

# Film Work **Queerfest Norwich 2024**

## **Wenhui Jiang *Act / moving image & immersive-world* 2min 47sec**

<https://newart.city/show/queer-paradise>

Wenhui Jiang (b.1996) is a London-based visual artist who works with multi-disciplinary subjects and media. She recently graduated with an MA in experimental communication from the Royal College of Art (London, UK). Wenhui is fascinated by exploring the critical visual narratives model. As a queer who was raised in Asia, she uses the philosophy of pessimism as a lens filter for observing the outside. Her works attempt to construct a radical possibility by blurring the boundaries between the real and the virtual.

"Act Heterosex" is an experimental digital short film unfolding through the perspective of a first-person player in the gaming world. The narrative explores the impactful struggles faced by China's young LGBTQ+ community, dealing with intense pressure and violence due to traditional heterosexual family expectations. Consequently, they are compelled to abandon their true sexual orientation in favour of conforming to heterosexual relationships. Within the portrayed societal context, queer individuals find themselves coerced into marriages and having a child, with the expectation of upholding the family line to be seen as dutiful children in the eyes of their parents.

## **Laurie Green *EMERGENCE OCCURRED* 4min 58sec**

@liminal\_resonance

I'm a non binary trans autistic artist based in South Norfolk. Art education was inaccessible to me and I worked for some years in office jobs; I have learnt to create art autodidactically. My practice begins with record-making and archiving my own experience of living, observations and marks which I then compile into layered and collage-like works in a variety of mediums. Everything I make therefore inevitably contains multiple aspects of my embodied self. I am also the founder of the Neuroqueering Network and The Grant for Neuroqueering Humans, small organisations that work to support neuroqueering artists.

EMERGENCE OCCURRED is a looping video work with sound, resolution 1920x1080. It should be played on an HD screen which will also be able to play sound through headphones as well as loop the video. I immediately thought a writing by performance artist Erika Fischer-Lichte, where she described the creative potential of hiatus. Her findings resonated with my own experience of a hiatus, caused by a period of prolonged burnout resulting from the masking of my neurodivergent and queer (neuroqueer) self throughout childhood and adulthood. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic compounded the intensity of this withdrawal, to the extent I experienced some kind of a social death - a state absent of relations. Gloria Anzaldúa might similarly consider the pandemic 'Este Choque' – This Shock – which has the potential to, through interruption, lead us towards a new state of consciousness and awareness, and invoke the Coyolxauhqui imperative; that is, to heal in a way that reconstructs the self, and enable us to collectively "organise, achieve justice, and begin to heal the world". The video attempts to convey something of my own experience of interruption and the emergence of a more fluid, loving, and caring queer-self.

## **Yuqiang Chen *Operating Room* 1min 45sec**

### **Instagram @yuqqi\_c**

Yuqiang is a visual practitioner. Performance, videos and installation are usually used to present his findings. His work focuses on science communication, queer ecology and human health. He wishes to see the complexity of beings and emotions through the integration and compilation of networks between different disciplines. Through these explorations, he seeks to understand, imagine and construct a more harmonious future for existence, and to find a form of coexistence in multiple ecological systems.

*Operating Room* traverses the nuanced landscape of gender awareness through a captivating blend of stopmotion animation and performance. The narrative unfolds, following a journey of self-discovery and reconciliation with his gender identity, guided by the assistance of a doctor. From genetic evidence to brain science research, the film explores the complexity of gender spectrums by using scientific terms and poetry. The film advocates acknowledging the impact of external feedback on self-perception and accepts subtle revelation of inner uneasiness.

## **Xinyu XuXX *The Room it Leaks*(2023) 11min 10sec**

### **Instagram @xinyuiris**

XINYU XUXX is a Chinese-born, London-based image artist and screening organiser. Graduated from MFA Fine Art at Goldsmiths. Her works are characterised by the interweaving of autobiographical narratives, surreal aesthetics, queer space& diasporic experiences, and feminist eroticism. She is one of the organisers of *If Splash as your Whistle*, a programme showcases queer, diasporic moving images and artist films through multimedia art events.

*The Room it Leaks* is a video installation composed of hazy landscapes, fragmented sound effects, and the interplay of light and texture, this "room" simultaneously alludes to a sanctuary and an emotional complex, encompassing Xinyu's practices and growth stories as an East Asian queer woman. Its vitality derives from embodying identity issues, bearing the weight of trauma and violence while engaging in a sustaining, reparative construction. This work aims to use embodied imagery memories to interrupt between different time spaces, between human and non-human world, create a second-skin, a safe space for queerness.

## **honor ash ...ties... 2min 30sec**

i am an artist and writer, from and based in Norwich. my practice explores themes of communication, community, trust and power, both on and offline. i work cross-disciplinarily, utilising performance, writing,

spoken word, installation, DIY publishing and film. i have exhibited, performed, spoken, and facilitated across the UK and internationally, working with Rhizome, Solar Protocol, the Dance Art Journal, the Association for Performance Art in Berlin, The White Pube & more. i am co-director of a local interdisciplinary art space called Ambition's Graveyard, which operates on a pay-what-you-can membership basis to hold space for challenging, uncompromising, weird and ugly artmaking, devising, and experimenting.

...ties... is a video piece exploring collective hope as a radical act. it relates to the brief as i see hope and solidarity as an interruption of the status quo - something beyond what is asked and expected of us. it takes short video clips of stillness (stemming from my photographic practice, collected under the title OUT/WITH) in-between and liminal space, and juxtaposes written (and spoken) word about the power inherent in recognising our interconnections, and the joy of creating temporary autonomous zones from which we can enact actual change. it intends to disrupt automatic patterns and encourage contemplation of solidarity, repair, and collectivity - something i have personally struggled to find within queer community.

## **Christopher Matthews *Untitled: Video Portraits (2017)* 10 min**

### **Instagram @formedview**

who am I: american, dancer, choreographer, visual artist, curator, educator // queer, working class, neurodivergent // I love Janet Jackson, I am a dancer because I have always strived to dance for her // I am from Virginia but I have lived in NYC and currently between London and Madrid // scorpio // usually wearing neon I love all things dance related

what I do: practice is deeply embedded in performing // from a classical ballet and early modern dance training as well as jazz // utilise these performed and constructed histories /// craft is not only a tool but is something to be investigated /// twenty plus years of embodied history as a performer /// how identity is played out in relation to specific codes /// themes: criticism, gender, body image, working conditions, intersections of the classical and contemporary, icon vs self, pop culture and dance history /// has experiences of performing in reality television /// performance of the self // the body becomes an object/image for contemplation, more than a spectacle /// the politics of seeing /// queer dance history /// build linages or timelines, even if they are false

Untitled: Video Portraits (2017) are a group of studies that engage with the music video as a format at the centre of pop culture. The works consider iconoclasm, a critical engagement with technique and the formal properties of popular media. Whilst drawing on certain familiar values of the music video (in terms of rhythm, editing, length and addressal of audience) the pieces re-focus on performance within the medium. The videos are played without the sound so that the subject, the body and its gestures become more present; the identity of the music is present only through its embodiment. By masking the gender of the singer and the placing of the (white mid-30s) male body in relation to the music and its performance, the works highlight the codes of gender and performance of sexualities.

### **Laila Abd Elrazaq**

Dearest	Brothers,	2021	01:10mins	(Sound	Design	by	Jonathan	Leder)
Abu		Layana,		2021				03:54mins
1/3	(One		Third)		2021			00:30mins

My body of work focuses on Video-Art, Performance-Art, Sound-Art, and sometimes Digital-Art. The works are often centered around themes such as self-research, gender identity, and confronting traditional ideologies within the Arab community through video essays. Decision-making in my projects involves meticulous "thumb-nailing" and occasional cross-dressing, creating an immersive experience to understand characters' attributes. I exert precise control over the final visuals, exploiting their pressure and beauty through self-expression. I see video as a potent weapon, captivating audiences with its brief yet impactful duration. This inspires me to continually challenge and create content, blending childish-like aspects with "internet-core" visual aesthetics in a diverse and engaging artistic journey.

Embarking on a poignant exploration, I delve into the intricate narrative of my existence, initially part of a triplet bundle. An emergency delivery marked my premature arrival, bereft of my twin brothers, thrusting me into a solitary role as the "survivor." This loss casts a profound shadow on my journey of self-discovery, particularly in relation to gender identity. Fueled by familial expectations of male heirs, my art becomes a tribute, reimagining my brothers as satirical characters within a simulated game. Through looping video formats, I engage with their virtual presence, accepting their demise through poignant messages.

My artistic endeavor extends beyond personal reflection to challenge traditional Arab societal norms. Confronting antiquated beliefs valuing male offspring, I expose the dishonoring of female family members incapable of bearing sons. This societal critique unfolds in video interviews with my father, probing the implications of gender biases. Simultaneously, another video addresses my mother's trauma, laid bare through a poignant monologue on the perceived failure to birth healthy male children.

Unified in a collective presentation, the three videos—Dearest Brothers, Abu Layana, and 1/3(one third)—occupy a shared space. Their synchronization and interplay create a compelling narrative continuum, each video concealing "Easter-eggs" that intricately hint at the themes explored in the others, weaving a rich tapestry of personal and societal reflections.