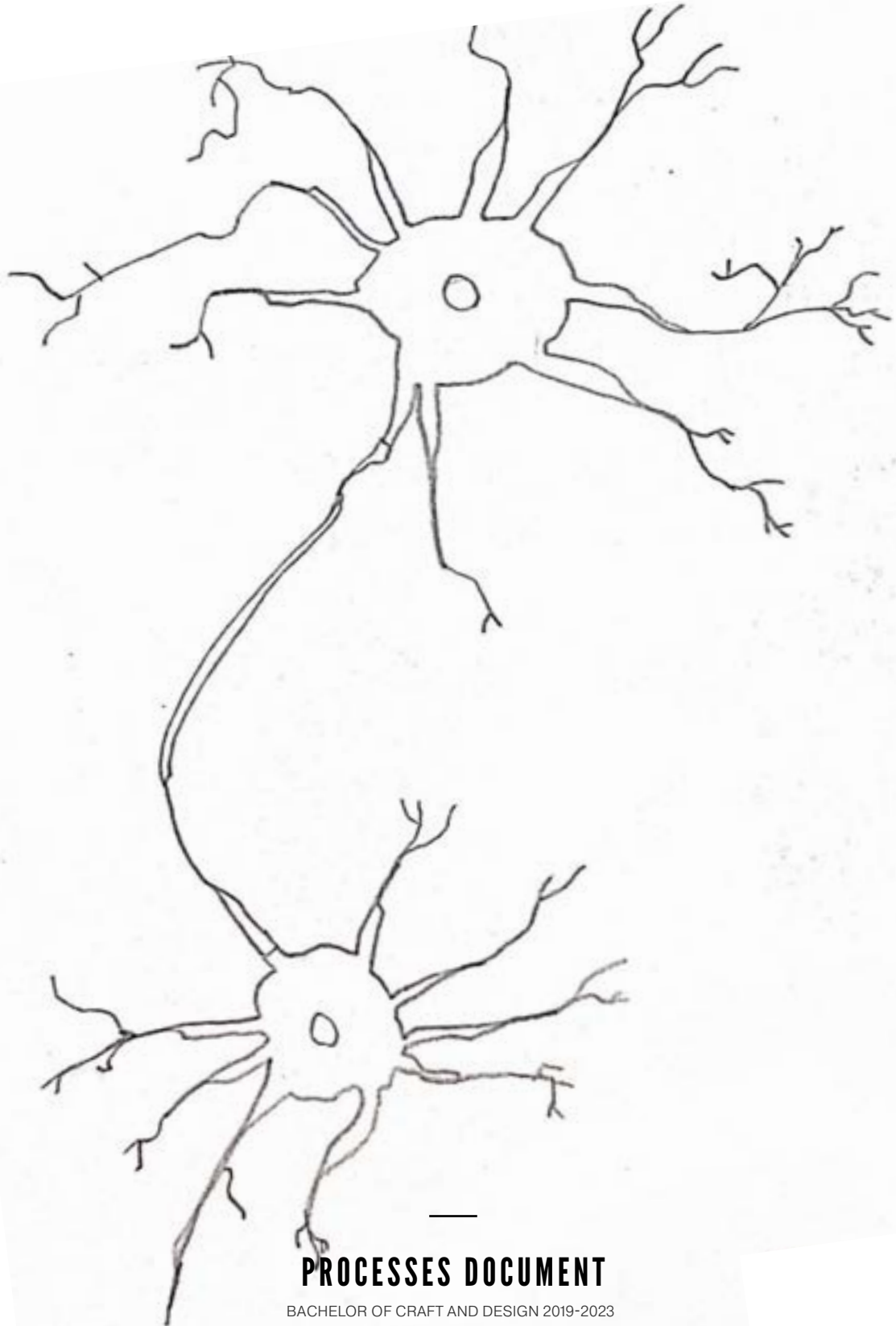


JEAN JIAYING XU

UNIT



PROCESSES DOCUMENT

BACHELOR OF CRAFT AND DESIGN 2019-2023

OUTLINE

04

BEGINNING

artist statement

about Jean Jiaying Xu

08

AROUND US

the society we lived right now

the behavior we do

14

INSPIRATION

virtual and reality



18

UNITS

description of art work

process

52

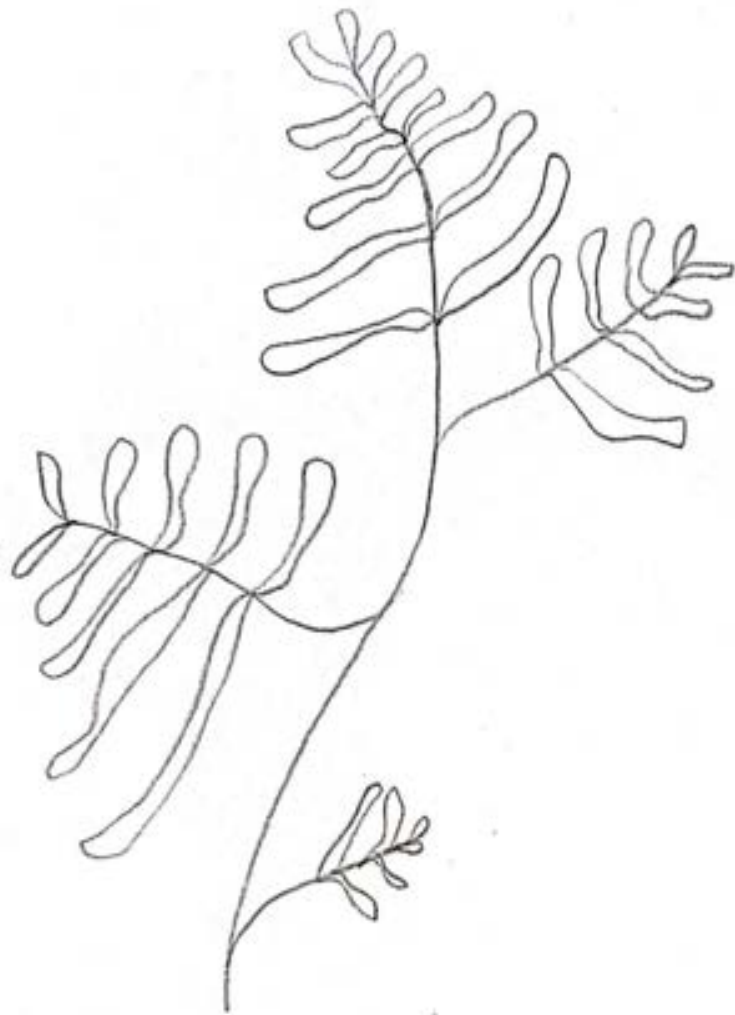
WHERE WE LIVE

conclusion

54

BIBLIOGRAPHY

thanks for reading :)



BEGINNING

W hat do you do when you have some free time and you don't know what to do?

Staring at the clouds in a daze? Flipping through a book in hand? Listening to music while drawing? Or perhaps, after opening your phone, forgetting why you picked it up and then voluntarily spending your free time scrolling through it to pass the time?

In today's society, we are increasingly immersed in the digital world. Our attention is often drawn to our smartphones, tablets or other digital devices through which we access a wealth of information, entertainment and communication.

People's needs are continuously being fulfilled in the digital world, which raises a question: is our experience of the world truly authentic?

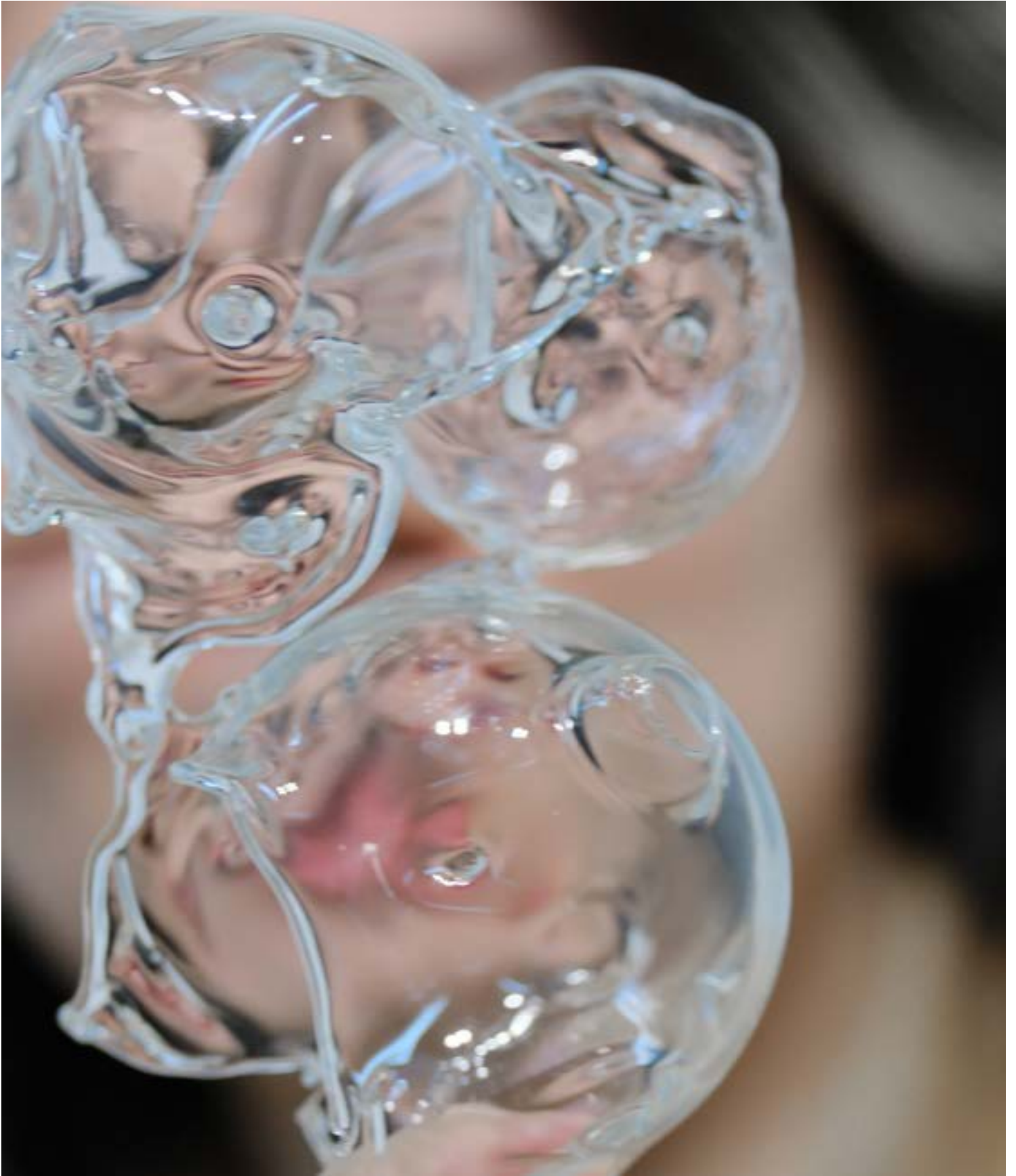
JEAN JIAYING XU

J

ean Jiaying Xu is a curious person. She embraces the beauty and freshness of the world in every moment.

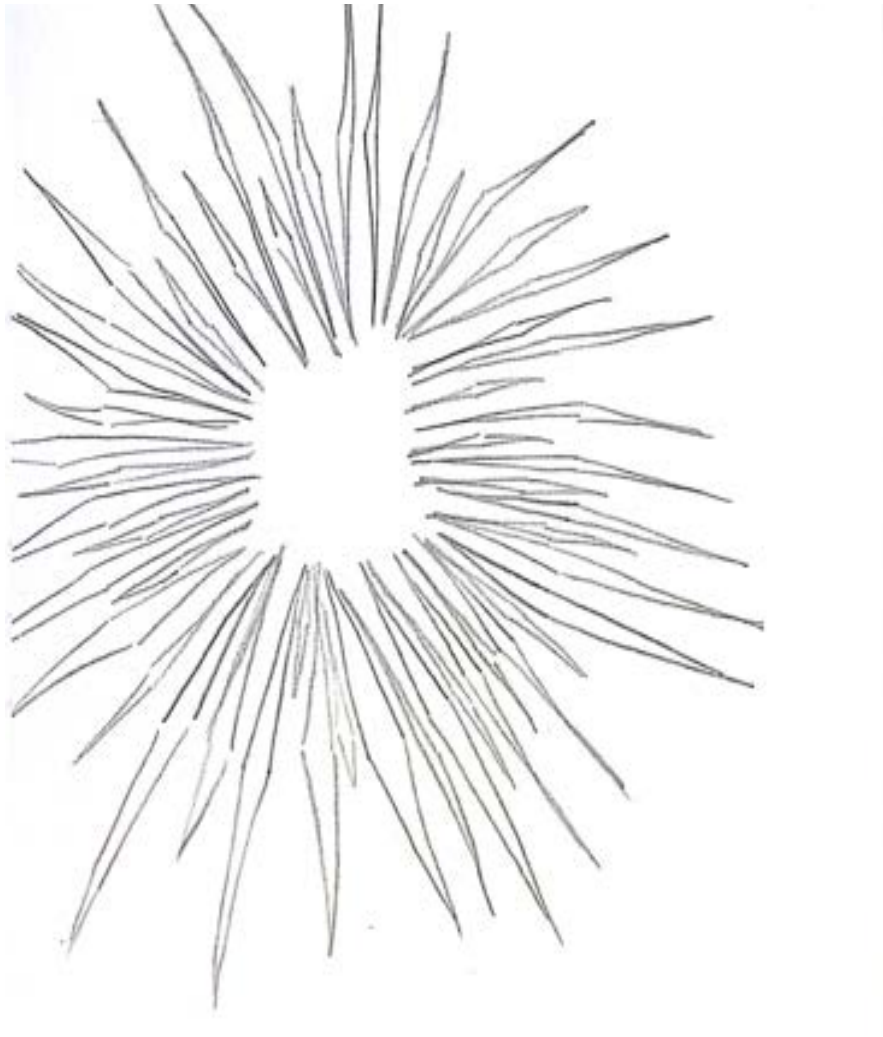
Out of curiosity, Jiaying Xu discovered the intriguing world of glass art when choosing her major in Sheridan College. After four years of in-depth study, she went from being unfamiliar to being familiar with glass, and developed a love for exploring the unique properties of glass materials. She realized that glass was a language that connected her with the outside world, allowing her to express her thoughts and ideas.

Jiaying Xu enjoys spending time alone, contemplating her own values and how societal changes affect her. The unit series is a collection of works she created as she prepares to enter society during a time of great revolution. As we continue to live in the physical world, our interactions with the virtual world are becoming more frequent. With the explosive growth of AI in early 2023, she even began to wonder if the physical world is just another virtual world created by someone else. With these questions in mind, she expressed her thoughts and ideas through the complex material of glass, which is also intertwined with historical technology.



JEAN WITH HER GLASS
2023. APRIL

PHOTO BY: JIAYIN ZHANG KERRY



AROUND US

TODAY

In April 2023, from the perspective of Jiaying Xu, the current society is undergoing an unprecedented transformation due to the development of digital technology and globalization, which are changing our way of life and habits.

With the full deployment of 5G networks, digital life is becoming more convenient and popular. According to a report by Ericsson, by 2025, there will be 2.6 billion 5G users globally, and this technology is expected to have a significant impact on many aspects of our lives, from education and healthcare to entertainment and transportation. For example, when Jiaying Xu goes shopping, studying, socializing, or enjoying entertainment, she usually only needs to carry her phone and keys to complete her tasks. The rise of mobile payment systems, such as Apple Pay and Google Wallet, has enabled her to make payments for goods and services directly from her mobile device, without the need for cash or cards. In terms of transportation, in Jiaying Xu's hometown of Oakville, Canada, although the local transportation system, Presto, does not support direct mobile payments, it can be recharged directly through a mobile phone, which is much more convenient than having to go to a station counter to recharge.

However, with these conveniences come more opportunities and challenges. As the use of digital technology increases, the issues of personal privacy and data security become more urgent. As reported by Forbes, here are some initial statistics from the digital ecosystem to consider: "In the past 12 months, 34.5% of executives surveyed report that their organization's accounting and financial data was a target of cyber adversaries. Within this group, 22% have experienced such an event at least once and 12.5% have experienced it more than once." "Nearly half (48.8%) of C-level and other executives expect the number and scale of cyber incidents targeting

their organization's accounting and financial data to increase in the next year. However, only 20.3% of respondents said their accounting and finance teams closely collaborate and align on cybersecurity with peers in their industry." Nearly half of executives expect cyber-attacks against accounting and other systems.

In this rapidly changing digital environment, we must take measures to protect our personal information and data.

Since 2020, remote work has become a common trend due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a report by Global Workplace Analytics, by the end of 2021, 25-30% of the workforce will be working from home multiple days a week. This trend towards remote work has been growing even before the pandemic but has been accelerated due to the need for social distancing and remote collaboration during the pandemic. Based on the working experience of Zhouquan Peng, Jiaying Xu's boyfriend, after the company was forced to move to online work due to the pandemic, more and more people have begun to choose online work, focusing on work-life balance, reducing commuting and traffic time, and improving work efficiency.

A study conducted by Harvard Business Review found that remote work can improve work-life balance, reduce stress, and increase productivity. The study found that remote workers took shorter breaks, had fewer sick days, and were able to work longer hours without experiencing burnout. Moreover, the report by Global Workplace Analytics also found that remote workers tend to have higher levels of job satisfaction and are more likely to recommend their company as a great place to work.

Remote work has become a common trend due to the pandemic, and many people are now choosing to work remotely in order to achieve better work-life balance, reduce commuting time and stress, increase productivity, and have higher levels of job satisfaction. As we move towards a post-pandemic world, it is likely that remote work will continue to be a popular option for many workers.

Environmental protection and health issues have also become more important topics. Climate change and the outbreak of the pandemic have made people pay more attention to environmental protection and health issues. Although the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer a topic that people talk about much in 2023, the unequal distribution of global health and medical resources, and the constant rise in medical costs have been exposed. People pay more attention to health issues and take active measures. Jiaying Xu's friend's change in annual greeting messages is a reflection of this. In 2019, her friend cared more about work success and

becoming rich, but by 2022, only wished for good health and safety.

Social and political issues will become more complex and tricky. From the independence movements in various EU countries, to the crisis on the Korean Peninsula, the Kosovo issue, the Taiwan Strait issue, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, these major issues continue, and due to the decreasing energy resources, countries are undergoing changes, making social and political issues more complex and multi-layered. We need more complex and multi-layered solutions to address issues such as immigration, refugees, cultural identity, and social inequality.

In the field of technology, the rapid development of artificial intelligence, big data, and the Internet of Things is driving the rapid popularization of digital economy and technology. VR technology has started to expand from entertainment to medical simulation training. At the same time, a major revolution is the launch of ChatGPT,

which showcases the rapid development of AI technology to the public. This technology has already changed people's thinking in various aspects, including the replacement of most jobs, changes in the formulation of education policies, intellectual property issues, and more in 2023. However, the risks and security issues in the digital field will also become increasingly prominent, and we need to remain vigilant and take appropriate measures.

In such an ever-changing society, it is important to consider how we can adjust ourselves accordingly. As emphasized in the article "Mental Health and the World Around Us," mental health and happiness are becoming increasingly important topics in our society. People are beginning to recognize the importance of taking care of their mental health and are increasingly aware of the connection between mental and physical health.

Since digitalization has become an integral part of our lives, let us accept it and allow it to provide new possibilities

for us to connect with each other and the world around us. With a positive attitude towards this enormous change, we will undoubtedly achieve wonderful results.

The world is facing major challenges such as climate change, social inequality, and geopolitical conflicts that require complex and multi-dimensional solutions. As pointed out in the article "Mental Health and the World Around Us," "an individual's mental health is inseparable from the world around them." We believe that our efforts to create a more just and fair society will allow everyone to thrive.

We must remain aware of the constantly changing world around us and work hard to create a better future for ourselves and future generations. By embracing new technologies, striving for social and environmental justice, and prioritizing mental and physical health, we can meet the challenges of the digital age and create a brighter and more sustainable future.



THE SKY
2022. JUN

PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU





INSPIRATION

SELF · LIFE · SOCIAL · TECHNOLOGY

W

hat do you do when you have some free time and don't know what to do? Looking at the phone in your hand, you wonder why you voluntarily spend your free time scrolling through it to pass the time. In today's society, we are increasingly immersed in a digital world. Our attention is often directed towards our smartphones, tablets, or other digital devices, through which we access a vast amount of information, entertainment, and communication. This shift raises the question of whether our experience of the world is authentic.

In our perception of the real world, the internet is another world that exists and connects us, where people's lives will be. In the real world, our gender, appearance, and family are all passively chosen. By contrast, in the digital world, people can choose the self-image they want to build, and even these choices can affect their true selves identity towards different life trajectories.

The connection between people's real lives and new media has become inseparable. The power of the media can create or destroy personal reputation and

material wealth, and can develop individuals, institutions, and even countries. The digital world is more infiltrating. We can find like-minded people through the vast networks, regardless of nationality or region. In terms of socializing, besides basic chatting with family, we can talk anytime, anywhere through the power of the internet and new media. Emotionally, people share and gain joy and sorrow. In new media, everyone's shared content can be commented on, giving people different emotional experiences. People's lives grow in new media. It's not only in terms of emotional experiences, but also in academic discoveries, research, and creation. Most entertainment is achieved through new media. Movies, short videos, games, and these daily entertainment activities are available on new media platforms for most people.

It's not only in terms of emotional experiences, but also in academic discoveries, research, and creation. Most entertainment is achieved through new media. Movies, short videos, games, and these daily entertainment activities are available on new media platforms for most people.

People's obsession with digital devices and virtual worlds has prompted us to study their impact on our cognitive abilities and perception of reality. Some studies suggest that excessive use of digital devices can lead to cognitive problems such as attention deficits, memory impairments, and decreased creativity. On the contrary, others believe that virtual environments can enhance our cognitive abilities, providing new avenues for learning, creative expression, and self-discovery.

The human brain is an incredible organ capable of processing vast amounts of information and creating complex perceptions of the world around us. However, our understanding of reality is not limited to what we can see, hear, and touch. Virtual reality may offer a new way to experience and understand the world, and it has the potential to change the way we perceive reality.

In addition to the connection between the flat virtual world and people, the most important development in recent years is the rise of virtual reality technology. Current VR technology allows us to immerse ourselves in a simulated environment, essentially replacing people's visual senses, and can replicate most of the natural environments and urban landscapes.

With time, it may even surpass the sensory experience of the physical world. For example, in today's virtual world, people can

already break through existing physical phenomena and create virtual worlds that are completely different environments from reality. As time goes on, it may even surpass the sensory experience of the physical world. For example, in today's virtual world, people can already break through existing physical phenomena and create virtual world environments completely different from reality. And besides visual, auditory, and tactile senses, there will also be some evolution in olfactory sense, and even new senses may emerge. These imaginations in reality will be realized one by one in the virtual world, just like how people's common sense is constantly changing in the virtual world. This kind of change and enhancement would be similar but different from the real world. After such a step-by-step strengthening in the virtual world, will people be unable to distinguish between the physical world and the virtual world, or even consider the virtual world as the real world?

In the four films that will be discussed next, virtual reality is depicted as another form of reality that is just as convincing as the real world. These films challenge our perception of reality, blur the boundaries between what is real and what is not, and question to what extent our understanding of reality is based on sensory experience. This aligns with my own thoughts.



THE MATRIX

In "The Matrix," directed by Lilly and Lana Wachowski, they directly explore human free will, the difference between virtual reality and the real world, technological progress, and the future of humanity through the science fiction genre, prompting viewers to reflect on human survival and technological development.



READY PLAYER ONE

"Ready Player One," directed by Steven Spielberg, focuses on the conflict between the virtual world and real life, exploring humanity's current over-reliance on technology and games, as well as the impact and consequences of severe social problems on people.



INCEPTION

In Christopher Nolan's science fiction film "Inception," it depicts how people's subconscious minds are influenced. The movie portrays people constantly shifting between dreams, ultimately blurring the boundaries between reality and dreams, and making people ponder the reality, illusion of reality and dreams. This film has a strong resemblance to my previous assertion that as the virtual world becomes increasingly reinforced, people may become unable to distinguish between the physical and virtual worlds. If people continue to enter the virtual world, just like constantly dreaming, will we also begin to doubt which world is the real one, just like the characters in the movie?

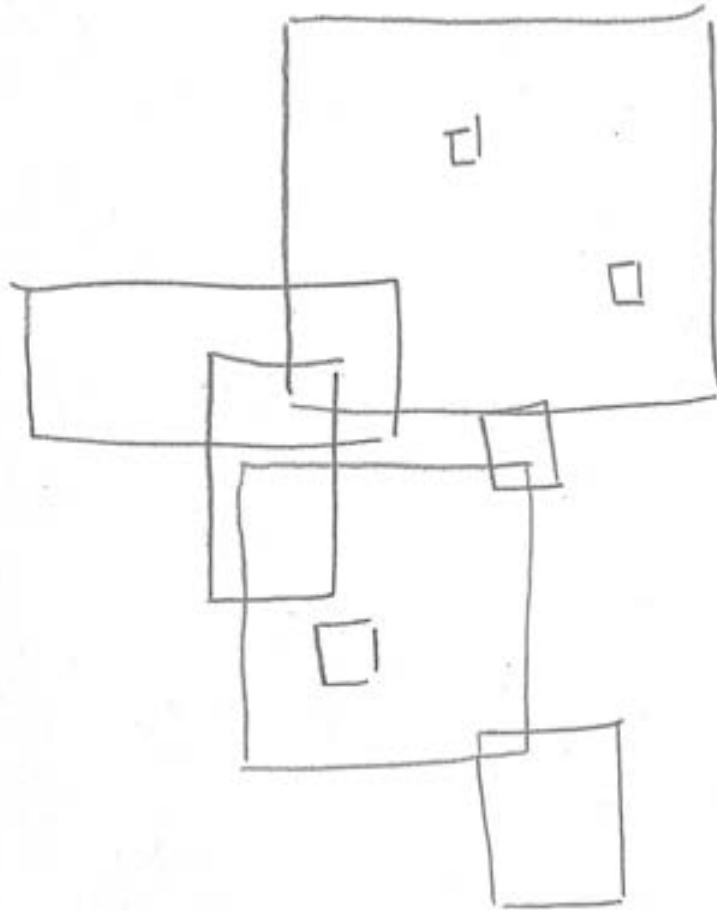


TRON

Earlier than The Matrix, the thought-provoking TRON is a science fiction film set in a virtual world, telling the story of computer engineer Kevin Flynn's battle with programs after entering the virtual world of computers. The connection and interaction between the virtual and real worlds reflect the characteristics of the digital age and the integration of digitalization and the real world in real life.

Looking through the glass of a device, we can experience an enhanced world, but it also raises questions about our perception of reality.

The way we see the world through glass is not necessarily the same as how we see it with our eyes, and this can affect how we interpret and understand the reality around us.



UNITS

ART WORK ` PROCESS

“”

**IF GLASS IS INDEED TO BE REGARDED AS THE
ULTIMATE MEDIUM
THAT EXISTS BETWEEN REALITY AND VIRTUALITY, IT
SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THIS FITS
PERFECTLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE
SOCIETY IN WHICH WE LIVE TODAY.” --BY KOEN
VANDERSTUKKEN <GLASS VIRTUAL, REAL >**

BY KOEN VANDERSTUKKEN <GLASS VIRTUAL, REAL >

In my work, glass is a medium that separates the real world from the virtual world. Glass plays a crucial role in the development of virtual reality technology. In the technology of VR headsets, glass plays a crucial role. In addition to serving the same function as glasses used in the real world, it is also essential for creating a more immersive experience. Specially designed optical glass is used to magnify and adjust images between the lenses and the screen. This type of glass can change the propagation and refraction of light, allowing the human eye to see virtual images that are enlarged, distorted, and curved. The use of glass in this context highlights the importance of materials science in shaping our experience of the virtual world. The way we see the world through glass is not necessarily the same as how we see it with our eyes, but it can change our perception and affect our interpretation and understanding of the reality around us.

The glass works as a boundary between the real world and the virtual world. As Koen Vanderstukken wrote in his book "Glass Virtual, Real," "If glass is indeed to be regarded as the ultimate medium that exists between reality and virtuality, it should be clear that this fits perfectly within the context of the society in which we live today."

Glass is a unique material that cannot be defined solely by its transparency. It has unparalleled complexity in technology, theory, art, semantics, and philosophy. The way we see the world through glass is not necessarily the same as how we see it with our eyes, but it can change our perceptions and affect how we interpret and understand the reality around us.

THE WORLD



THE WORLD.1
2023. APRIL

PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU

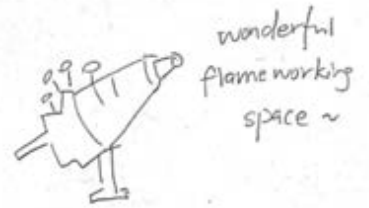
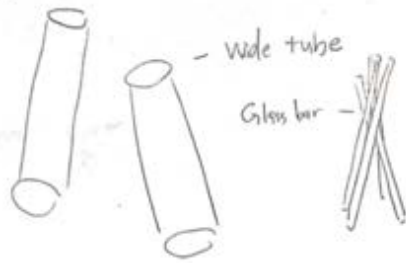
M

My artistic inspiration comes from everyday experiences. Based on these experiences, I reflect on the meaning behind these everyday activities. One of the most striking things I have noticed is how we have become reliant on our phones. These devices have become essential for connecting us to the digital world, and we spend countless hours lost in their screens. While they offer us the ability to capture and record moments, we often find ourselves instinctively reaching for our phones instead of being present in the moment

These observations prompted me to question the true nature of our reality. In response, I created "The World," a thought-provoking collection of glass sculptures that I present in a non-conventional manner, not in the form of everyday glass objects such as windows, vases, or shards, but in unique states that are not typically seen in daily life, created using flame-working techniques. I place them in front of and above phone cameras and screens to encourage viewers to take out their own phones and witness the contrast between the physical and digital world, and to feel the emotional weight of these differences. The use of glass as a medium also adds an additional layer of complexity, as it represents modern society and is difficult to capture in photographs.

PROCESS FOR THE WORLD. 1

prepare :



1.



2.



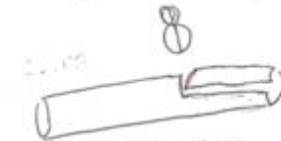
point heat to
get An Orange Line

3.



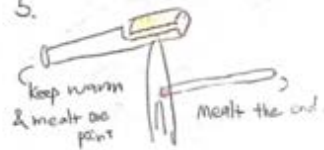
After get-an line.
use Scissors to cut.

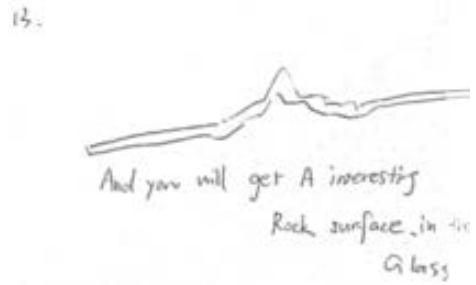
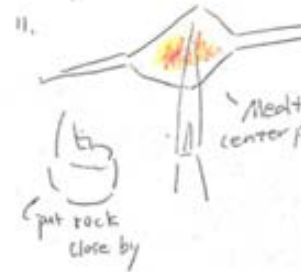
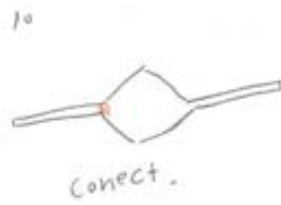
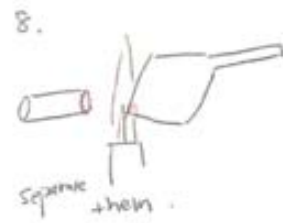
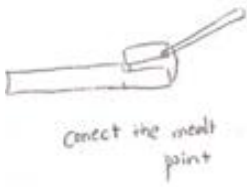
4.



repeat 2-3 few times
and cut vertical
(also don't forget to keep
glass warm)

5.







THE WORLD.2 (FRONT VIEW)
2023. APRIL PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



THE WORLD.2 (TOP-DOWN VIEW)
2023. APRIL PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



THE WORLD.2 (SIDE VIEW)
2023. APRIL PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



PROCESS FOR THE WORLD. 2

Prepare



- bubble
x11.
- Glass bar
x11

Make bubble:

1.



Turning & heat
bubble.
(warm up)



Nice
flame working
studio.

2.



heat some areas
(with orange.)
&
blow a bit.



patience.

3.

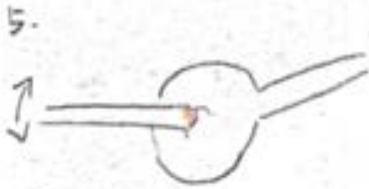


make sure the area
have thin bubble.

4.



heat glass bar



5.
hot glass bar
touch the
small thin bubble
and gentle more around
the glass bar



6.
if the bubble thin enough.
It will crack & get hole.

7.

Repeat
1-6 steps.



8.
heat some area (not to orange)
and use needle push
glass a little bit.



9.
After few push,
prepare to get pointing.
with the hot soul.



10.
get pointing
& get moon bubble
comes out.

11.
Get few of them.



12.
heat the side of bubble
and cut a little bit



13.
Get some cut bubble.



14.
connect few of them.



15.
Tada!



THE WORLD.3 (TOP-DOWN VIEW 1)
2023. APRIL
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



THE WORLD.3 (TOP-DOWN VIEW 2)
2023. APRIL
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU

PROCESS FOR THE WORLD. 3

diamond bubble: (Same prepare like moon bubble)

1.



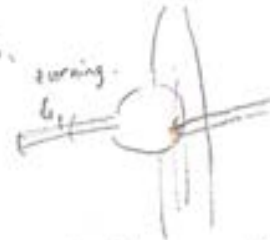
warm up bubble
very well & heat the
glass bar.

2.



keep bubble on
the outside fire,
Glass bar in the center
super hot fire.

3.



turning.
bubble come to the
center fire, & glass bar
touch the bubble.
As Soon As Possible!

4.



Keep bubble out of the center fire.
After 20s.

5.

Repeat add
glass dots.

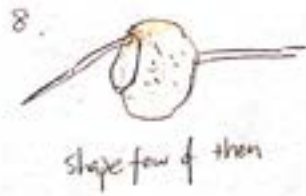
6.



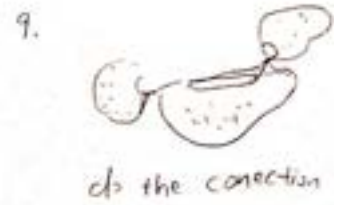
Get printing (Hot Seal)
And separate bubble from tube



make few of them



shape few of them



do the correction



have fun for
what will happen.
and, enjoy the result
(specially under the light).



THE WORLD.4 (SIDE VIEW)
2023. APRIL
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



THE WORLD.4 (PHONE'S VIEW 1)
2023. APRIL
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



THE WORLD.5 (SIDE VIEW)
2023. APRIL
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



THE WORLD.5 (PHONE'S VIEW 1)
2023. APRIL
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU

PROCESS FOR THE WORLD. 4,5

Prepare :



Nice frameworking studio

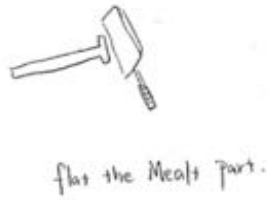


A: Net Sculpture.

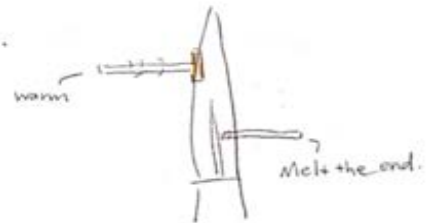
1.



2.



3.

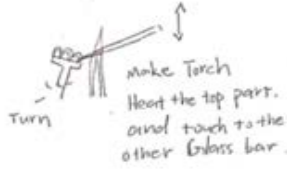


4.



Touch the end of 1 point

5



Make Torch Heat the top part and touch to the other Glass bar.

6.



Continue.

7.



Get a shape you may need.

8



=>



Melt & Create! <

B: Candy floss.

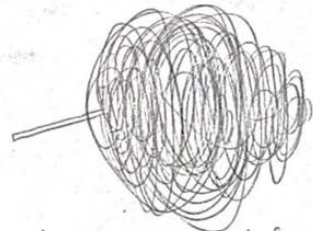
1-4 Step Same as A 1-4.

5.

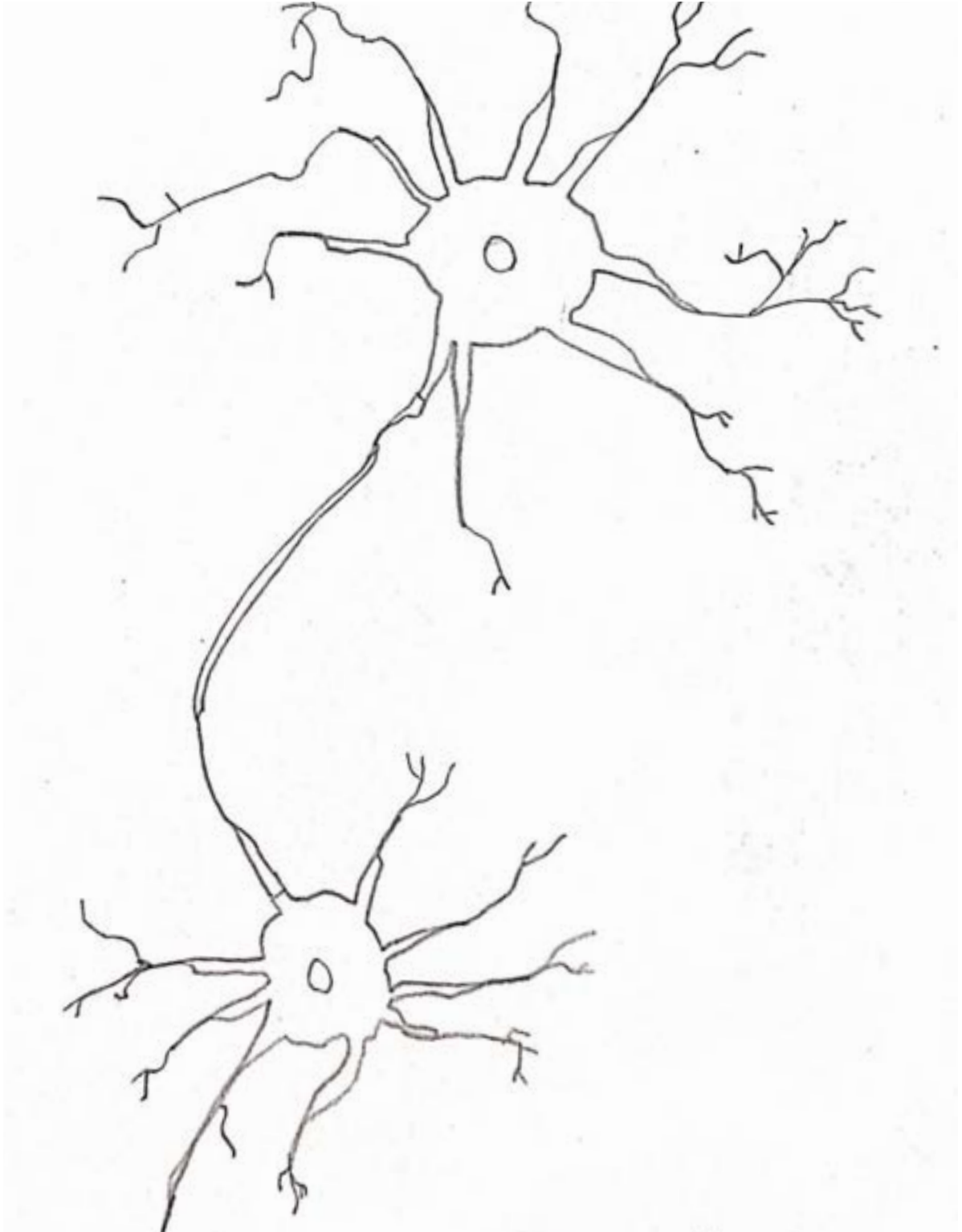


Rotate the left Glass bar and keep melt the Right Bar.

6.



Result similar to Candy floss ~



NEURON

My second collection, "Neuron," is an exploration of our connections with the world around us. Each neuron in my work is unique and created through collaboration with other artists. I and another artist heating the glass bubbles at same time. Initially, When the optimum time for glass shaping has been reached, we bring two glass bubbles into contact and blow gently and slowly into the glass to merge the bubbles together. Then we divide the work. One person specializes in blowing glass bubbles, while the other specializes in finding the orientation and supporting the entire neuron to keep the glass from breaking. To synchronize our actions, the other artist and I would count down from 10 seconds when linking the bubbles to the Neuron body. This way, We informed each other about the best time to deform the glass, after which we prepared

the connecting glass and fused the glass foam together.

After testing this process for the first time, I discovered that artist Madeline Rile Smith had also demonstrated a similar technique with glass. In the 2023 International Flameworking Conference, she used this method in her performance, considering the concepts of intimacy, compromise, and embodiment using glass as a tool for expression. Her concept shares some similarities with my idea for the Neuron artwork. Collaboration with each artist and the use of glass allow us to become closer, much like the people we live with - family, friends, and strangers who share similar interests and values with us. However, as our society changes, people are becoming more isolated, much like how I separate different neurons from each other in my work.



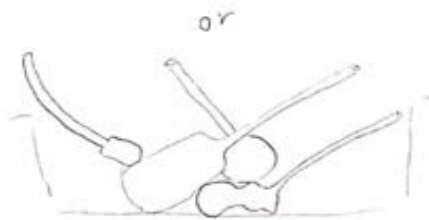
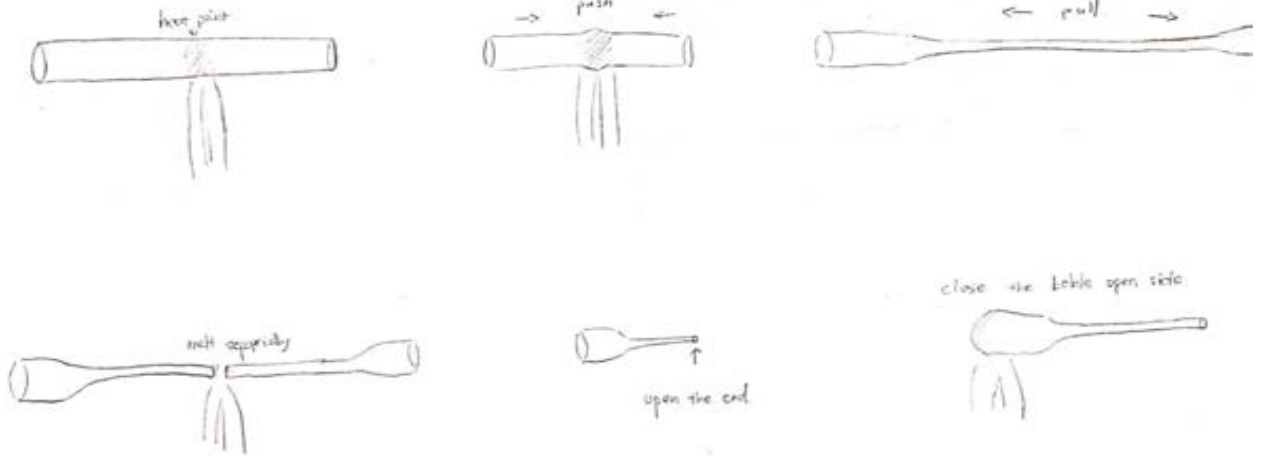
NEURON (SIDE VIEW 1)
2023. MARCH
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



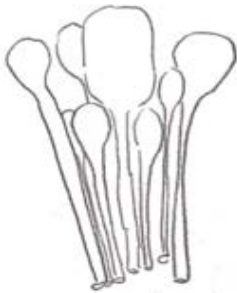
NEURON (SIDE VIEW 2)
2023. MARCH
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU

PROCESS FOR NEURON

Prepare:



finding from recycle box
winds



x 100 plus.



Cute people x 2



Nice frameworling studio x 1

1.

two persons
heat bubble at same time



2.

After it become super orange
bubble

we count 10 seconds.

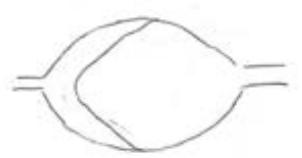
3.



touch each's bubble

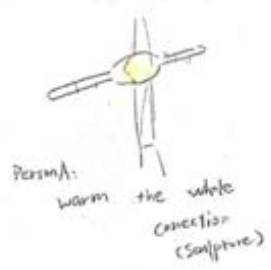
slowly blow together

4.
f.



two bubbles join together
and bubbles get fun shapes

5.
5.



Person A:
warm the whole
connection
(Sculpture)



B:
Melt other bubbles
heat bubble. prepare to blow

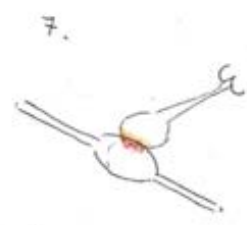
6. count down 10s



P. A:
heat 1 point.

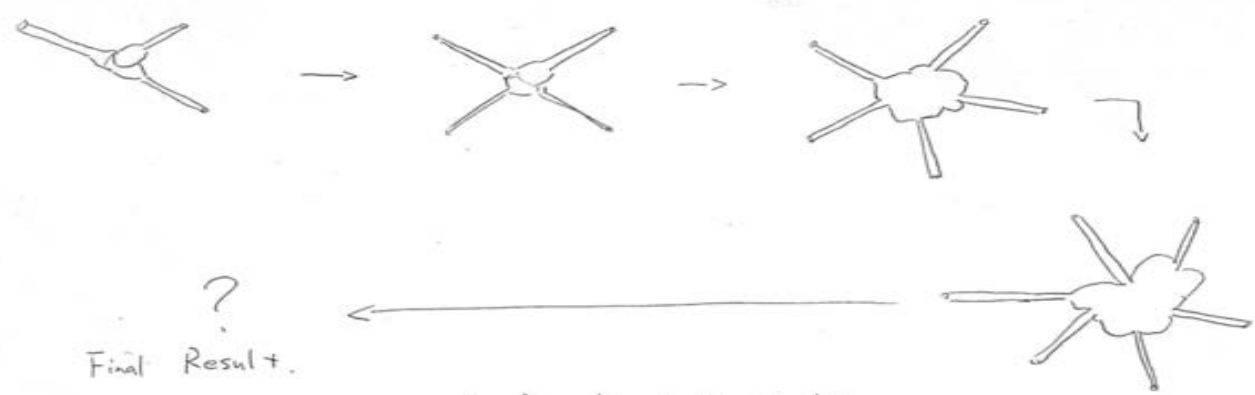


P. B:
Super orange. to
prepare blow.



7.
RA Hold the sculpture.
PsB: Touch to the heat point
Blow!!!!
(Slow Blow, and push sometime, note w.)

8. Repeat the same operation & add Bubbles
to the main body



9. Put the Result to Kiln:

10. Making Around 10 bubble for 1 project.
And x10. play around~





NEURON (DITAIL VIEW 1)
2023, MARCH
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



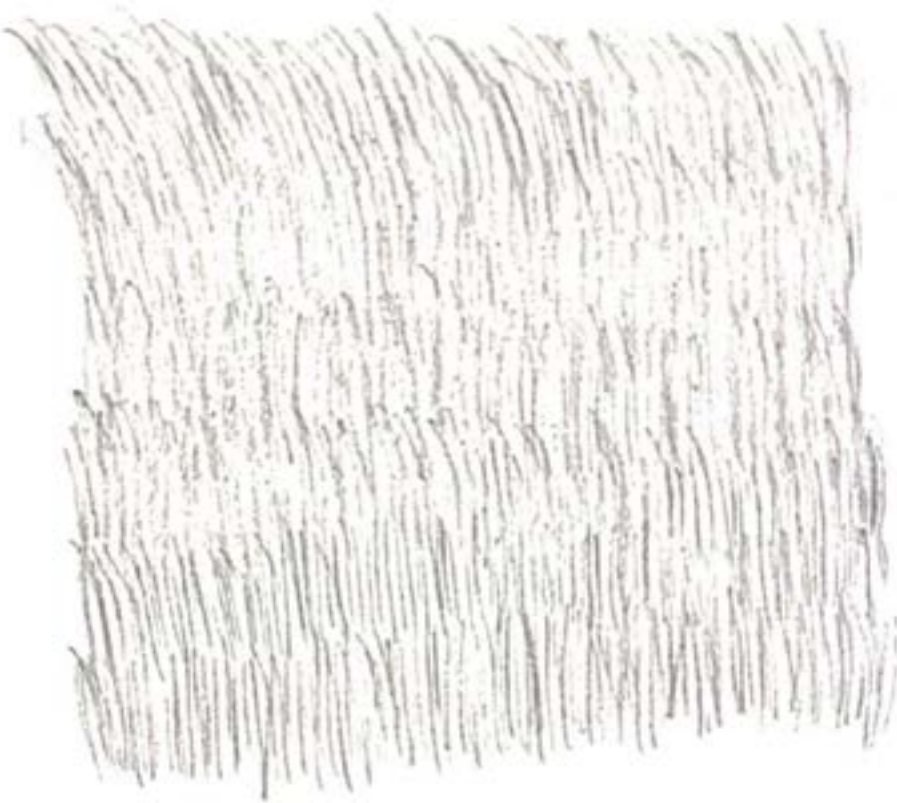
NEURON (TOP-DOWN VIEW)
2023. MARCH
PHOTO BY: JEAN JIAYING XU



WHERE WE LIVE

My artwork prompts people to not only appreciate its aesthetic value, but also to deeply consider the importance of connection and the significance of our individual identity in our rapidly changing world.

My experiences have taught me that the world is rapidly changing. From my perspective, there is a collision between the virtual and physical worlds, and our understanding of technology, the human brain, and our perception of reality are constantly evolving. As an artist, I want to use glass as a modern and complex medium to convey the message: while technology may bring new opportunities and ways of seeing things, the crucial factor lies in our outlook towards the world and towards ourselves. Ultimately, I believe this is what determines our understanding of the concept of "reality".



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According to Jean Jiaying Xu, Unit (2023), all of the illustrations in the book were created solely by the author.

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Jean Jiaying Xu ;)

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