

# ElectroCities

Electrofringe's 2019 Digital Art Residency: A Case Study



## **Artists in Residence**

EJ Son & Edison Chen (AUS)

Evan Meaney & Sharing Turtle (USA)

## **Workshop/Lecture Series Presenters**

Jessie Tu & Dr Josh Harle (AUS)

Evan Meaney (USA)

# About Electrofringe

Electrofringe is a presenting platform for experimental electronic and tech-based art in Australia. Through an annual program of unique exhibitions and events, Electrofringe seeks to foster innovative works and creative practices that use technology in new and exciting ways.

# About ElectroCities

ElectroCities was an online residency program in 2019 which supported artists working within new media, interactive art, coding, video art and more. To complement the IRL opening event for our Artists in Residence, we hosted a Virtual Reality workshop, lecture series and a yoga class which explored core themes found in the artists work.



Image from ElectroCities III, Dr. Josh Harle's VR Workshop

# Hosting options

Artists had the option to create their works using the Electrofringe Website hosted by Wix (free of charge). Alternatively, artists had the option to upload their work on their own server and/or a server that supports their desired technical requirements, which was later linked from our website.



Image from ElectroCities II, Audience member interacting with Edison Chen's Digital Artwork  
DAIJOUBU

# ElectroCities Round I -

## EJ Son & Jessie Tu

IRL Exhibition and Lecture: 10th April 2019



## Artist in Residence: EJ SON

EJ Son is an interdisciplinary artist working with video, ceramics and installation. She believes perversion is a symptom of life, and everyone's a little perverted one way or another to varying degrees and intensities, she finds special merit in women's perversion, as their pleasures have been restricted to and shaped around the phallus. Desires for anything else apart from it has been deemed abnormal and hysterical. So with this logic of "abnormalisation" of the female agency and pleasure historically, socially and

culturally; liberated woman are perverts as they are no long determined by the phallogentric values and ideologies.

## NOT THAT ANGRY ANYMORE

달걀로 바위치다: 'Striking the rock with an egg' is a Korean proverb that is used to describe situations where the actions feel useless and meaningless as 'rock' is indifferent to the 'eggs'. To those who dream of making a change in the world, this may feel familiar. But eggs symbolises the beginning, the light, new life and the new world that is soon to arrive.



## Lecture: JESSIE TU

Jessie is a Sydney-based writer and journalist.

In her lecture, Jessie Tu explored the notion of her own Asian Australian identity through an examination of the films she's grown up watching,



examining questions of identity, desire and racial hierarchies through film, history and feminist theory.

Some of the discussion topics after the lecture included: How do we know who we are if we don't know what we desire? How does Hollywood and films shape our desires?

Images from IRL Exhibition and lecture:



# ElectroCities Round II- Edison Chen & Josh Harle

IRL Exhibition and Workshop: 13th June 2019



Instagram marketing image for exhibition

## Artist in Residence: EDISON CHEN

Edison Chen is a new media artist who has worked primarily in public spaces. He is interested in emerging technology and the potential of interactive mediums to explore human behaviour and agency. Chen's work revolves around themes of play, connectivity and collective-ness. Chen's work spans various mediums; Virtual Reality, public urban sculpture, light

installation, net.art and inflatable sculpture. Edison has exhibited for VIVID Sydney in 2016 and 2018.

DAIJOUBU is a serene interactive aquarium of fish that carry positive affirmations and quotes. These fish are added by an online audience who determine the physical attributes of the fish and their associated quote before introducing them into the underwater scene. People can then play with the fish with their cursor and click on them to reveal their given quote or affirmation. The aim of the artwork is reflected in the title, which means ‘i’m ok’ or ‘are you ok?’ in japanese.

DAIJOUBU is a shared positive and meditative space that is also experimental in its utility. It functions as a visual platform for messages and is intended to create a peaceful world of hope, but also explores human behaviour in online spaces. The aim of the project is for a voluntary space of positive communication for people to reflect and find inspirational content as intended, but ultimately is open ended in how an audience might decide to use it.

DAIJOUBU also explores the nature of people and how we might react collectively to public and influenceable digital spaces. Underneath the surface, the artwork also secondarily experiments with whether we have the capacity to respect online spaces or if they also inevitably become vandalized and trolled.



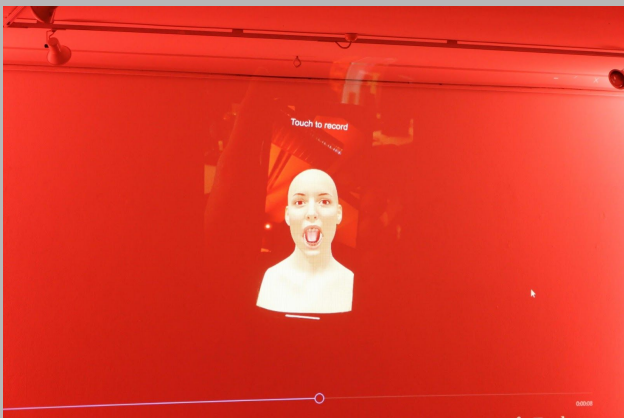
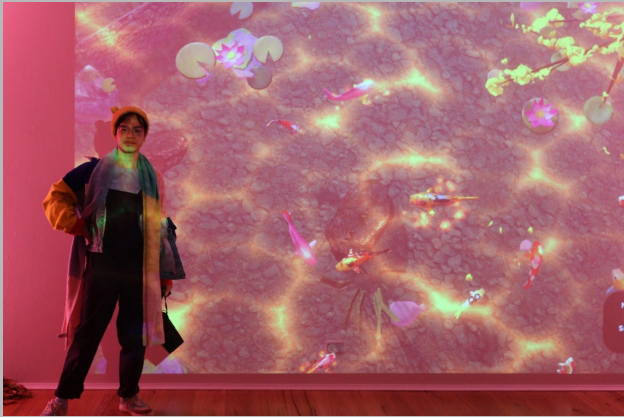


## VR WorkShop: DR JOSH HARLE

Electrofringe invited audiences to learn from Dr Josh Harle, director of Sydney's foremost VR community Tactical Space Lab and prolific VR Artist in his own right. In this exclusive workshop for Electrofringe, Josh demonstrated real-time motion capture and face-tracking technologies in a casual and open setting.

Dr Josh Harle is a multidisciplinary researcher, educator, and new media artist. His work investigates the virtual spaces generated by emerging technologies, and our encounters and experiences within them. Dr Harle is a Visiting Fellow at UNSW Art and Design, and Director of the Tactical Space Lab.

Images from Edison Chen's exhibition and Dr Harle's Workshop:



# ElectroCities Round III- Sharing Turtle & Evan Meaney

21st September 2019



## Artists in Residence: SHARINGTURTLE(USA)

The noHome project is a playful critique on modern technology that challenges conversations around the “Next Big Thing”. Sharing Turtle™ ([sharingturtle.com](http://sharingturtle.com)) is the brainchild of art-trepreneurs Laura Hyunjee Kim and libi rose striegl. With a thoughtful yet irreverent attitude towards the modern cyborgian state, Laura and libi interrogate the fragile balances



maintaining symbiotic human-tech relationships and investigate human and computational behavior.

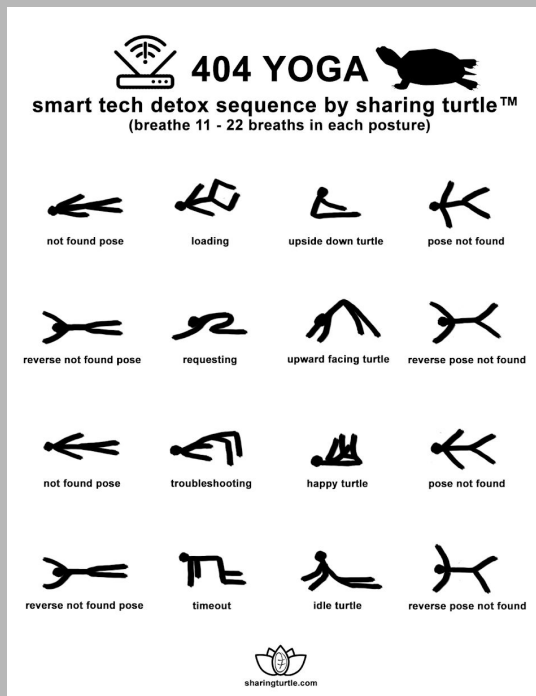
Sharing Turtle™'s work has been exhibited at the Boulder Public Library in Boulder, CO, and is on permanent display at the Blow Things Up (BTU) Lab at the University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. They were virtual artists in residence at *Welcome to My Homepage* and their project *Working Alone Together*™ was on display at the Museum of Human Achievement (MoHA) in Austin, TX.

## Yoga Performance: SHARING TURTLE

The class was inside a dimly lit gallery space. The cost of the yoga class was \$5 per student, and all funds raised were donated to the Sea Turtle Foundation.









## Digital Waste Workshop and Exhibition: EVAN MEANEY (USA)

Evan presented an artist talk on his work 'We pass dead souls on the way to the moon', followed by a discussion on the environmental implications surrounding net art. Participants were invited to create a fictitious communications satellite and launch this into space amongst hundreds of other pieces of space garbage.

Through his artwork and workshop, Evan aimed to subvert the notion that web-art and web communication is sustainable and renewable. Participants gained a fuller knowledge of digital waste and orbital garbage as well as older analogs like nuclear semiotics. The audience was also able to pick Evan's brain about all things digital waste, VR, game design and net.art.



## Images from Exhibition and Workshop:

