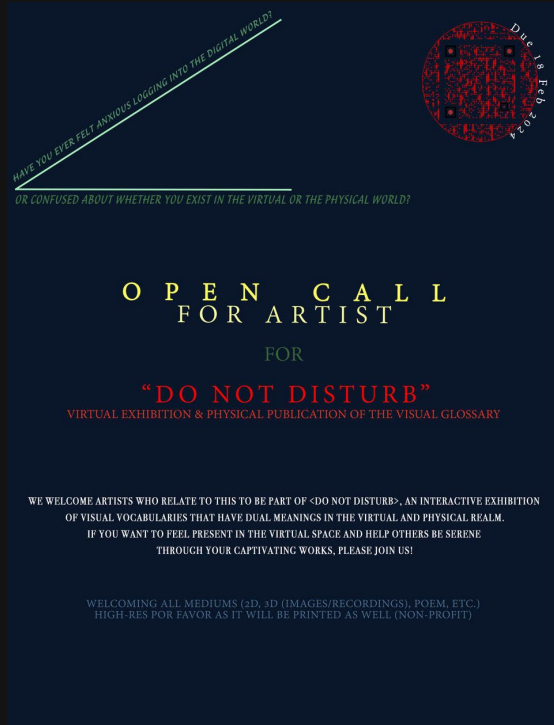
# TIMELINE OF POINTS

Society problems → AI life, 3 laws → Equity → Silicon-based life

- Monologue of digital life / God
- Emotions' change in digital world
- Digital vs. Physical
- Choice leave for audience



# INSPIRATION [Do Not Disturb, Exhibition]



*“In this exhibition, we will introduce words that have dual meanings in the physical and virtual world and feature artworks that echo with the meaning, layered by colours that accentuates the mood.”*

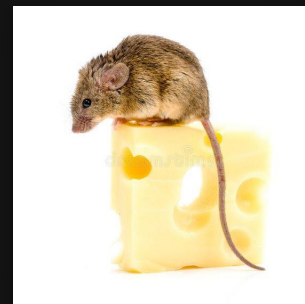
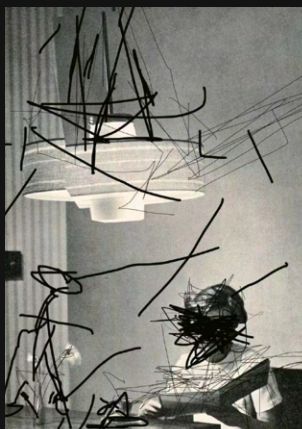
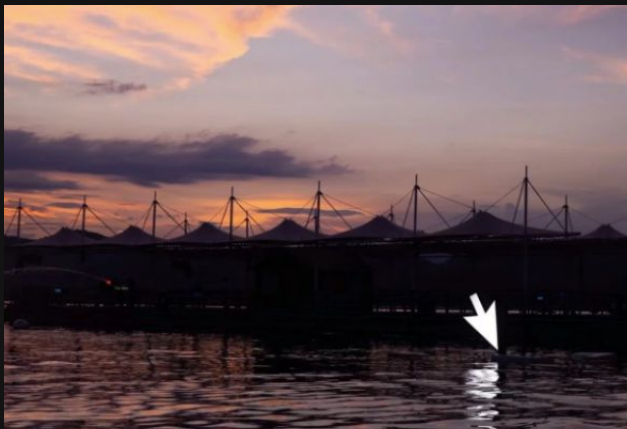
Inspired by this curating prompt, we decided to choose the word, **mouse**, which connect the digital and physical world, as the key element of our project.

Keyword: Mouse

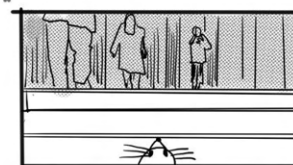
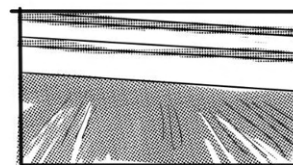
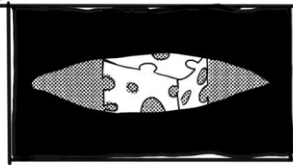
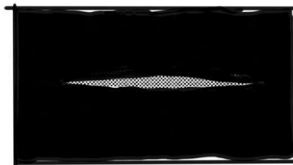
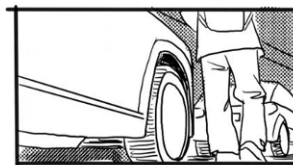
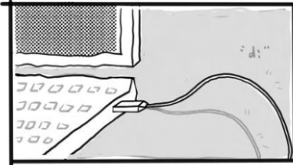
Form: Video, Online Exhibition (New Art City. Virtual Art Space)



# INSPIRATION & REFERENCE



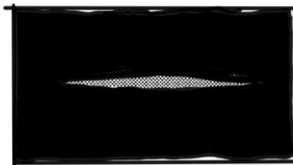
# VIDEO SCRIPT & SUBPLOT



PULLING THE MOUSE CORD TO BEGIN EXPLORING THE VIRTUAL/PHYSICAL WORLD. 1

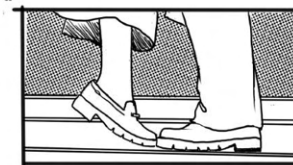
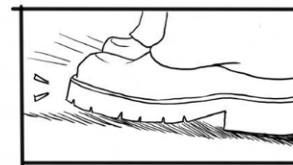
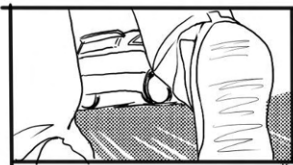
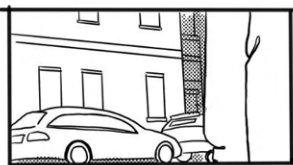
3

IT ENCOUNTERS LIVELY, ROMANTIC, AND HARMONIOUS



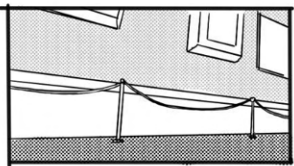
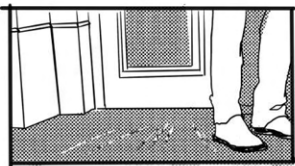
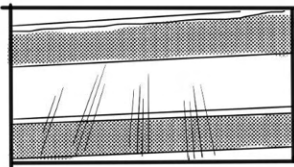
2

4



EVERYTHING IS FASCINATING

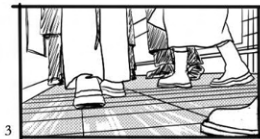
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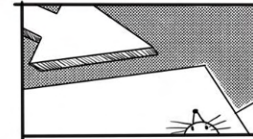
IN THIS UTOPIAN WORLD, IT FEELS DIZZY.



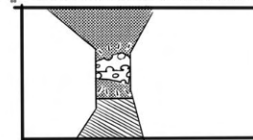
UPON WAKING AGAIN, THE WORLD SEEMS AS BEAUTIFUL AS BEFORE. COLLISIONS START.



THE WORLD HAS CHANGED, THE MOUSE IS RUNNING FRANTICALLY, ENVELOPED IN A TERRIFYING ATMOSPHERE.



IN FRONT OF THE MOUSE IS A COMPLEX MAZE. DESPITE FEAR AND HESITATION, IT ENTERS; IT HAS NO CHOICE.



THE MOUSE RUSHES FORWARD, BUT THE FLICKERING CHEESE IS JUST AN ILLUSION.



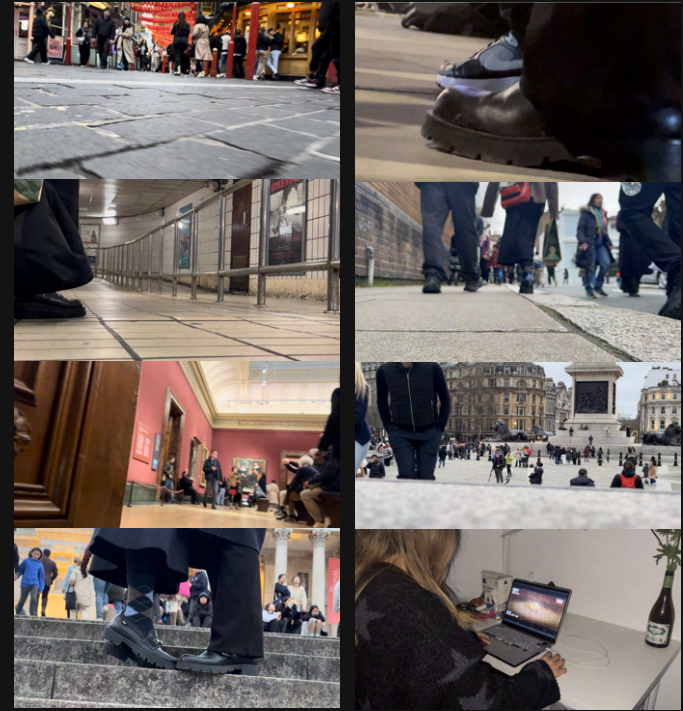
PASSING THROUGH THE ILLUSION, THE SCREEN DISPLAYS ITSELF THE MOUSE. WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCREEN? A PERSON WATCHING A MOUSE.

END

# RECORDING PROCESS

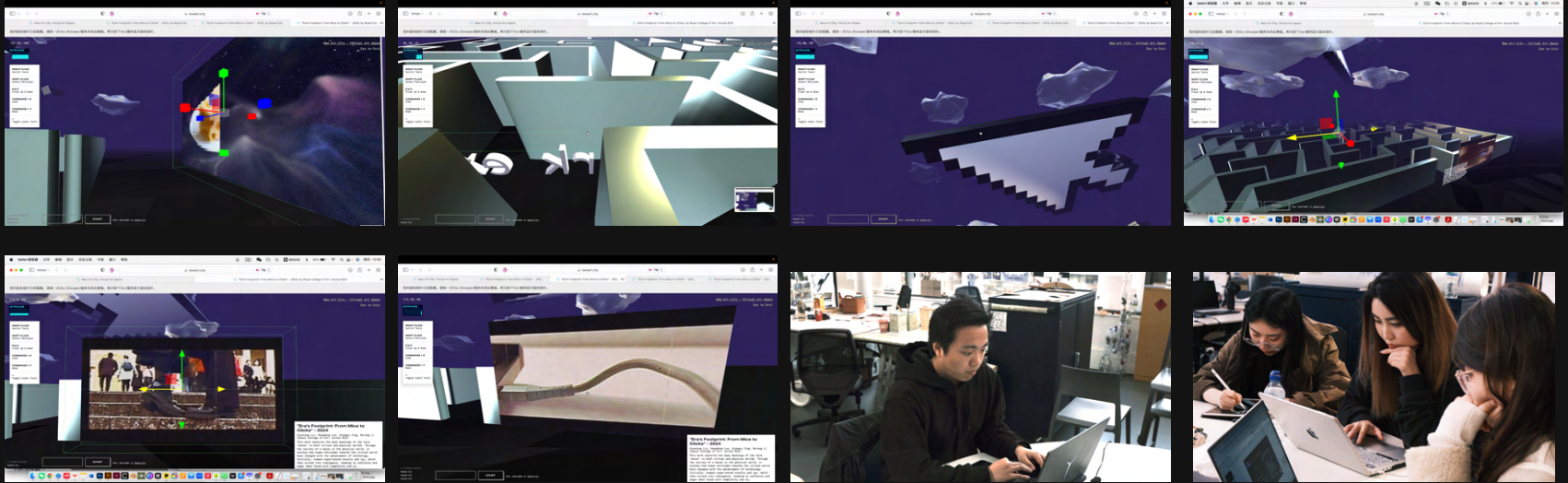
## Shooting Plan

	Content	Location/Platform
1	Mouse cable moving	Indoor
2	Happy mouse's view	ChinaTown; National Gallery; Trafalgar Square
3	Angry mouse's view	Kensington; Charing Cross Station
4	Confused mouse in maze	New Art City: Virtual Art Space
5	Man sitting in front of screen, clicking mouse	Indoor



Equipments: iPhone; Selfie stick

# New Art City . Virtual Art Space - PROCESS



We used New Art City: Virtual Art Space to create an online exhibition, insert our video in it, and build a complex maze with a so-called "cheese" at the exit of it.

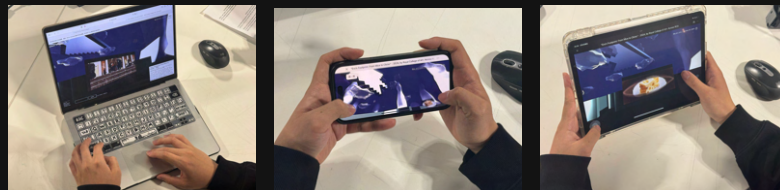
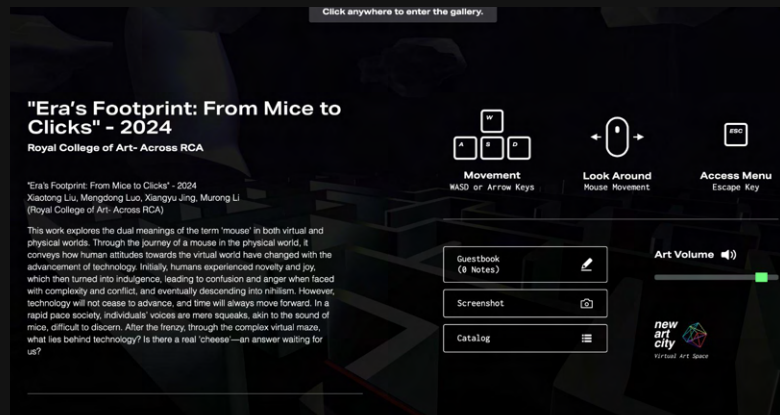
# OUTCOME

- 5 mins long video



<https://rca.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=345c0b75-258d-4464-8bf5-b12c01335965>

- Online Exhibition on New Art City platform



<https://newart.city/show/eras-footprint-from-mice-to-clicks-2024>

# ONLINE EXHIBITION

Click anywhere to enter the gallery.

## "Era's Footprint: From Mice to Clicks" - 2024

Royal College of Art- Access RCA

"Era's Footprint: From Mice to Clicks" - 2024  
Xiaolong Liu, Mingdong Luo, Xiangyue Jing, Munong Li  
(Royal College of Art- Access RCA)

This work explores the dual meanings of the term 'mouse' in both virtual and physical worlds. Through the journey of a mouse in the physical world, it conveys how human attitudes towards the virtual world have changed with the advancements of technology. Initially, humans experienced novelty and joy, which then turned into indulgence, leading to confusion and anger when faced with complexity and conflict, and eventually descending into nihilism. However, technology will not cease to advance, and time will always move forward. In a rapid pace society, individuals' voices are more squeaky, akin to the sound of mice, difficult to discern. After the frenzy, through the complex virtual maze, what lies behind technology? Is there a real 'cheese'—an answer waiting for us?

Navigation icons: Movement (WASD or Arrow Keys), Look Around (Mouse Movement), Access Menu (Escape Key).

Guestbook (9 Notes), Screenshots, Catalog.

Art Volume

new art city  
Virtual Art Space

CHAT Your avatar is gone (1)

Loading 25 objects.

Details

Virtual Art Space

<https://newart.city/show/eras-footprint-from-mice-to-clicks-2024>

<https://rca.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=345c0b75-258d-4464-8bf5-b12c01335965>

117,10,-64

New Art City - Virtual Art Space

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### "Era's Footprint: From Mice to Clicks" - 2024

Xiaotong Liu, Mengdong Luo, Xiangyu Jing, Murong Li  
(Royal College of Art- Across RCA)

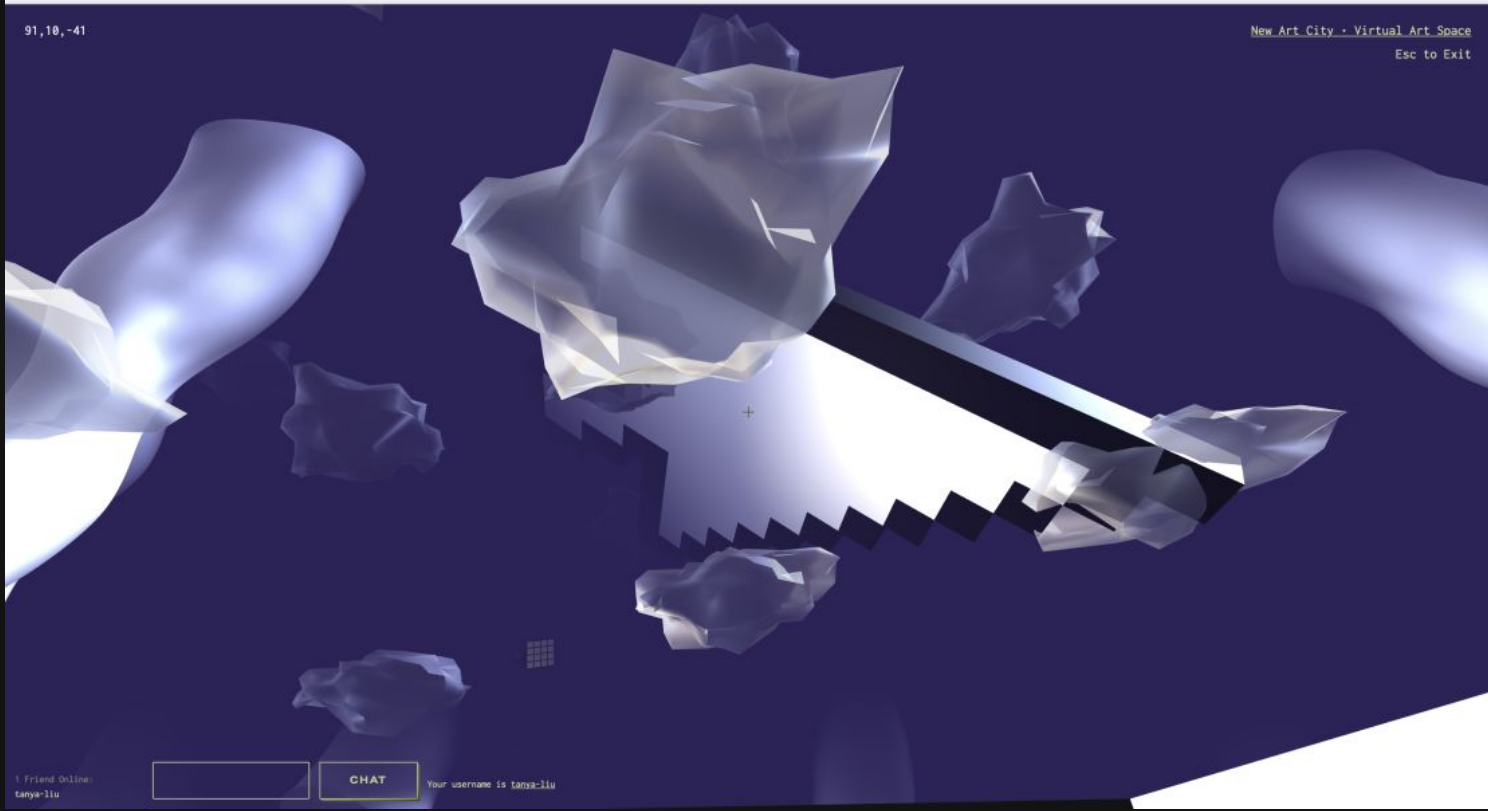
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1 Friend Online:  
tanya-liu

CHAT

Your username is tanya-liu







newart.city



New Art City, Virtual Art Space.

"Era's Footprint: From Mice to Clicks" - 2024, by Royal College of Art- Across RCA

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[New Art City - Virtual Art Space](#)

Esc to Exit



1 Friends Online  
Leave a message

CHAT

Your username is:



newart.city



New Art City, Virtual Art Space.

"Era's Footprint: From Mice to Clicks" - 2024, by Royal College of Art- Across RCA

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112, 71, +63

30 FPS (0-30)

- RIGHT CLICK**  
Switch Tools
- SHIFT CLICK**  
Select Multiple
- E & C**  
Float Up & Down
- COMMAND + Z**  
Undo
- COMMAND + Y**  
Redo
- Toggle Audio Tools

[New Art City - Virtual Art Space](#)

Esc to Exit

1 Friend Online:  
tanya-liu

CHAT

Your username is tanya-liu

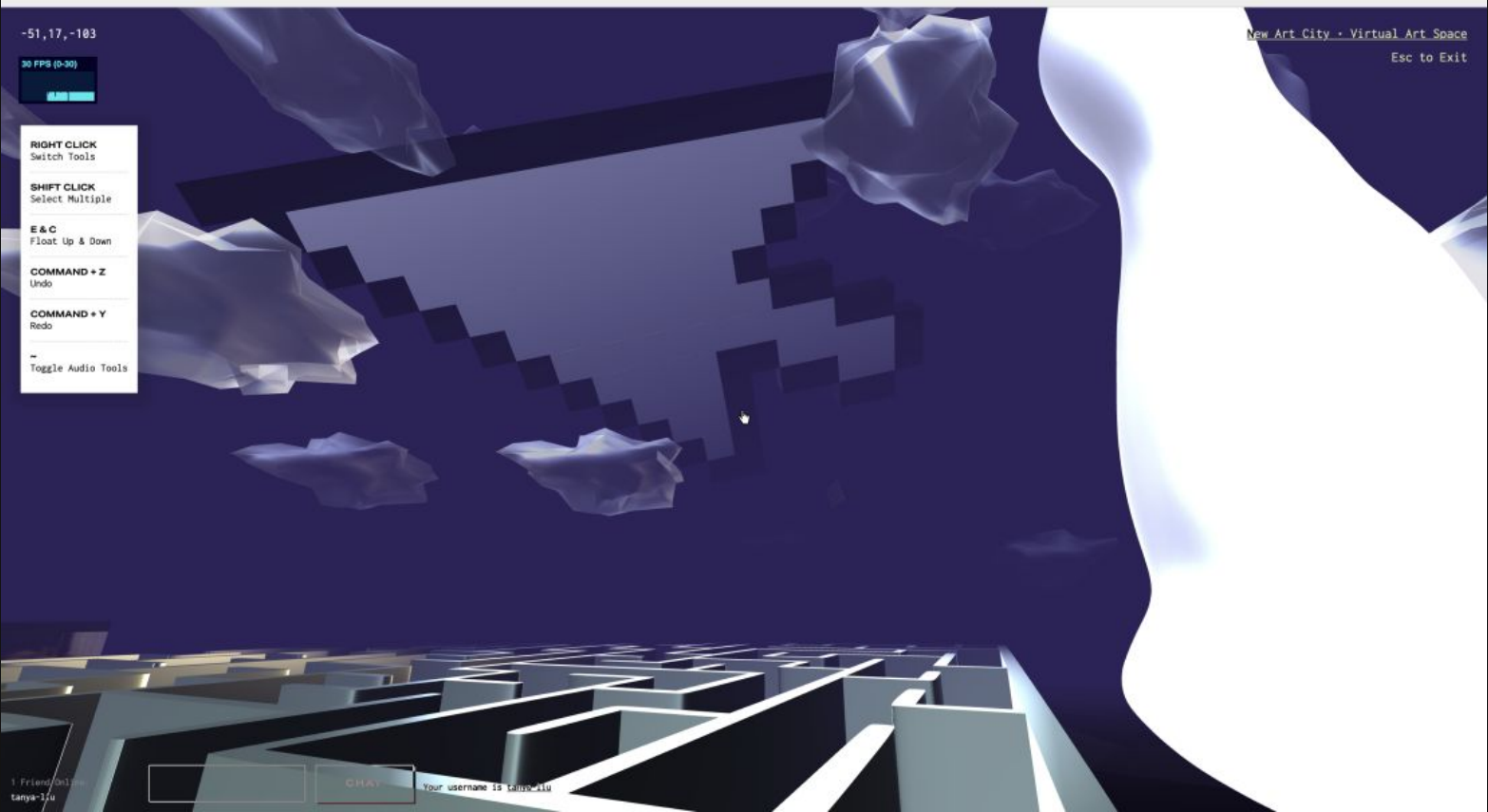
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30 FPS (0-30)

- RIGHT CLICK**  
Switch Tools
- SHIFT CLICK**  
Select Multiple
- E & C**  
Float Up & Down
- COMMAND + Z**  
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Toggle Audio Tools

New Art City - Virtual Art Space  
Esc to Exit



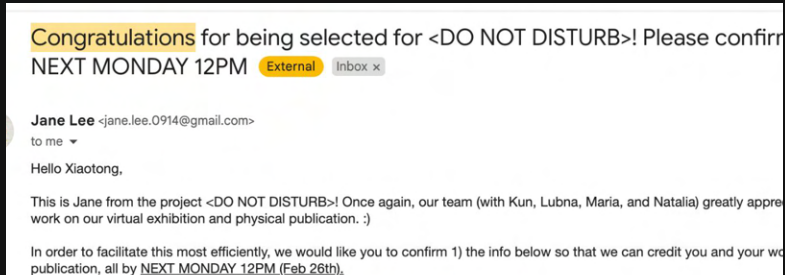
1 Friends online  
tanya-1ju

CHAT

Your username is tanyu\_1ju

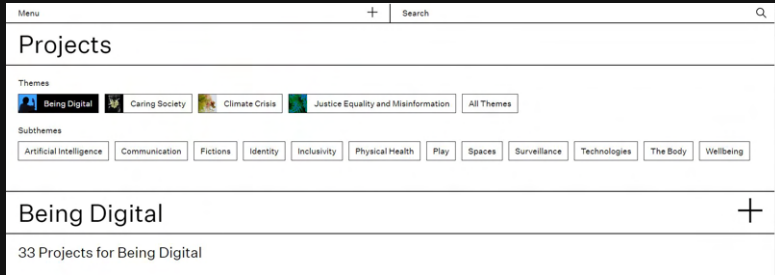
# FOR PUBLISHERMENT

- Do Not Disturb online exhibition



We were selected for <DO NOT DISTURB> and they will feature our work on the virtual and physical publication. It will open from March 14th 2024 til the end of this year.

- Across RCA Digital Showcase Platform



Accordingly, all Across RCA students have the opportunity to upload their work to a public platform.