Colleen JY Zhang

Architecture Portfolio 2025





HUTONG

Watercolor and fineliner on paper | 15" x 20"
Individual work 2024

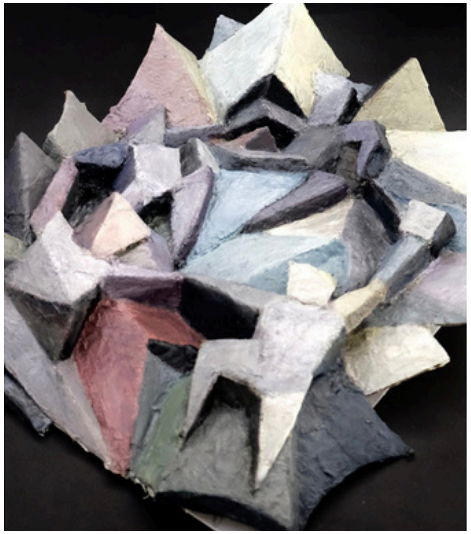
For most of my life, I grew up in urban spaces. This observational drawing depicts a summer trip to a part of the old Beijing city that enabled me to experience something unique—the people's traditional buildings and way of life.

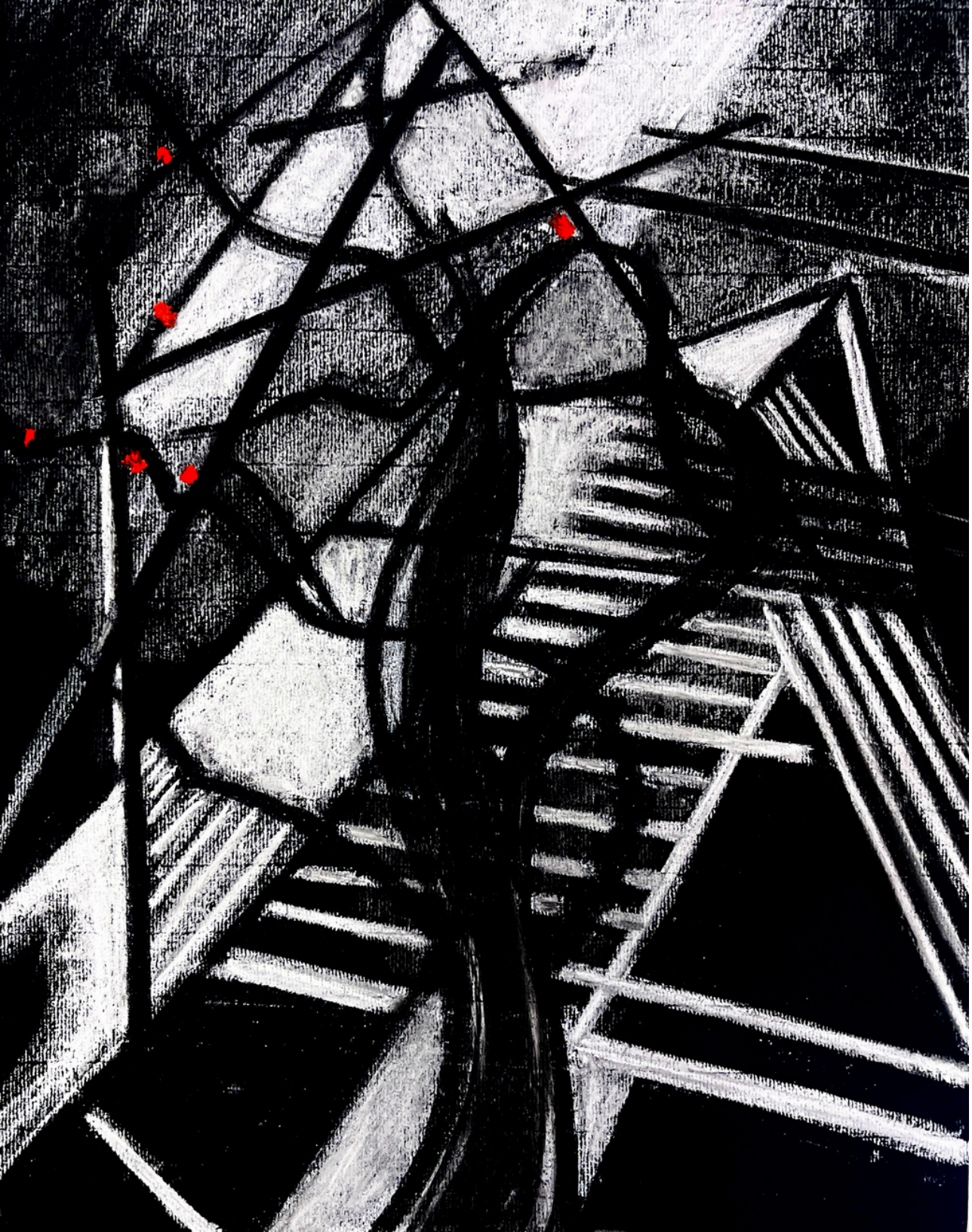


HUTONG SERIES: HARMONY DIVERSITY

Cardboard, plaster, acrylic paint on canvas base | 16" x 24" x 5"
Individual work 2024

Inspired by a scene from a children's book I illustrated, this artwork portrays five people from diverse communities holding hands and dancing together. Through abstract forms of triangular pattern, it explores themes of diversity and inclusion.





HUTONG SERIES: URBAN HARMONY

Chalk on black paper | 16" x 19.5"
Individual work 2024

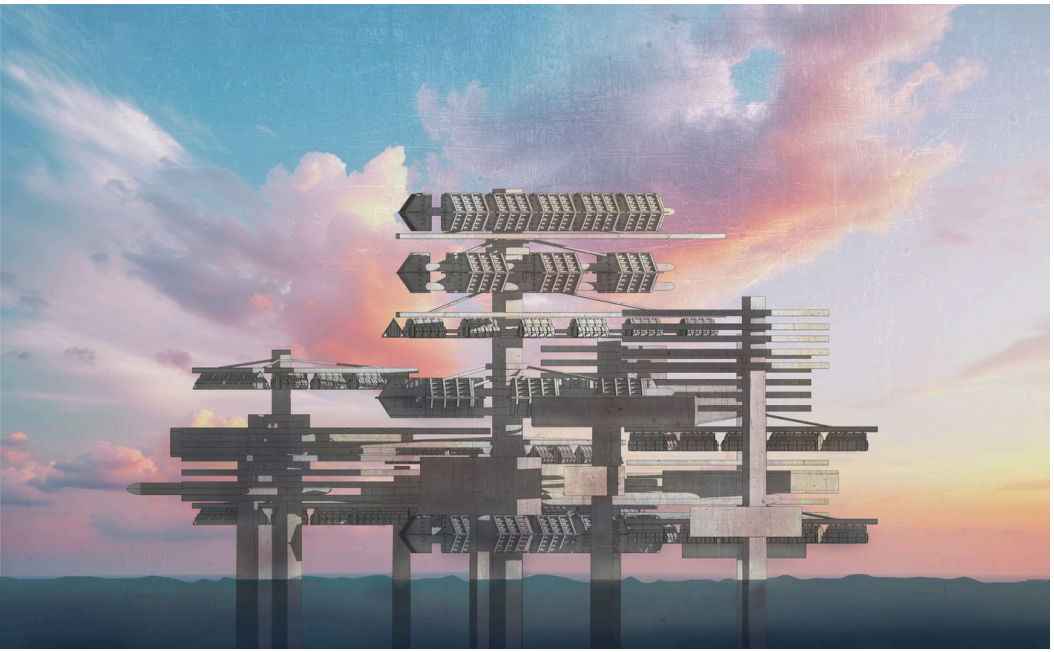
This piece aims to recapture my earliest memories of intertwining nature with constructed space. The persimmon tree from my grandparents' courtyard was a centerpiece that nurtured many intergenerational conversations.

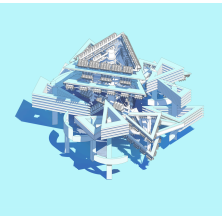


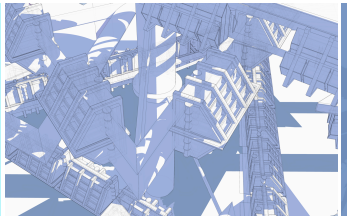
HUTONG SERIES: GEOMETRIC HORIZON

Acrylic and marker on canvas | 36" x 20"
Individual work 2024

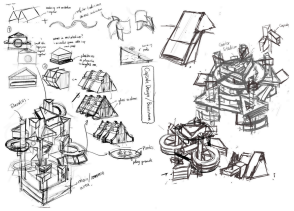
This acrylic aims to capture the abstract experience of viewing space from the buildings' compositions. Through triangular structures, shadows, and the extension of depth through shading, Iextend my idea beyond my observational drawing "Hutong".







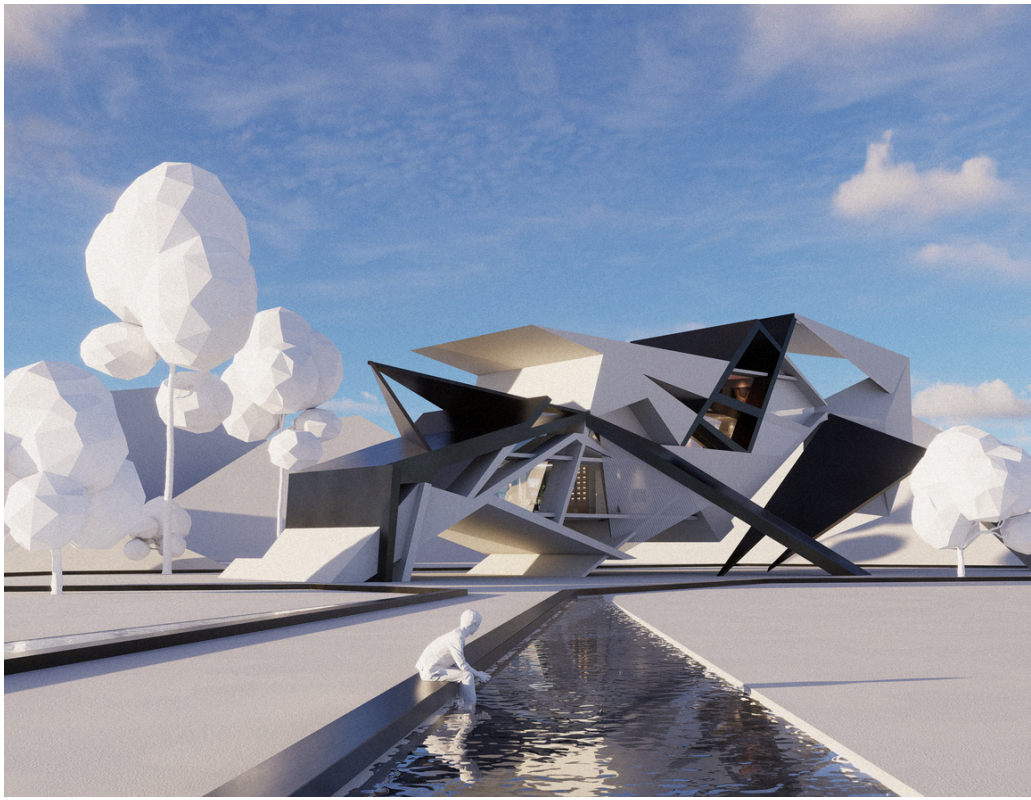




HUTONG SERIES: FLOATING FUTURES

Modelled from Rhino, Photoshop | 7073px x 4332px
Individual work 2024

This futuristic architectural design envisions humanity adapting to life at sea due to rising sea levels, with a triangular model that fosters a green environment. The structure features a spherical pole on four axes, minimizin movement and ensuring accessibility for all, including the elderly and disabled.





HUTONG SERIES: MORPH

D5 render, Rhino 3D, Photoshop | 3840px x 2963px
Individual work 2024

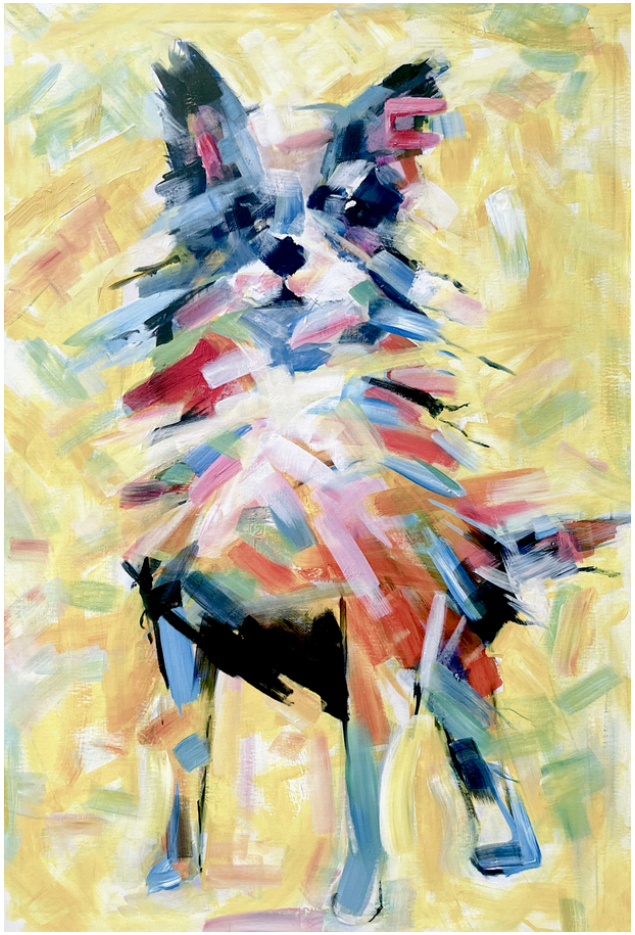
Using the Hutong artwork motif, I experimented by integrating this theme into conceptual forms. I positioned the model within a landscape to examine how the structure could interact with its surroundings.



A DOG'S MEMORY

Charcoal on paper | 18" x 24"
Individual work 2024

The untamed, messy fur represents the Border Collie's vibrant energy to give the still life movement.



THE COLORFUL HOPE

Acrylic on canvas | 25" x 37"
Individual work 2024

The bold, dynamic brushwork expresses my Border Collie's spirited personality, offering a fresh portrayal of this intelligent and active breed. My memories of him are now rays of light, scattered across a multitude of colors.



MIRRORED CONNECTION

Acrylic and marker on canvas | 19.7" x 23.7"
Individual work 2024

I grew up with a dog a year older than me, and his passing three years ago shaped my understanding of the close bond between humans and dogs. The painting reflects my personal connection with my Border Collie, symbolizing our zipper-like bond and the way we depended on each other.



WARPED WORLD

Charcoal on paper | 10" x 14.1"
Individual work 2023

The warped buildings and blurred figures reflect how I often perceive the busy city in which I live in—constantly shifting, overwhelming, and hard to pin down.



JOURNEY TO LIGHT

Acrylic on canvas | 12.6" x 15.6"
Individual work 2023

This painting captures the moment from dreaming to waking—daylight seeps in and the dream starts fading. The children head towards the radiant light, symbolizing their attempt to leave behind the desolate, barren tree and the chaotic world below.



WHEELS OF MEMORY

Color pencils, markers, fineliner on paper | 15" x 10.5"
Individual work 2024

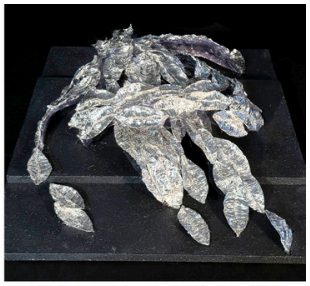
The bike is not only a green mode of transport. For me it also serves as a reflection of my childhood, where every morning, I would get up early to bike together with my friends to school.

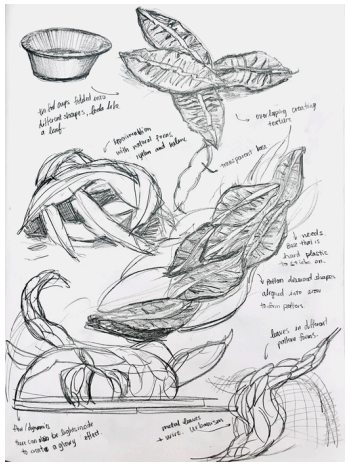


CRACKS OF CARELESSNESS

Acrylic on canvas | 15.5" x 20"
Individual work 2023

While walking in a park, I came across this scene: three plastic bottles carelessly wedged into cracks in stone formations, as though the rocks had become a makeshift trash can. This careless human behavior, leaving behind pollution prompted me to consider the long-term consequences of our daily actions.

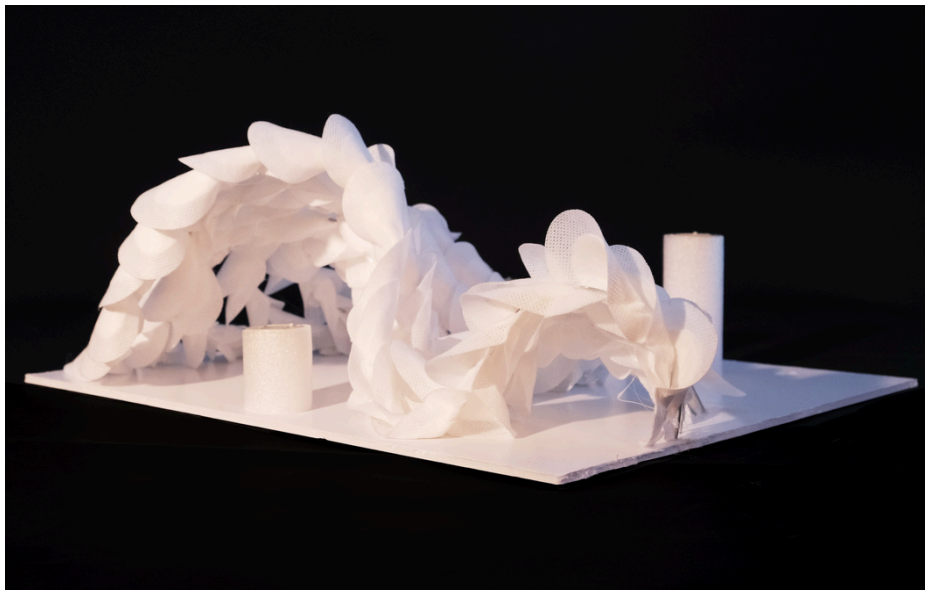
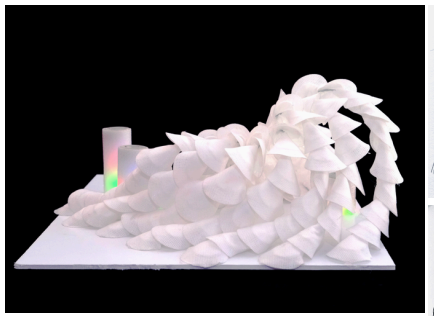
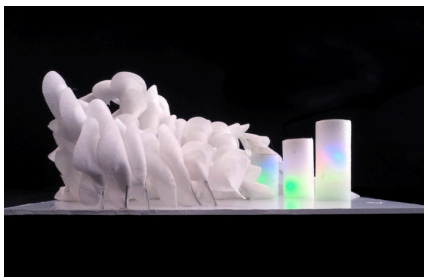
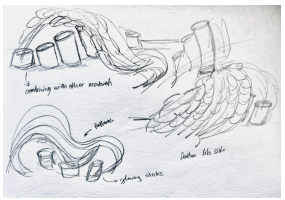
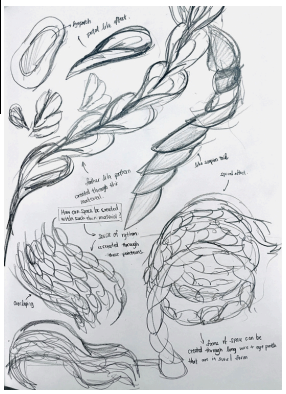





SILVER LEAVES

UV glue, plastic, tin foil cups on foam platform painted grey | 29" x 23" x 7.5"
Individual work 2024

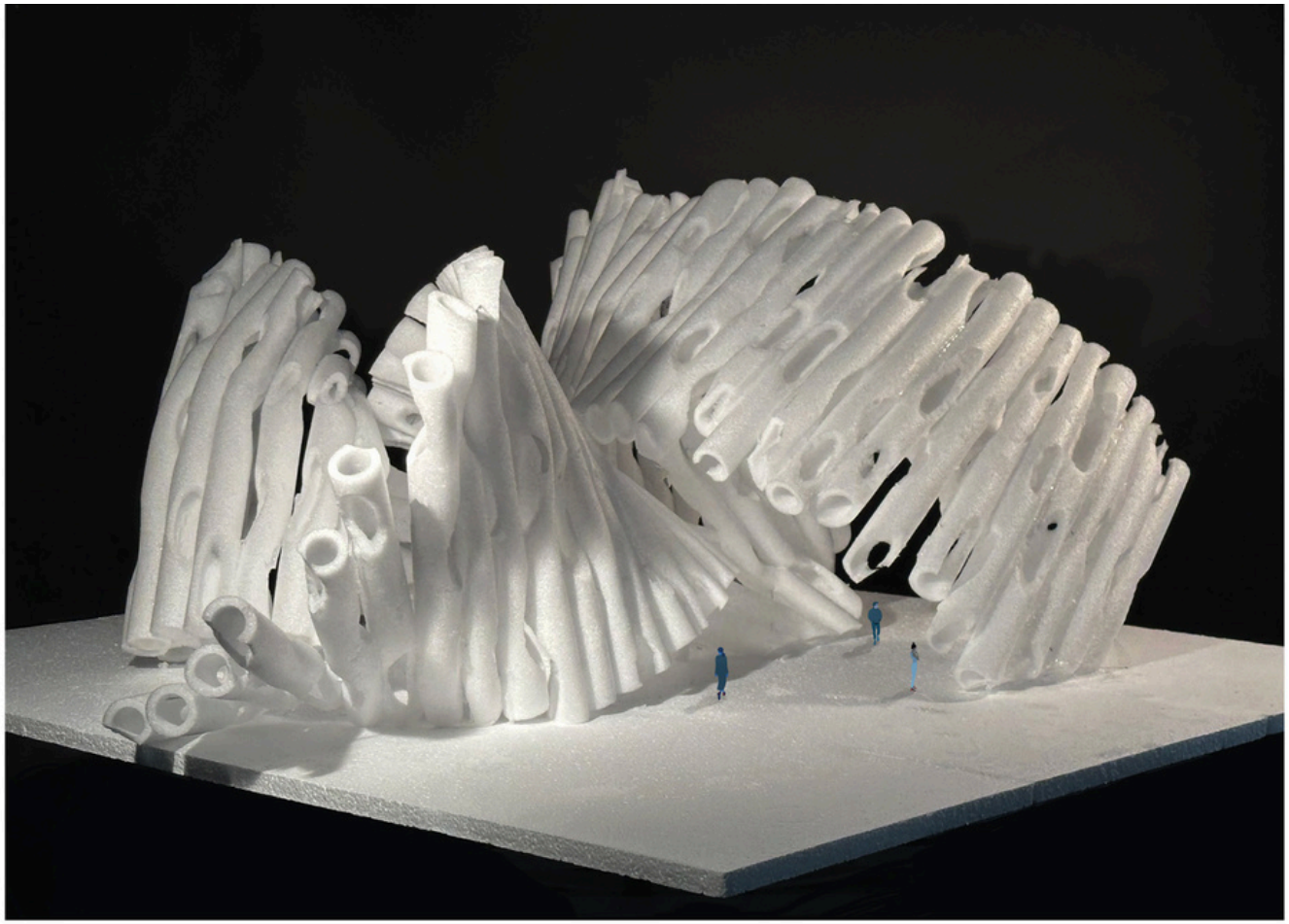
The Metallic shapes resemble the shape of fallen leaves. This structure explores how the industrial rigidity of metal can evolve into organic form, representing relationship between nature and human-made materials.

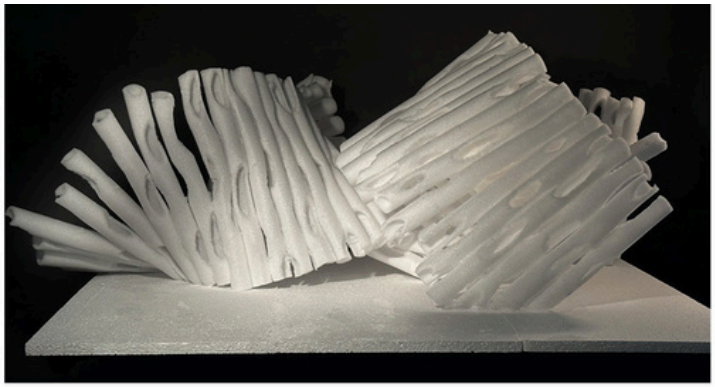






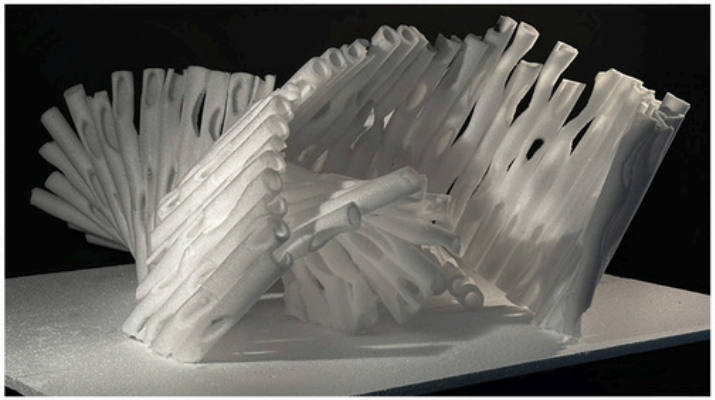
HEALING FORMS

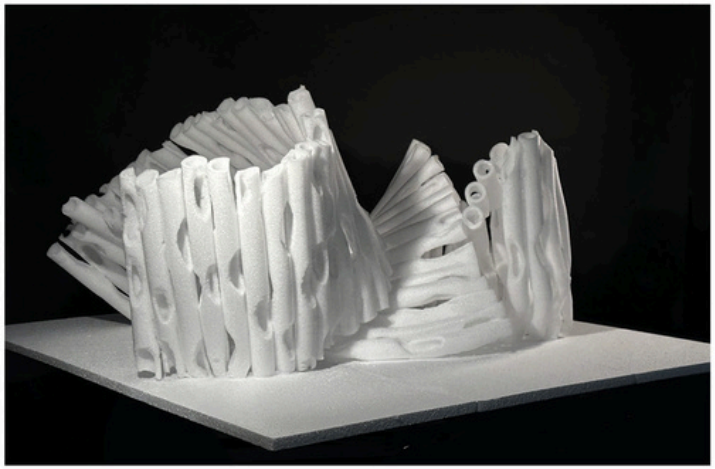
Eye patch, thin Wire, foam light sticks on foam board | 17" x 15" x 8"
Individual work 2024

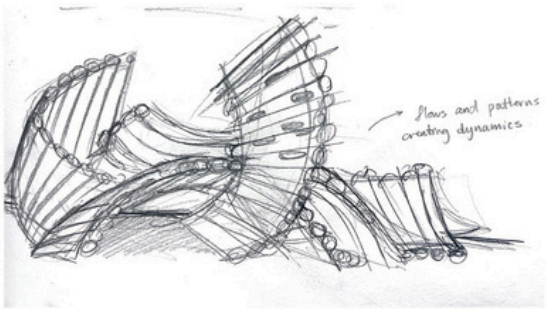
This piece draws inspiration from my childhood experience of undergoing rehabilitation for my eye condition. Using a soft eye-patch as my artistic medium, I explore the organic forms that reflect both the delicate process of healing and the relationship between body and care.

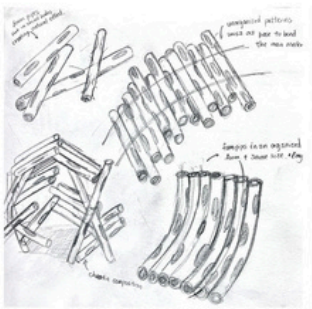


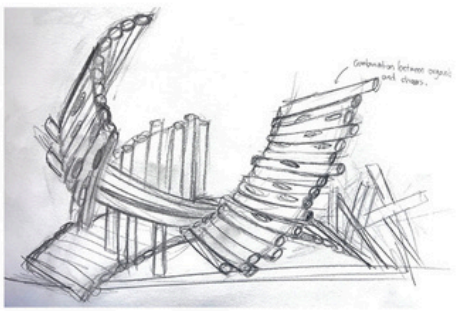












MELODY

Foam tube, silicon glue, wire base | 45.5" x 41.5"x 18.5"
Individual work 2024

This sculpture is inspired by the essence of musical motion, merging my passion for music and spatial dynamics.