

Zihan Loo (First name: 子涵 Tze-Han, Last name: 罗 Loo)

Education

University of California, Berkeley - PhD in Performance Studies	2019-26
Dissertation: <i>Etiolated Conduct: More-than-human Performativity with/in Singapore</i>	
Committee: Shannon Jackson (Chair), SanSan Kwan, Colleen Lye	
New York University, Tisch School of the Arts - MA in Performance Studies	2017-18
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago	2009-11
MFA in Studio Practice (Film, Video, New Media, and Animation)	
Nanyang Technological University, School of Art, Design and Media	2005-09
BFA in Digital Filmmaking (with a minor in Drama and Performance)	

Research

Teaching Fields: Performance praxis and theory; moving-image production and critique; film theory and art criticism; art history and theory with a focus on the contemporary; post-dramatic dramaturgies and multimedia design; time-based media aesthetics across disciplines; transnational queer theory.

Research Areas: Political resistance and counter-conduct under constraints; queer Asian diasporic sexuality and embodiment; more-than-human performativity and ecological aesthetics; archival and material methodologies; relational and socially-engaged praxis.

Academic Awards

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, GSI Teaching and Resource Center, UC Berkeley	2025
Conference Travel Grant, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley	2024
Graduate Student Travel Grant, Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, AF&M SIG	2021
EWJ Gateway Fellowship, International House, University of California, Berkeley	2019
Performance Studies Emerging Scholar Award, New York University, Tisch School of the Arts	2018
Post-graduate Arts Scholarship, National Arts Council, Singapore	2017
James Nelson Raymond Graduate Fellowship, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago	2011
Trustee Full-Tuition Merit Scholarship, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago	2010
Valedictorian, School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University	2009

Awards for Praxis

Best Multimedia Design, M1-The Straits Times Life! Theatre Awards, Singapore	2017
Young Artist Award, National Arts Council, Singapore	2015
Best Script, 1st Singapore Short Film Awards, The Substation, Singapore for <i>Threshold</i>	2009
Nuovo Sguardi Award, 23rd Turin GLBT Film Festival, Turin, Italy for <i>Solos</i>	2008

Publications

Book Project - *Etiolated Conduct: More-than-human Performativity with/in Singapore*

Etiolated Conduct examines unpragmatic and opaque forms of resistance. Bridging J. L. Austin's "etioliations" of language with the horticulture of light deprivation, and read alongside Foucault's late work on counter-conduct, biopolitics, and parrhesia, I argue that art's indirection performs a politicization of aesthetics rather than an aestheticization of politics, gathering force through durational deprivation rather than spectacular confrontation. If Singapore's post-natural environment is a glimpse of governance to come, a study of resistance under etiolated conditions carries anticipatory significance for a world where liberal frameworks of visibility, rights, and recognition are eroding.

Peer-Reviews Articles

“Solitary-Solidarity: More-than-human Parrhesia and Trans-generational Conduct.” *Performance Research*, special issue *On Carceral Shifts*, edited by Juan Manuel Aldape Muñoz, Michelle Castañeda and Anna Jayne Kimmel, under review.

Book Chapters

“Queer Objects: An Archive for the Future.” *Queer Asia: Decolonising and Reimagining Sexuality and Gender*, edited by J. Daniel Luther and Jennifer Ung Loh, Zed Books, 2019.

“I am Paying Attention.” *Place.Labour.Capital*, edited by Ute Meta Bauer and Anca Rujoiu, Mousse Publishing, 2018, pp. 254–261.

“Within Ourselves: Starting Over.” *25 years of The Substation: Reflections on Singapore's first independent art centre*, edited by Audrey Wong, The Substation and Ethos Books, 2015, pp. 134–142.

Book and Performance Reviews and Interviews

“Book Review: ‘Counter-Cartographies: Reading Singapore Otherwise’ by Joanne Leow.” *Southeast of Now*, forthcoming.

“Book Review: ‘Straight Nation: Heteronormativity and other exigencies of Postcolonial Nationalism’ by Pavan Mano.” *South East Asia Research*, 2026.

“Content Warning: Ecologies of Sex and Motherhood, a Studio Visit with Kim Ye.” Co-authored with Lena Chen, Kim Ye, and NAMI. *Theatre Journal*, vol. 77, no. 4, Dec. 2025.

“A Mercurial Mirage: Seascapes as Event, Logic and Method: ‘The Chinese Atlantic: Seascapes and the Theatricality of Globalization’ by Sean Metzger.” *Performance Research*, vol. 26, no. 4, 2021.

“Book Review: ‘Retrospective: A Historiographical Aesthetic in Contemporary Singapore and Malaysia’ by June Yap”, *ArtsEquator*, 11 January, 2018.

“Performance Review: Daniel Kok and Luke George’s “xhe”: Caught Between a Square and an Octopus.” *ArtsEquator*, 18 October 2018.

Exhibition Catalogs

Editor. *Paradis Sans Promesse*. Exhibition catalog. Frac des Pays de la Loire, 2016.

Co-editor with Louis Ho. *Archiving Cane*. Exhibition catalog. The Substation, Singapore, 2012.

Teaching Experience**Instructor (Independently Designed Courses)**

<i>Come Again? Reenactments as Embodied Research</i> – Reading and composition methods.	Spring & Fall 2025
<i>Queerealia: Archives and the Pleasures of Objecthood</i> – Reading and composition course.	Fall 2024
<i>Transnational Archives</i> – Reading and composition course.	Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant

<i>Video Art</i> , taught by Shannon Jackson and Greg Niemeyer.	Spring 2023
<i>Ecological Aesthetics</i> , 200-level graduate seminar taught by Shannon Jackson. co-drafted syllabus with Juniper Harrower and Shannon Jackson.	Spring 2023
<i>Dance in American Cultures</i> , taught by SanSan Kwan.	Fall 2021
<i>Abandoned Practices: Summer Performance Institute</i> , a summer intensive led by Matthew Goulish, Lin Hixson and Mark Jeffrey.	Summer 2011
<i>Theory into Practice</i> Graduate Seminar, taught by Gregg Bordowitz, hosted artists Andrea Fraser, Paul Chan, Glenn Ligon et al.	Spring 2011
<i>Media Practices: Moving Image</i> , taught by Frédéric Moffett and Shellie Fleming.	Spring 2011
<i>Directing Actors for Film and Video</i> , taught by Melika Bass.	Fall 2010

Teaching Experience in Singapore

External Examiner, Fine Art Diploma Program, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.	2020
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Instructor, Media Arts, Fine Art Program, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.	2018-19
BFA Dissertation Supervisor, School of Theatre, LASALLE College of the Arts.	2018-19
Instructor, Media Arts, Visual Arts Department, The School of the Arts. ¹	2012-2014
Lecturer, Introduction to Film Studies. Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information. Nanyang Technological University.	Fall 2012
Lecturer, <i>Digital Media and Visual Arts: The Moving Image</i> , Visual and Performing Arts Department. National Institute of Education.	2012
Lecturer, <i>Time-based Media</i> , Foundation Year, School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University.	2011-13

Academic Presentations

Presenter - "Containment and Contingency: Charles Lim's <i>all the lines flow out</i> (2011) and Kingsley Ng's <i>After the Deluge</i> (2018)," <i>Technocapitalism in Motion: Contemporary Asian Art through Movement</i> , College Art Association 115th Conference, New York City.	2027
Presenter - "Value made Visceral: On the back of backs, blood work, and Asian American congealment," <i>Performing Value: Finance, Flesh, and the Imagination</i> . Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Conference #17, University of Madison, Wisconsin.	2026
Presenter - "Permit to Land: Queer Perambulations with/in Singapore," <i>Performance Studies international</i> #31, Jakarta, Indonesia.	2026
Presenter and Panel Convenor - "Blood Work: Asian American Congealment and Visceral Abstraction," with Lena Chen, Empress Wu, Riven Ratanavanh for <i>Queer-Class Relations Conference</i> , The Center for LGBTQ Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center, New York City.	2026
Co-convenor and Keynote - <i>No Uniform: An Assembly for Queer Studies</i> , Proud Spaces, Singapore.	2026
Presenter - "Camouflaged Choreographies: Cruising infrastructure in Singapore through Jason Wee's practice," <i>Performance Studies international</i> #30, Fortaleza, Brazil.	2025
Participant - "Generational Solitary-Solidarity and Parrhesiatic Performativity in Seelan Palay's "32 Years: An Interrogation of a Mirror," <i>Generative Acts in/from the Global South</i> Working Session, American Society for Theatre Research conference, Denver, Colorado.	2025
Presenter - "All Look At Me": Visceral Pleasures of Objecthood in Kink.com's Club Dragon," <i>Pleasure, Visuality and the Taboo</i> , Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Chicago, Illinois.	2025
Presenter - "'All Look At Me': Model Minority Masochism in Gay Fetish Pornography," Association of Asian American Studies Conference, Seattle, Washington.	2024
Visiting Scholar - <i>Abandoned Practices</i> Performance Summer School, convened by Matthew Goulish, Lin Hixson and Mark Jeffrey, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.	2023
Presenter - "The Intimacies of Obscenity," <i>Intimate Collections: Artists Archiving Sex in the Asian Diaspora</i> , organized by <i>Performing Asian American & Diasporic Sexualities</i> , UC Berkeley, California.	2023
Co-presenter - "I am the people: Performing solitary resistance as anti-authoritarian populism," <i>Performance and Populism</i> Conference, UC Berkeley, presented with Jason Luger.	2021
Presenter - "Refusing Pragmatic Resistance: Queer Presence As 'Counter-Conduct,'" <i>Singapore Studies Junior Scholar Seminar</i> , Academia.sg, with Natalie Oswin as respondent.	2020
Presenter - "Queer Objects: An Archive for the Future." Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections (ALMS) conference, Berlin, Germany.	2019
Presenter - "Skin/Leather/Hide: The Tactility of 'Lecture, This Way,'" <i>Queer Legacies, New Solidarities</i> conference, Melbourne, Australia.	2018

¹ The School of the Arts is a specialized secondary school offering an IB Arts curriculum. I worked in the Media Arts department, where I designed and taught the Art Theory syllabus while supervising candidates' graduation projects.

- Presenter - "Sensing 'Brother Cane': Counter-Conduct and the Exhaustion of Self," 2018
 Association of Theatre in Higher Education conference, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Presenter - "Remembering (Brother) Cane: A Performative Dialogue," Performance Studies 2013
 international #19, *Now Then: Performance and Temporality*, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California.
- Presenter - *The University and the Arts Community*, The Substation Conference, Singapore. 2013

Service

- Co-convenor, *Eroticizing Performance: Taking Stock of Desire* Working Session, with Kari Barclay 2026
 and Chris Harder, American Society for Theatre Research Conference.
- Graduate Student Representative, Department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, UC 2022-23
 Berkeley, California.
- Graduate Student Delegate - The Graduate Assembly Representative for Department of Theater, 2021-22
 Dance and Performance Studies, UC Berkeley, California.
- Curator and Organizer - Graduate student presentation of the films of Apichatpong Weerasethakul 2011
 at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Filmmaker in attendance), Chicago, Illinois.
- Presented Toshio Matsumoto's *Funeral Parade of Roses* at Queer/Art/Film, IFC Center, New York. 2010

Professional Practice and Research

- Participant - Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Summer School, *Livable Futures: Asia as Worlding*, Chinese 2026
 University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.
- Presenter and Facilitator - *Seven Bodies and the Talking Sea*, workshop with art practice students 2022
 at Chiang Mai University, Thailand, curated and organized by Esther Lu, Taiwan.
- Roundtable Panel Discussant - Asian Dramaturgs' Network Conference, Singapore. 2019
- Participant - Pro Helvetia Seminar for Emerging Artists, Taipei Arts Festival, Taiwan. 2019
- Participant - Northwestern University Summer Institute in Performance Studies, Evanston, Illinois. 2018
- Participant - Doctoral Theater Students' Association Conference, CUNY, New York. 2018
- Panel Respondent - Association of Asian Studies Conference, Washington D.C. 2018
- Participant - *Landing 2.0*, Gibney Dance Center, facilitated by Miguel Gutierrez, New York City. 2017
- Presenter - *Movement x Archive x Performance 3.0*, Live Art Development Agency, London. 2017
- Participant - *Summer School #0.5*, Performance Studies international #23, Hamburg, Germany. 2017
- Presenter - *Field Meeting Take 4: Thinking Practice*, Asia Society, New York City. 2016
- Presenter - *Materiality, Performance, and the Spectator*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore. 2014
- Presenter - *Shifting Dialogues III* Symposium, University of the Arts, Helsinki, Finland. 2014
- Presenter - *Shifting Dialogues II* Symposium, University of the Arts, Helsinki, Finland. 2013
- Panelist - *Performance: To Be Reviewed*, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong. 2013

Praxis

Solo Exhibitions and Performances

- Catamite*, M1 Singapore Fringe Festival, Singapore. 2019
- With/Out*, commissioned by The Studios series, Esplanade Theatres on the Bay, Singapore. 2017
- I am LGB*, commissioned by Ong Keng Sen, Singapore International Festival of Arts. 2016
- 50/50*, premiered at T:>Works, Singapore and toured to Brisbane Festival, Australia. 2015-16
- Cane* performance and *Archiving Cane* exhibition at The Substation, Singapore. 2012

Selected Group Exhibitions

- Spectrosynthesis Seoul*, Art Sonje Center, Seoul, South Korea. 2026
- Myth Makers: Spectrosynthesis III*, Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong. 2022
- The Case of the Osmanthus Flower Jelly*, Hessel Museum, Bard College, New York. 2017

<i>Untimely Encounter</i> , Alternative Gallery Loop, Seoul, South Korea.	2016
<i>President's Young Talents</i> , Singapore Art Museum.	2015
<i>Paradis Sans Promesse</i> , FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France.	2015
<i>Ghost: The Body At The Turn Of The Century</i> , Sculpture Square, Singapore.	2013

Selected Artist Residencies

NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore	2016
Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne Australia	2015
Hangar.org, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain	2015
FRAC des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France	2015

Selected Film Screenings

<i>Solos</i> (feature), premiered at Pusan International Film Festival, in competition, AFI Festival.	2007
<i>Threshold</i> (short), premiered at Pusan International Film Festival.	2009
<i>Autopsy</i> (short), collected within Asian Film Archive Singapore Shorts Vol. 2.	2008

Selected Artistic Collaborations

Performer, <i>Re-collection</i> by Alexandra Pirici, NTU CCA, Singapore & SFMOMA, San Francisco.	2018&24
Multimedia Artist, <i>Manifesto</i> , The Necessary Stage and Drama Box, Singapore.	2016
Performer, <i>Retrospective</i> by Xavier Le Roy, Theatreworks, Singapore.	2014
Performer, <i>The Precession</i> by Mark Jeffrey and Judd Morrissey, MCA Chicago.	2011

Selected Scholarship on Praxis

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- Bleeker, Maaïke. "I Am LGB — The LGB Society of Mind." *Doing Dramaturgy: Thinking Through Practice*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023, pp. 271–285.
- Magro, Aiden. "Exposing the State: Loo Zihan's Queer Performance." *Southeast of Now*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2021.
- Ho, Louis. "Loo Zihan and the Body Confessional." *Contemporary Arts As Political Practice in Singapore*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017, pp. 29–44.
- Wong, Melissa Wansin. "Performing Singapore's Queer Quandary: Walking the Tightrope Between Sexual Illegality and Neoliberal-Enabled Subjectivity at Pink Dot and in Loo Zihan's *Cane*," *Queer Dramaturgies*, edited by Alyson Campbell and Stephen Farrier, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp. 66–80.
- Chan, Kenneth. "Impossible Presence: Toward a Queer Singapore Cinema, 1990s–2000s." *Queer Singapore: Illiberal Citizenship and Mediated Cultures*, edited by Audrey Yue and Jun Zubillaga-Pow, Hong Kong UP, 2012, pp. 161–74.
- Ross, Oliver. "Watching Solos in Singapore: Homosexuality, Surrealism and Queer Politics." *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific*, no. 38, Aug. 2015.
- Tan, E. K. "A Queer Journey Home in Solos: Rethinking Kinship in Sinophone Singapore." *Queer Sinophone Cultures*, edited by Howard Chiang and Ari Larissa Heinrich, Routledge, 2013, pp. 130–46.