

01.03.

20

TILL

08.03.

25

# QISSA

CURATED BY BAO YAO FEI  HIPHOPHUIS

VISUAL STORYTELLERS EXHIBITION



Photo: Christian Weber

16:00-22:00 BOOMGAARDSSTRAAT 46 ROTTERDAM

Home is breath  
Home is alternate realities  
Home is love  
Home is loneliness  
Home is grief  
Home makes me feel  
Home means no one is free unless  
we are all free  
Home is life  
Home is "feet don't fail me now, I've got  
to stand my ground" - Jay Crookes  
Home is "To all the souls, who can't be  
named. I ~~feel your passion~~  
hear your passion and feel  
your pain" - Amahla  
Home is "You are you, you are not what  
you do, what you feel, you  
are enough and whole because  
you are." - Pop-I  
Home is "Lobi!"  
Home is How your persistence inspires me  
Home is you teaching me KRUMP  
Home is seeing you cry

HOME IS\*\*\*\*\*

# HOME IS\*\*\*\*

The Visual Storytellers of this year are Ayzaiah Malik Bryson, Athina Lopez, Xaveer May, Artificially (Halima Shaaban), Jonathan Tang and Hooi-Ying Zhang. Each of them present their own project that explores the concept of a home. It goes beyond just a physical space with a roof over one's head—it encompasses emotions, identity, and belonging. The concept of the home is far from simple. For many, it represents a complex and deeply personal narrative. This exhibition invites you to delve into the multifaceted idea of the home. From the physical aspects of a house and its interior to the intangible elements of feelings, memories, and



cultural heritage, Home is\*\*\*\* touches on a wide range of topics. It can be (a place for) grief, rituals, or religion, and it intertwines with ideas of gender, community, and personal identity. Through installations, photography, paintings and objects, this exhibition explores how the home evolves over time, space and growth. It is

about finding connection, recognition, and attachment to a place, and ultimately, it is a reflection of who we are and where we belong. We invite you to step inside, reflect, question and connect with the many interpretations of the home.

The exhibition Home is\*\*\*\* is the result of the VISUAL STORYTELLERS program, an eight month talent development program by QISSA for emerging designers and visual artists that are unheard of. It responds to the need for young creatives, with a unique signature, background story and vision, to show innovative work in the field of design, art and digital culture.

## Curator Visual Storytellers 2024/2025

### Bao Yao Fei

Bao Yao Fei (he/him) is curator at Design Museum Den Bosch. For QISSA's Visual Storytellers project Bao Yao curated the exhibition Home is\*\*\*\*

With a background in design and a degree in art history, he encouraged this year's group of Visual Storytellers to explore their artistic boundaries and the boundaries of their home. He makes exhibitions with a focus on untold stories, new perspectives and subjects that are relevant in today's society in connection with design. In the past few years he curated exhibitions about sneakers as a design object (Sneakers Un-boxed, 2022), how connection, love and lust are commodified (Love - Designed, 2023), how the tribal tattoo has been re-appropriated by internet culture (Post-Tribal, 2023) and how myths are made through branding (Supreme - Resampling the World, 2024). Additionally, Bao Yao is chairman of the advisory committee Design at The Creative Industries Fund NL.



"Supreme - Resampling the World" exhibition visit | December 2024 | photo: QISSA





## contents

5	HOME IS****
6	Bao Yao Fei
10	visual storytellers
14	Jonathan Tang
20	Xaveer May
26	Ayzaiah Malik Bryson
32	Artificially – Halima
38	Athina Lopez
44	Hooi-Ying Ash Zhang
53	shout out
55	partner organisations 24/25
57	about QISSA

## visual storytellers

During the six-month Visual Storytellers program, visual artists with a unique and diverse signature are given the opportunity to develop new work, explore the industry, and build their network.

At QISSA, we support visual artists and designers with cutting edge ideas, whether it's designing a fashion collection, interior design, graphic design, product design, animation, (tattoo) illustration, VR, games, or new media. We provide these creators with the opportunity to realize their concepts and showcase their work.

Selected participants receive individual coaching and take part in group masterclasses and field visits focused on storytelling and positioning within the design and art sectors. Creators explore their own approach to visual storytelling while developing a concept and new work for the group exhibition, with complete freedom in their artistic expression, guided by their personal signature.

With Visual Storytellers, QISSA is committed to supporting new, unheard of creators. Through our masterclasses and professional coaching, we provide space for the artistic development of our participants, with an emphasis on visual storytelling and cultural entrepreneurship, while also helping them expand their professional network.

talent  
community  
mentorship

**QISSA**

S

\*

\*

Home Is Where I Grief  
Hooi-Ying Ash Zang 44

\*

H  
Many Members, One Body | Jonathan Tang 14

O  
Homeland | Xaveer May 20

M  
Men, we meet again. | Ayzaiah Malik Bryson 26

M  
(Ho)me | Artificially – Halima 32

E  
Home is Where The Heart Is | Athina Lopez 38

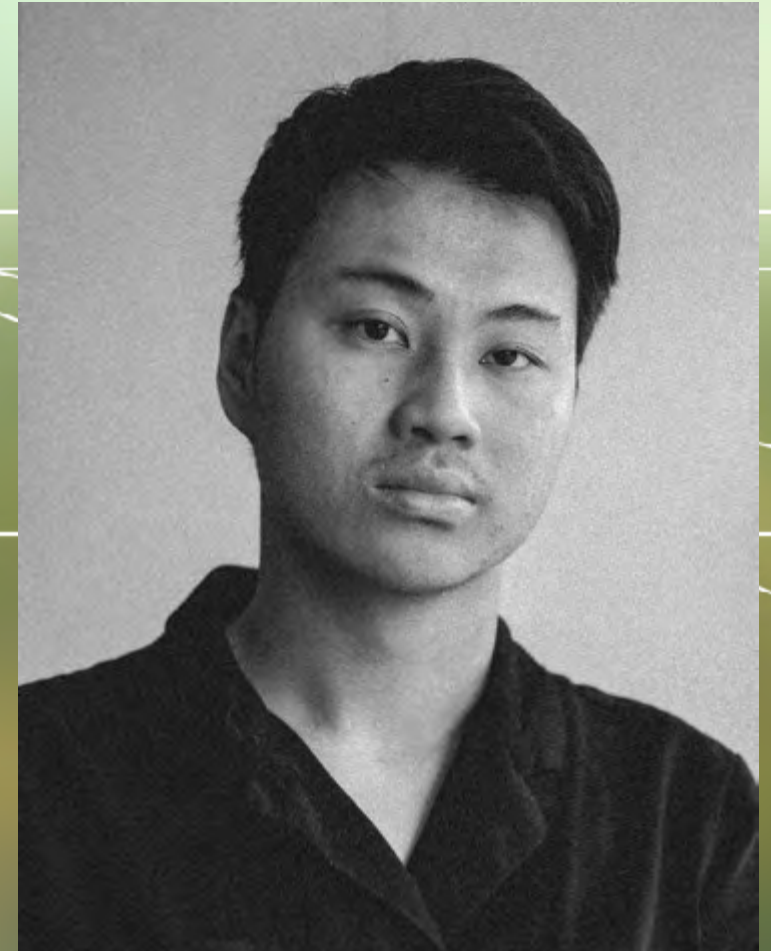
## Many Members, One Body

Jonathan Tang (he/him) (1997) is a Cantonese–Dutch visual artist with an architecture background. His artistic practice reflects on topics such as the disciplined landscape, control and cultural violence. Through his work, he seeks and grasps on to our behavior and actions, how they are influenced by power structures. As instruments of intervention in these structures, he creates photographs, archival materials and sculptures. In 2023, he received his Masters in Photography and Society from the Royal Academy of Art The Hague. Jonathan currently lives and works in Amsterdam.

Jonathan Tang



@jonathantang  
jonathanhtang.com





Many Members, One Body  
Jonathan Tang



In 2016, Jonathan decided to leave the Chinese-Dutch Evangelical denomination in which he was raised. He felt limited by the views of the community. This process is the opposite of his parents': After coming to the Netherlands, they made a conscious decision to join the church and raise their children with the Bible.

In his installation **Many Members, One Body**, Jonathan explores the importance of Christian faith for the social position of this Chinese community in the Netherlands. To this end, he entered into conversation with various members of the church in which he grew up about their faith. In the old church chairs in which he took place every Sunday, he incorporates memories and biblical texts that have been faith-defining for the members with the intention of revisiting the value of the Christian faith for himself.

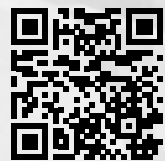


Many Members, One Body  
Jonathan Tang

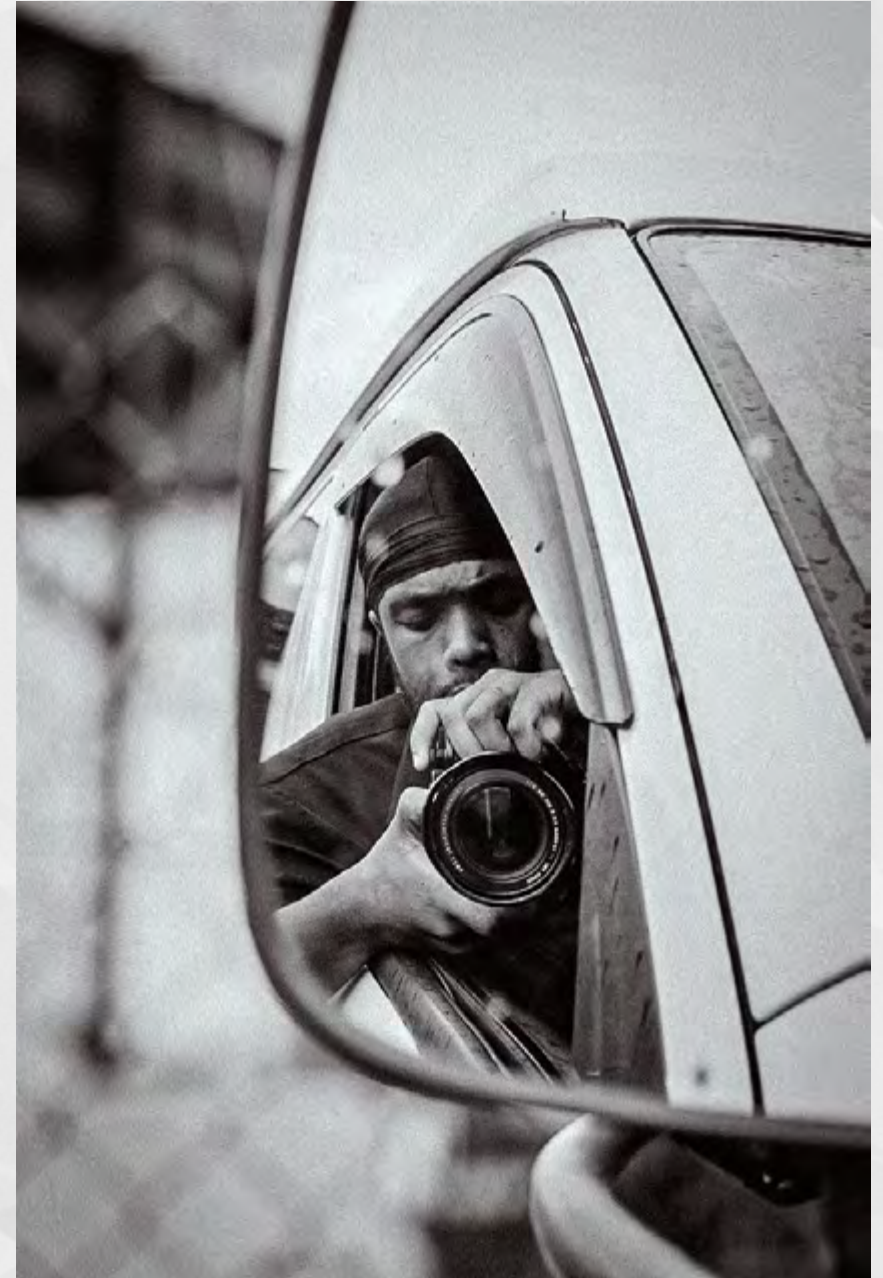
## Homeland

Xaveer May (he/him) is a self-taught image maker based in Amsterdam, with a keen eye for capturing people and their environment he develops his own approach to telling visual stories that are authentic and layered. Xaveer works on long-term projects that focus on connecting with communities. His work includes a mix of free work and commercial commissions, with themes of emotion, texture and nuance playing an important role. He invites viewers to reflect and connect with the stories behind the images. As a visual storyteller and bridge builder, Xaveer seeks the balance between art, humanity and the extraordinary in the everyday. His photography strives not only for aesthetics, but also for depth and shared experiences.

Xaveer May



@xaveer.may



Homeland  
Xaveer May

The idea for **Homeland** grew out of a personal sense of identity and existence. As a self-taught image maker, with roots stretching across different places and cultures, I have often struggled with the question: where do I really “belong”? Home has never been a fixed place for me, but rather a collection of memories, smells, sounds and objects that gave me a sense of security and belonging. As I grew older and my world became larger, but also more complex, I began to wonder how these objects shaped my sense of identity and home. That elusive longing for security and identity, that sense of homesickness, seems universal. By creating still lifes and portraits of objects that people associate with home, I want to paint an intimate portrait of what home can mean – in all its vulnerability and layering. Each image becomes a window into a unique story, but at the same time touches on a shared emotion that connects us all.

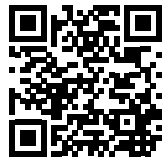




# Men, We Meet Again.

Ayzaiah Malik Bryson (he/they) (1998) is an Aruba-born, autodidactic visual artist with a passion for storytelling through photography & film. Their work explores the intersections of identity, connection, and crafting art that bridges personal and collective experiences. Inspired by the everyday—fleeting moments, shared stories, and intimate reflections—Ayzaiah’s art seeks to spark, weaving lives and perspectives together in ways that feel both intimate and universal. Guided by a commitment to themes of gender, queerness, Blackness, and social justice, Ayzaiah’s creative lens reflects his view of the world as fluid, multifaceted, and always evolving. These lived realities shape their creations, driving them to amplify voices often left out of the picture. Through their art, they challenge norms, create spaces for togetherness, and invite dialogue that inspires new ways of seeing the world.

Ayzaiah Malik Bryson



@ayzaiahbryson  
ayzaiahmalik.com





Men,  
We Meet Again.  
Ayzaiah Malik Bryson

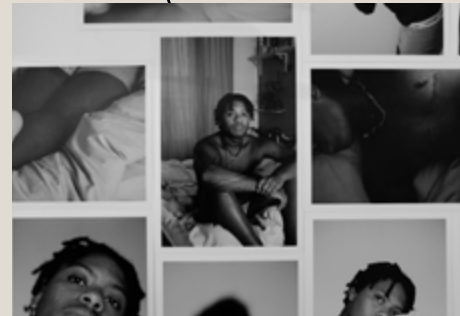
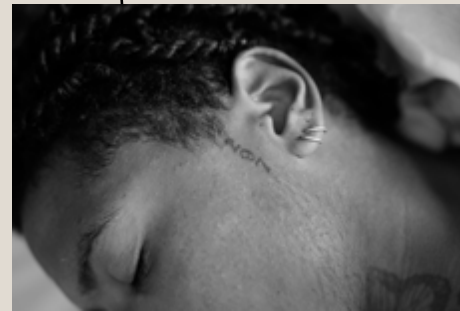
with: Tamira Koeiman



**Men, We Meet Again.** is a personal project about self-reflection, mental health, and healing by a Black, queer, and trans person. By taking their childhood bedroom as an entry point, it unfolds from a place of safety yet isolation to explore past traumas with men, opening up a conversation about pain, forgiveness, and learning to accept oneself. Here, thoughts wander, monologues are spoken, and loneliness takes hold. Through simple but powerful images, the project dives into the complicated emotions tied to relationships and the lasting marks they leave. By turning their bedroom into a place of honesty and release, “Men, We Meet Again.” reflects on the past while making room for growth and peace. It shows that even in pain, there is hope for healing and understanding.



bts photos: Arenska Evertsz



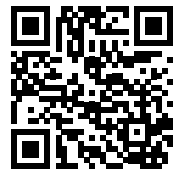


Ayzaiah Malik Bryson  
Men, We Meet Again.

## Ho(me)

Artificially, with call sign Halima (she/her), is a visual artist based in The Hague, Netherlands. She primarily creates digital art about healing her inner child, experiencing womanhood, escapism and shaping an identity with the power of aesthetics. In her artworks she explores the deeper layers of her subconscious by creating a context in which she can show how her truest self is expressed.

Artificially – Halima



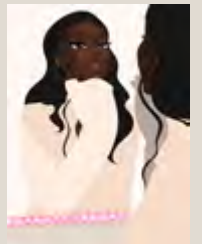
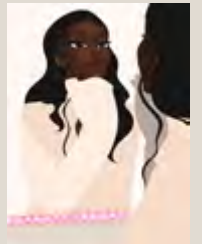
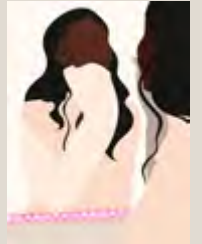
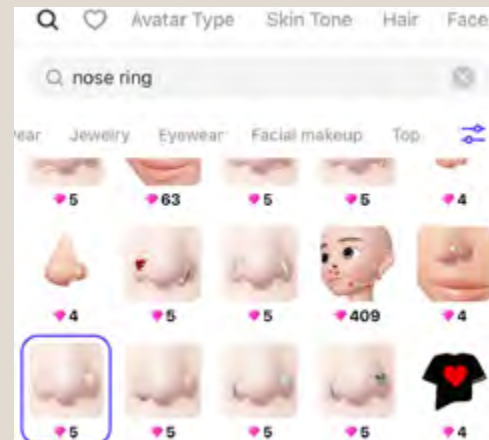
@artificially  
artificially.com





## Ho(me) Artificihally

For Halima, a house, a home, is not a physical, but primarily mental. Home is the feeling that there is space for your feelings. It means that you are allowed to feel your emotions fully. Home is something you return to. You choose to return because it feels like home. Home is something you can leave. If you can return, you can also leave it. Your home reflects who you are, a living, growing human being. So your home grows with you. It is alive. Above all, home is something you can create yourself. Halima wants to show the cycle of creating a home for her through three steps: (1) Awareness, (2) Identity and (3) Connection. Her work focuses on mirrors to represent the many meanings and mechanisms between your home and your identity.





Ho(me)  
Artificially

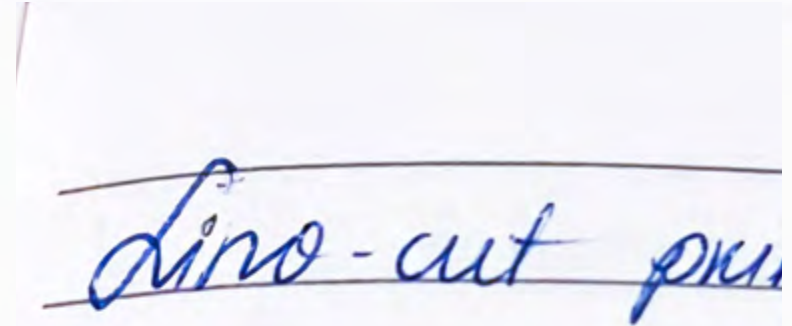
## Home Is Where The Heart Is

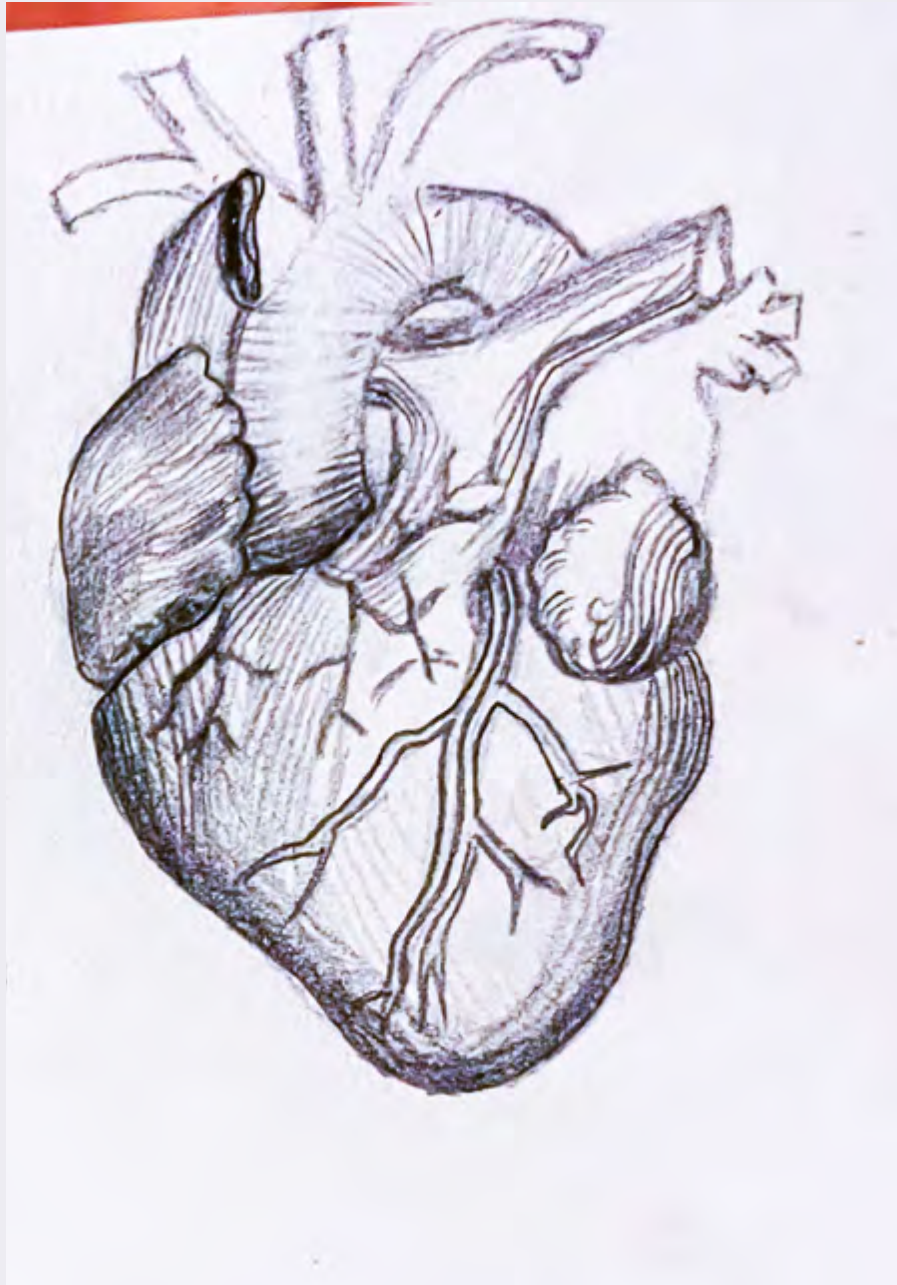
Athina Lopez (she/her) is a self-taught artist from Curaçao, working across mediums such as pencil, acrylic, and digital art. Her work is inspired by beauty, emotion, and the world around her, capturing moments of nostalgia and memory. She often revisits familiar concepts—sometimes in a literal way—to invite reflection and encourage new perspectives. Through the essence of memory and the depth of human emotion, Athina strives to create art that makes people pause and connect. At its core, her art is a tribute to life as she sees and feels it—a celebration of the small but profound moments that shape us. By exploring themes like identity, spirituality, and self-discovery, She tells stories that resonate on both a personal and universal level.

Athina Lopez



@millenastudios





## Home Is Where The Heart Is Athina Lopez

**Home Is Where the Heart Is** explores the duality of home and belonging. As someone rooted in Curaçao yet living in the Netherlands, She experiences a constant pull between two places that hold her heart. Through this piece she aims to illustrate how the heart can be rooted in one place while extending and flourishing elsewhere. The poetry reflects the warmth and vibrancy of Curaçao alongside the new connections and memories forged in the Netherlands. The flowers symbolise growth, connection, and the blending of two worlds. The color palette used is inspired by colors that remind her of Curaçao, warmer colors, and colors that remind her of the Netherlands, colder colors. Although they are opposites they still seamlessly blend into each other. Ultimately, this piece conveys that home isn't confined to a single location; it's a convergence of emotions, experiences, and love, no matter the distance. This work expresses the idea that home isn't a fixed location but the sum of all the places and people we carry in our hearts.



Home Is Where The Heart Is  
Athina Lopez

# Home Is Where I Grief

Hooi-Ying Zhang 张海莹 (they/them) also known as Ash is a Rotterdam-based artist, storyteller, autodidact K.R.U.M.P. and Popping dancer, performer, and researcher. Through intimate interdisciplinary works, they try to dissect, deconstruct, and research almost ungraspably large topics like love and loneliness through personal stories, dance, poetry, and visual arts with a vulnerable and critical lens. In their artistic research, they illuminate and unfold the complexity of the Chinese diaspora identities, as well as center the interconnectivity that exists between various underrepresented communities and their struggles. In their projects, they aim to create a space to reflect outside this fast-paced and productivity-driven Western paradigm. Through their works, Hooi-Ying hopes to empower people, encourage a more community-driven mindset, and push the idea that through actively being, we can resist larger power structures designed to oppress.

Hooi-Ying Ash Zhang



@su\_m\_hong  
hooi-yingashzhang.com

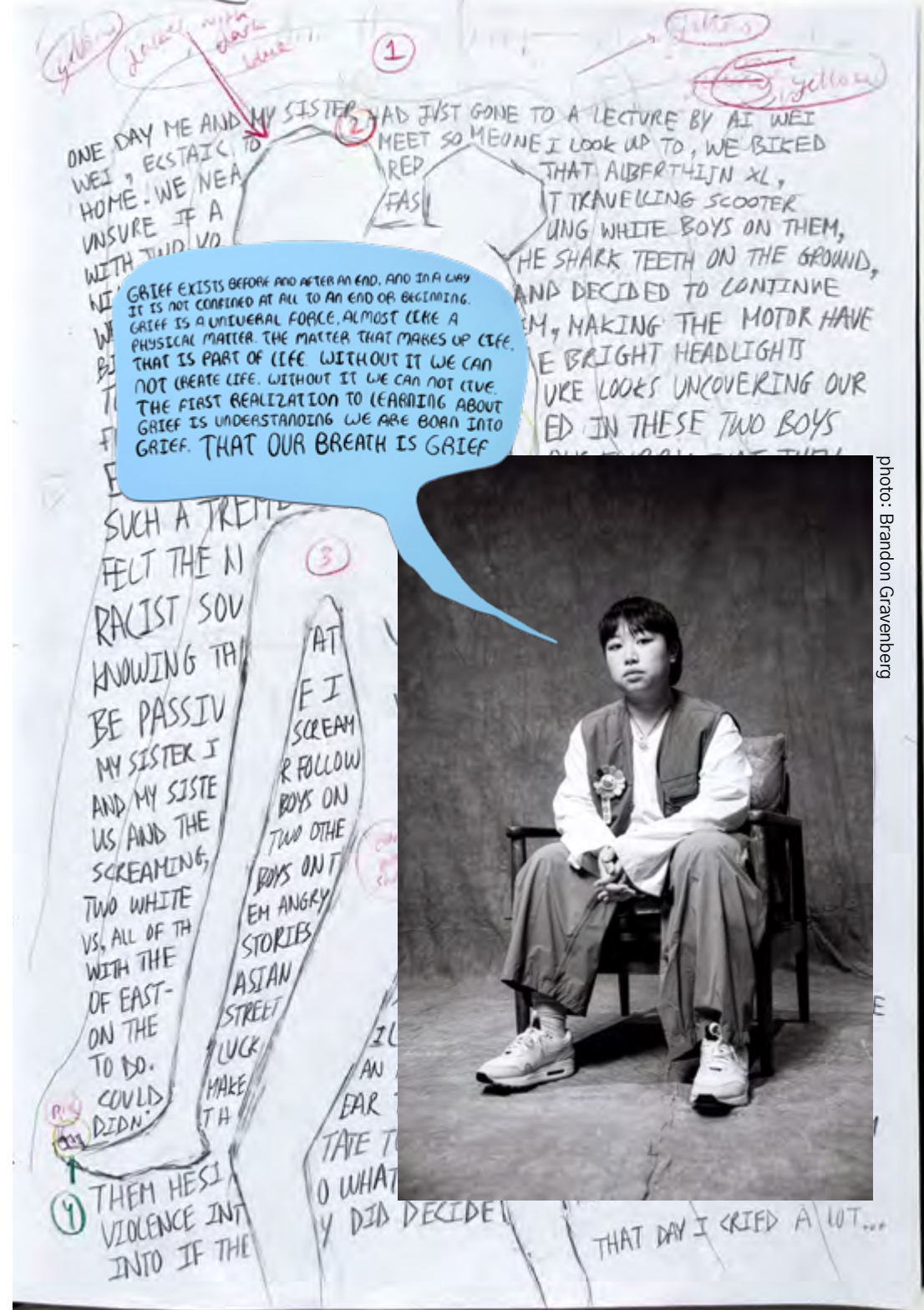


photo: Brandon Gravenberg

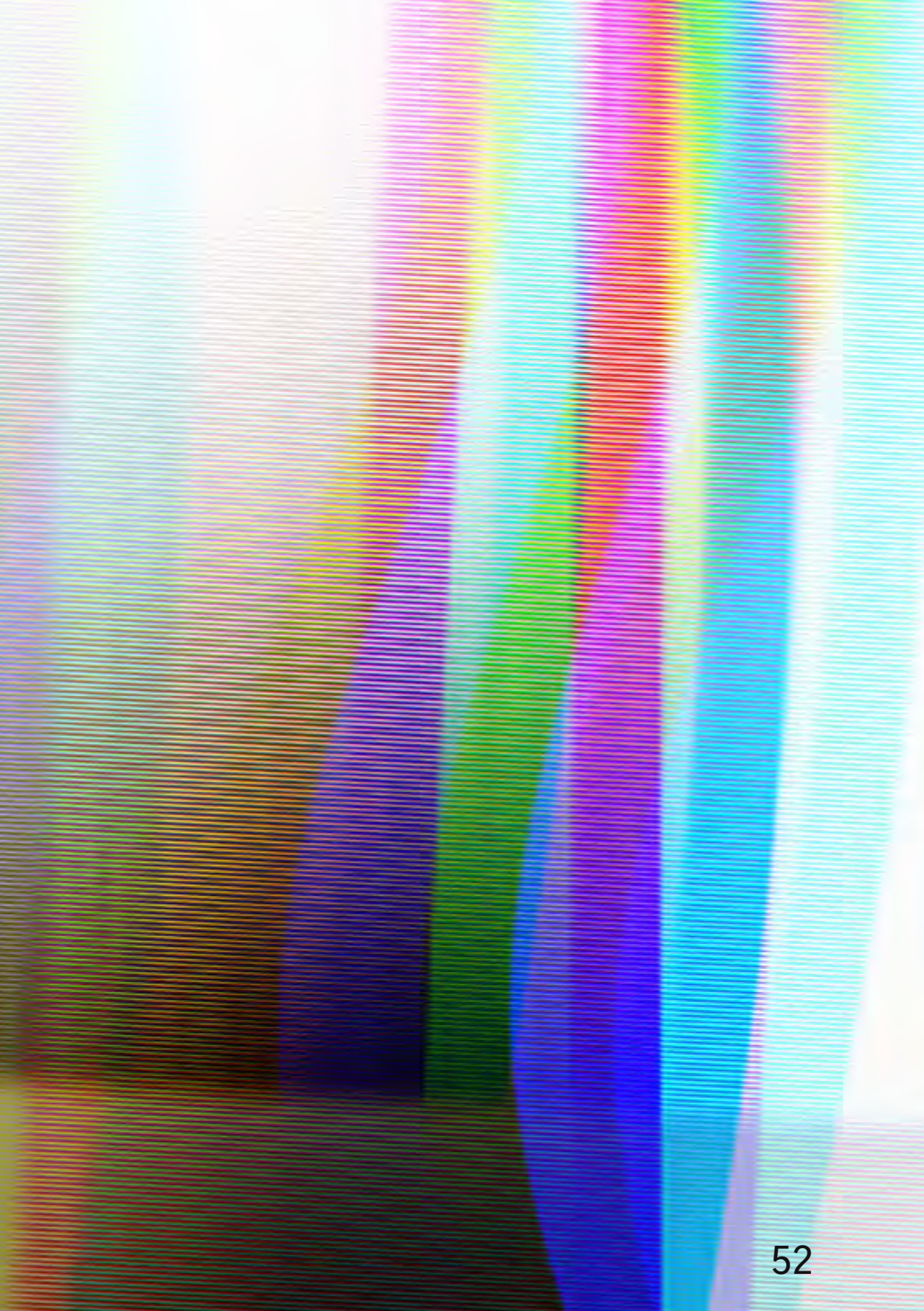


Home Is Where I Grief  
Hooi-Ying Ash Zhang

In *Home Is Where I Grief* Hooi-Ying takes you through their research into grief, where it comes from and how it is ingrained into their life. In this journey, Hooi-Ying reaches string theory to conceptually deconstruct grief in space and time, as this reality couldn't seem to hold their grief as they needed it to be held. They open up to generational grief where hopes and dreams, expectations, and struggles repeat themselves throughout lineages. And they make contact with the grief carried and inherited from the colonial history of the Surinamese-Chinese community in the Netherlands. A series of 5 visual poems with provoking surrealistic imagery intertwined with personal reflections and stories, in which Hooi-Ying ultimately finds solace in, what they feel destined to grieve through, their dance.







shout out

# Visual Storytellers 2024/2025

curator

Bao Yao Fei

tutor 'The brand called me'  
Léon Kranenburg

coaching

Ashley Röttjers

Benjamin Li

Brian Elstak

Elizar Veerman

Kevin Osepa

Pris Roos

Sioe Jeng Tsao 曹韶盈

inspirational talk

Dana Lixenberg

selection committee

Brian Elstak

Tiara Spalburg

project leads

Atlynn Vrolijk

Peggy Driessen





financial partners  
visual storytellers  
2024/2025

FONDS VOOR  
CULTUUR  
PARTICIPATIE



het  
cultuurfonds



Colofon:  
Art direction: Atlynn Vrolijk  
Graphic Design: Shift\_Over – Peggy Driessen

Copyright QISSA March 2025

## about QISSA

QISSA isn't only about giving new creators a kickstart but also offers them an artistic community to lean on and grow with. As a safe haven and creative incubator, we create space for the development of new voices and support makers in showcasing innovative work in design & art, literature, theatre, and audiovisual media. QISSA is a mentor, a community, and a home for talent.

We are committed to the creators of today and tomorrow.



[www.qissa.nl](http://www.qissa.nl)