

Xin Cheng

Te Whau, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

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<http://xin-cheng.info> | <http://localmaking.org>

Occurred in Aotearoa New Zealand unless otherwise stated

Education

2016 – 2019	Master of Fine Arts, Hamburg University of Fine Arts (HFBK), Germany
2005 – 2007, 2010	Bachelor of Fine Arts (First Class Honours), University of Auckland, Auckland (Senior Scholar Prize in Fine Arts & Critical Studies Prize)
2001 – 2004	Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science, University of Auckland, Auckland (Senior Prize in Biological Sciences)

Awards, Prizes, Residencies

2022	Creative New Zealand Arts Grant
2021	Creative New Zealand Arts Grant
2021	Creative New Zealand Artist Tautoko Programme (with mentoring from Layla Tweedie-Cullen)
2020	Te Whare Hēra Wellington International Artist's Residency with Dowse Art Museum
2020	Creative New Zealand Arts Continuity Grant
2019	Creative New Zealand Asia Art Form Exchange Grant for ' <i>Performing (with/in) Communities</i> ', ADAM Artist Lab, Taipei Performing Arts Centre, Taiwan
2019	Creative New Zealand Quick Response Grant for MFA at HFBK
2019	Hamburgische Kulturstiftung (Hamburg Cultural Foundation) grant for the exhibition <i>Following the Rubber Trails</i> at Frappant Galerie, Hamburg, Germany
2019	HFBK Materialverlag publication grant for <i>A Seedbag for Resourcefulness</i>
2019	HFBK-Goldsmiths London exchange exhibition grant
2017	Research residency with Design for the Living World, Mexico City, by invitation of Goethe-Institut Mexico, supported by HFBK Hamburg
2017&3	Stazione di Topolò, Topolò, Italy (residency and festival)
2016	Creative New Zealand Arts Grant for postgraduate studies at HFBK Hamburg
2016	New Zealand Japan Exchange Programme grant for <i>Zero Yen Tour</i> with Chris Berthelsen
2016	Sculptor in Residence, St Cuthbert's College, Auckland
2015	Asia New Zealand Foundation and Creative New Zealand grant for residency with Seoul Museum of Art, South Korea
2014	Creative New Zealand Quick Response Grant for residency at Utopiana, Geneva, Switzerland
2014	Asia New Zealand Foundation grant for Sa Sa Art Projects Residency, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
2014	Chartwell Collection grant for residency at Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington (with Kirsten Dryburgh)
2008	Residency at Nordic Artist's Center NKD, Dale, Norway (with RM project)
2008	Summer Residency at Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington (invited by Laura Preston)

Curation & Arts Management

2022 – present	Co-founder, <i>A Place for Local Making</i> (resourceful community makerspace), Wellington (supported by Creative New Zealand, Wellington City Council & Urban Dream Brokerage)
2014- 2018	New Zealand ambassador for <i>Stazione di Topolò</i> (annual arts festival in Italy) & co-curator for <i>Topolò World Tuberculosis Day Concert</i>
2007-2012	Co-director, <i>RM project and gallery</i> , Auckland (supported by Creative NZ). Projects include: <i>Late Lunch: Models for an Artist in Residence Programme</i> (co-organiser, 2011); <i>RM Flag Project</i> (co-curator & project manager, 2010); <i>RM Performance Series</i> (co-curator, 2009); <i>Instructional Works</i> (co-curator, 2009); <i>Fashion Fianchettos</i> , a workshop by Otto von Busch (SE) (organizer, 2009)
2006	Onsite Manager, Wellington ArtBox, Toi Poneke Arts Centre, Auckland

Workshops, Talks, Community-building activities

- 2022 *Resourceful (re)making and healing together with 'waste': IMMA (Taipei) & A Place for Local Making*, Tāmaki Zero Waste Hub, Auckland (online presentation with Adam Ben-Dror, support by Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board & Creative New Zealand)
- 2022 *Creative Mending Circle*, Tāmaki Zero Waste Hub, Auckland (support by Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board & Creative New Zealand)
- 2021 *Northcote Resourceful Explore*, community walk at *Urban Walking Festival*, commissioned by Melissa Laing for Panuku Development, Auckland
- 2021 Workshop for *Resourceful Practices for Drawers, Painters & Printmakers*, Visual Arts, AUT, Auckland
- 2020 Global Asia/Pacific Art Exchange Aotearoa: *Ngā Tai o te Ao: Global Tides*. AUT & NYU, online
- 2020 Artist's talk at the University of Auckland & Massey University, Wellington
- 2019 *Future Tao: City Park #2* at Flaneur Festival, HKW, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 *Informal & Performative Spatial Practices in Taipei*, illustrated talk at Asia Discovers Asia Meeting for Contemporary Performance, Taipei
- 2019 *Seeing Like a Forest*, performative talk at Floating University Berlin, Germany
- 2019 *porous-elasti-city*, performative workshop with LU'UM at Hamburger Architektur Sommer, Hamburg, Germany
- 2018 Performative lecture & *Void Workshop* at Floating University Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2017 Performative lecture at Chaos Communication Congress 34, Leipzig, Germany
- 2016-8 *Small Modifications* workshops with CampusCosmopolis, ZusammenKUNFT, Berlin; with Rancho Electronico, Mexico City, Mexico; at Gulaschprogrammernacht (GPN) by Chaos Computer Club, Karlsruhe, with Gartendeck St Pauli, Hamburg; at Open Source Circular Economy Days, Berlin; Leipzig International School, Leipzig, Germany
- 2016 *Reimagining the city: society made with cardboard*, workshop for *Beauty is in the Street*, Objectspace, Auckland (with Chris Berthelsen)
- 2016 *Multiple Layers and Modes of Living, Sharing Together*, RM, Auckland
- 2016 *Shelter: Temp Arts Emporium*, children's school holiday workshop, Corban Estate Arts Center, Auckland (with Chris Berthelsen)
- 2015 *Thinking and making home remedies for frugal and friendly living*, workshop at Sustainable Living Centre, New Lynn, Auckland (with Chris Berthelsen)
- 2015 *a convivial afternoon*, workshop with FabCoop makerspace, Seoul, South Korea
- 2015 artist's talks at Etat Forum, Taipei, Taiwan; Tainan National University of the Arts, Taiwan; Sookmyung Women's University & Kookmin University, Seoul, Korea
- 2014 *On Art and Participation*, panel discussion with Aura Seikkula, Ben Vickers, Antonia Manoochchri, FuturePerfect, Grinda, Sweden
- 2014 *Three Fires to Warm the Cockles of Your Heart*, garden events and making workshops at Utopiana, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2014 *Widen the margin of play!* workshops, Sa Sa Art Projects, Phnom Penh & Angkor School, Kampong Cham, Cambodia

Selected Exhibitions & Projects

- 2022 *Projects*, Aotearoa Art Fair, Auckland (curated by Micheal Do)
- 2022 *Doing Earth*, MOM Art Space, Hamburg, Germany (collaboration with Yi-jou Chuang & Chinook Ulrich Schneider, curated by Dagmar Rauwald)
- 2022 *Island Bar*, Taipei Performing Arts Center Opening Season, Taiwan (curated by Tang Fu Kuen & Joyce Ho, in collaboration with FangHui Hwang)
- 2022 *Port Futures & Social Logistics*, online exhibition hosted by University of Georgia, US (curated by Jan Derk Diekema)
- 2021 *The rustling wind reminds me of life on Earth*, foyer sculpture for Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch (with Eleanor Cooper, curated by Melanie Oliver)
- 2021 *Fathomless: artists converse with the more-than-human*, online in association with Victoria University Wellington & Adam Art Gallery (curated by Janine Randerson)
- 2021 *Te tomo kōhua*, Artspace Aotearoa, Auckland (curated by Blaine Western)
- 2021 *So Close / So Far*, Hypercultural Passengers, Hamburg, Germany (curated by Michael Kress)
- 2021 *They Covered the House in Stories*, Te Tuhi, Auckland (curated by Amy Weng)

Selected Exhibitions & Projects (continued)

- 2020 *From the Ground Up*, Dowse Art Museum, Lower Hutt (with Adam Ben-Dror, curated by Grace Ryder)
- 2020 *Flows according to rocks*, Paludal, Christchurch (with Eleanor Cooper)
- 2020 *Greywater*, Mokopōpaki, Auckland (with Eleanor Cooper)
- 2020 *Speaking Surfaces*, St Paul St Gallery, Auckland (with Monique Jansen, curated by Charlotte Huddleston)
- 2020 *Rambling*, the Audio Foundation, Auckland (with Ziggy Lever)
- 2020 *Spheres: An Online Video Project*, Christchurch Art Gallery, Christchurch (curated by Melanie Oliver & Nathan Pohio)
- 2020 *what if we did stuff together?* Papakura Art Gallery, Auckland (with Chris Berthelsen)
- 2019 *Following the Rubber Trails / Auf den Spuren des Gummis*, collaborative installation, performances, video, Frappant Galerie, Hamburg, Germany (initiator & lead artist)
- 2019 *Composting the Universe*, B-05/ Kunst-Kultur-Natur, Montabaur, Germany (curated by Simone Kessler, Lucie Schroeder, Johanna Blees)
- 2017 Performative actions with Soeine Bac & sound installation with Ziggy Lever, Stazione di Topolo XXIV, Italy
- 2017 *In Solidarity: Living, Making, Together*, MUCA Roma, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City (with Design for the Living World)
- 2016 *a welcoming terrain for relaxing, making, eating and being. Together*, Changing Lanes, commissioned by Auckland Council & Heart of the City (with Chris Berthelsen)
- 2016 *Sacred Economies*, Malcolm Smith Gallery, Auckland (curated by Balamohan Shingade)
- 2016 *Light Switch and Conduit: The Jim Barr and Mary Barr Collection*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery
- 2016 *small modifications*, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Dunedin (curated by Andrea Bell)
- 2015 *People are the most precious things we can encounter*, installation and collaborative performance, Nanji Exhibition Space, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
- 2015 *Rustavi Toolkit* for 124,908, Tbilisi Triennial, Tbilisi, Georgia (curated by Tara McDowell)
- 2015 *Makeshift*, split/fountain, Auckland (solo)
- 2015 *on enjoying our gardens and other wild places*, headland Sculpture on the Gulf, Waiheke Island (with Chris Berthelsen, invited by Sue Gardiner)
- 2014 *Making-do*, Artspace, Auckland (with Chris Berthelsen, curated by Caterina Riva)
- 2014 *A Stimulus Terrain! for Widening the Margin of Play*, installation and workshop for split/fountain's *distracted workshop* at 26th International Biennial of Graphic Design Brno, Czech Republic (with Chris Berthelsen)
- 2014 *Fabric Forms*, participatory performance at Sprint independent publishers and artists' books salon, Milan, Italy (invited by Caterina Riva)
- 2014 *Probstain Aesthetic*, Blue Oyster Art Project Space, Dunedin (curated by Dan Arps)
- 2014 *Gleaners' Garden* (with Kirsten Dryburgh), Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington
- 2013 *S/F project* at the Physics Room, furniture design and installation, Christchurch (with Blaine Western & Michael Parr)
- 2013 *Freedom Farmers*, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland (curated by Natasha Conland)
- 2013 *From the Northeast*, performance at festival Stazione di Topolò, Italy
- 2012 *A view from the top with a view to looking up*, St Paul St Gallery, Auckland (curated by Vera May, with Daniel Webby, Ivan Masic, Phil Dadson, Karin Hofko & John Radford)
- 2012 *Sustenance*, split/fountain, Auckland (solo)
- 2011 *Mixtures*, split/fountain, Auckland (solo)

Design: 2D & 3D

- 2022 Publication design for *ACTivities Handbook: Advanced Computer Thinking in Aotearoa*, Teaching and Learning Research Initiative & AUT, Auckland
- 2020 Editing & graphic design, *Distributed Resource Center*, Mairangi Art Center, Auckland
- 2014 Park concept design, *James Watson Reserve*, Auckland Council, Auckland (with Chris Berthelsen & Eleanor Cooper)
- 2016 Furniture and interior design, Yume Nomad Hostel & Residency, Kobe, Japan

Writing & Publication Projects

- 2023 “breathing, walking, feeling”, *Simon Morris: Room of Time*, City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi & Massey University, Wellington (edited by Aaron Lister)
- 2023 “Computational Making: A hands-on approach to Weaving, Thing-Kin, MakeShifting and other instant Tools of Imperfection” in *ACCESS: Contemporary Issues in Education, Volume 43*, 2022 (with Emit Snake-Beings, Sereima Baleisomi, Adam Ben-Dror & Chris Berthelsen, upcoming)
- 2022 “7 drifts on the possibility of shared spaces”, *Networked Bodies: The Culture and Ecosystem of Contemporary Performance: Asia Discovers Asia Meeting for Contemporary Performance 2017-2021*, Taipei Performing Arts Centre, Taiwan (edited by River Lin)
- 2021 “Adventures in Making and Relating”, *Exhibition Essays*, Enjoy Public Art Gallery, Wellington
- 2020 “plants-human-assemblage”, *Art + Australia, Issue Eight (57.1): Multinaturalism*, Melbourne (with Chris Berthelsen, edited by Tessa Laird)
- 2020 *Tidal Mind, Tidal Moves*, publication for Global Asia/Pacific Art Exchange Aotearoa: Ngā Tai o te Ao: Global Tides. AUT & NYU, online (with Kerry Ann Lee & Anna Kazumi Stahl)
- 2019 *A Seedbag for Resourcefulness*, HFBK Materialverlag, Hamburg
- 2016 -2019 Writer for *Hainamana.com: contemporary Asian New Zealand art and culture* (edited by Amy Weng)
- 2017 *Being Human*, interview with Layla Tweedie-Cullen for designassembly.org.nz
- 2017-8 *Hamster Journal 1-3*, Physics Room, Christchurch (with Chris Berthelsen)
- 2013 *distracted-reader #1: Mixtures, split/fountain*, Auckland (with Allan Smith)
- 2013 *Workbook*, split/fountain & the Physics Room, Christchurch (with Blaine Western & Michael Parr)

Academic Teaching & Assessing

- 2021 – present Peer Assessor for Arts Grants, Creative New Zealand
- 2021 – present Professional Teaching Fellow (sessional part-time), Design, University of Auckland
Co-teaching first and second year design papers with a focus on social innovation, sustainability & critical thinking.
- 2022 Apr – Jun Senior Tutor, Fine Arts, Massey University, Wellington
- 2022 External Examiner for Master of Visual Arts, AUT, Auckland
- 2021 July – Nov Lecturer, Architecture, School of Future Environments, AUT, Auckland
- 2021 External Assessor for BFA(hons) exams, Fine Arts, University of Auckland
- 2021 Creatives in Schools, Epsom Normal School (funded by Ministry of Education)
- 2019 Guest lecturer for MFA design, Sheffield Hallam University, UK
- 2018 *Everyday Resourcefulness* lecture and workshop for year one design, HFBK Hamburg, Germany (invited by Prof. Valentina Karga)
- 2018 Guest lecturer & *Hot Terms Lexicon* editing, Floating University Berlin, Berlin
- 2016 Lecturer for *Living, Making, Together*, University Without Conditions, Auckland

Reviews & Articles

- 2022 Harvey Bruce Milligan, *Stories of Becoming: Xin Cheng at Island Bar—Ratava*, Taipei Performing Arts Centre, The Contemporary Hum, <https://contemporaryhum.com/writing/stories-of-becoming>
- 2021 Janine Randerson, *fathomless: artists converse with the more-than-human*, essay for the screening programme for the symposium: Ngā tohu o te huarere: Conversations beyond human scales, Victoria University Wellington
- 2021 Robyn Maree Pickens, *Reparative Intimacy*, ArtNow, <https://artnow.nz/essays/reparative-intimacy>
- 2020 Zoë Heine, *Making Like a Forest: An Interview with Xin Cheng and Adam Ben-Dror*, Pantograph Punch <https://www.pantograph-punch.com/posts/making-like-a-forest>
- 2020 Lance Pearce, *Social Imagination: Xin Cheng's Seeing Like a Forest*, The Contemporary Hum, <https://www.contemporaryhum.com/lance-pearce-xin-cheng>
- 2019 Jari Niesner, *The Discreet Charm of Chance*, The Contemporary Hum <https://www.contemporaryhum.com/jari-niesner-on-xin-cheng>
- 2018 Melissa Laing, *Some Parallel Discussions*, Share/Cheat/Unite v.4, p41-60. Te Tuhi, Auckland
- 2017 Megan Dunn, *Makeshift Living*, Art News New Zealand, Spring 2017
- 2014 Allan Smith, *Art as permaculture and localist utopia*, Artlink Australia, vol 34 #4

Reviews & Articles (continued)

- 2014 Daniel Satele, *In The Wake of Catastrophe: Xin Cheng's Art Survival Kit*, Pantograph Punch
- 2014 Megan Dunn, *What I Could Glean from It, Xin Cheng and Kirsten Dryburgh, Gleaners' Garden*.
<http://eyecontactsite.com/2014/02/what-i-could-glean-from-it>
- 2013 Nick Yeck-Stauffer, *Xin Cheng*, Freedom Farmers Newspaper, Auckland Art Gallery
- 2012 Victoria Wynne-Jones, *An Art of Making-Do: Xin Cheng Mixtures*, Drain Magazine

Social Commitments and Volunteer Experience

- 2021- present Co-Chair, Activities and Research in Environments for Creativity Charitable Trust
- 2021- present Member of Friends of Oakley Creek Te Auaunga ecological restoration project