



ZELIA ZZ TAN

Young Asian dance artist crossing over to film and technology

Zelia is a cross-disciplinary dance artist focusing on *presence* and *identity*. She is a pioneer in dance X technology in Asia, creating virtual and hybrid performances with motion capture, AR, VR, avatars, etc. Her research interest is in the future of body, experience and interaction, in a quest for “*future dance*”. She is also an experimental filmmaker whose works were featured in 18 film festivals. The founder of TechDanceLab, she is based in Los Angeles and Hong Kong, works globally with masters like Gilles Jobin and Sasha Waltz.

Born: 1997.11.15
Nationality: China
Residence: Los Angeles

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EDUCATION

California Institute of Arts (CalArts) in the US
An MFA, double-majoring in Interactive Media for Performance (Theatre) and Choreography (Dance)
2023-2026

The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA)
Bachelor of Fine Arts (First Class Honours) major in Contemporary Dance
2014-2019

Exchange student from HKAPA to Northern School of Contemporary Dance, UK
2017-2018

Guangdong Dance and Drama College, major in Ballroom Dance and Ballet
2009-2014

SCHOLARSHIP

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Music and Dance Fund
2024-2026

Asian Cultural Council's Altius Fellowship (Graduate Scholarship)
2023-2025

CalArts Graduate Scholarship
2023-2026

CHOREOGRAPHY x PERFORMANCE



Refract, solo. Director, co-producer, choreographer, and performer in a hybrid performance integrating solo dance, motion capture systems, avatars, and XR technologies. Work-in-progress versions were presented at the Freespace Dance Festival (Hong Kong), Game Developers Conference, and Gray Area (San Francisco). 2023-2025



Choreographed the duo performance art work, *Prepositions*, by Sophia & Michele. The desire for a poem carries the weight of a poem. 2025
Mother Courage and Her Children, as choreographer in theater production, at CalArts. Written by Bertolt Brecht, directed by Ilse Castro Corona. 2024
Anima, in MFA fall concert, at CalArts. 2024



Labyrinth I + II + III, at FoxTail multimedia project in Expo Festival. 2024
Ephemeral Privacy: Dancing Amidst Data Breaches, MFA 1 collaboration. 2024
Animating Our Tracks, in Open House Dance Concert, at CalArts. 2023
His Temple, directed by Olivier Cong, show at French May Arts Festival. 2023



Directed & choreographed *Accelerating Dimension*, a live mocap/avatar/AR interactive work. 2022



Choreographed, designed & performed *Sensing Adjacency II*, a mocap experimental work (online); choreographer, media artist & performer in *Sensing Adjacency* (documentary video). 2022



Audītūs, full length theater work with 2 performers (remote, online), with Ku Manlan, commissioned by Max Dance Hall, Macau. 2021



inCOMing, solo, commissioned by E-Side Dance Company. 2021
Trans, solo, in multimedia live streaming. 2020



Another Day on The Moon, for 6 dancers. 2019



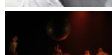
Interspherence II, for 2 dancers. 2017



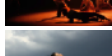
Interspherence I, solo. 2016



disCOVER, solo. 2016



Signal, solo. Premiered at Helsinki Festival. 2015



Addiction, solo. (created at age 15) 2012



INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS selected



Led hybrid dance workshops at HKAPA (Hong Kong), Dock 11 (Berlin), UCB (San Francisco), CalArts (Los Angeles) among others. Upcoming sessions at A+E Lab (London). 2022-2025



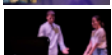
Invited by Sasha Waltz & Guest (Germany) to rehearse *In C*, and participate in phygital workshops, with international artists. 2022



Created real-time VR dance performance in *La Comedie Virtuelle* with world renowned choreographer Gilles Jobin (Switzerland) and remote global dancers. 2021



Invited by ROXY-TanzLabor (Germany) to co-create and perform AR dance *Tanz mit dem Tiger*, choreographed by Pablo Sansalvador, with remote global dancers. 2021



COMMUNITY

Founder of TechDanceLab, the first and only professional community-based entity in Hong Kong focusing on the interaction of dance and technology

2022

Initiated & led inSIGHT, a series of dance workshops on body-and-mind connection for visually impaired teenagers, in Ebenezer School & Home for Visually Impaired

2018

Participated at Love Love Run, signature fundraising event for AIDS Concern Hong Kong

2015

AWARD/RECOGNITION

Awarded the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia's grant for 4 weeks research trip in Switzerland about XR dance

2024

Award the ICAP grant to develop diverse community project, FoxTail in CalArt, USA

2024

Selected as one of the finalists for the Emerging Choreographer at the Hong Kong Dance Awards

2023

ID in Bodies and Sensing Adjacency selected by the film program of Asian Futurisms Conference - Linking Asia's Digital Imagination to the World, Zhuhai, China

2022

Film works *Over Here?* and *Moon Paradox I* screened in 18 international dance film festivals (official selections)

2020-2021

Semi-finalist in Sci-Tech Young Artist Awards in China, by Raiden INST

2021

RESEARCH, RESIDENCE & WRITING

Initiated the thesis performance research, *Living Landscape*. With a public showing scheduled for October 24 in CalArts, The Sharon Disney Lund Dance Theater. 2025

Author for the XR Must Platform. Interviewed Nancy Baker Cahill and Claudix Vanesix. 2025

Initiated Research residence at Cie Gilles Jobin, Studios44/MocapLab, Switzerland, collaborating with technologists on virtual interaction and motion capture systems. 2024

Invited panelist at the 2023 ArtTech Forum (Switzerland), joining a discussion with Susanna, Phillip, and Gilles on cutting-edge developments in digital dance. 2023
Invited to present the research in VR dance and join a panel discussion at Dance and Somatic Practice Conference in UK, as a dance scholar. 2023

Invited to attend *M+ Game Night: City Building as a Board Game*, by M+ Museum, Hong Kong. 2022

Author of few articles about future dance, mocap experiment, young artists' practice published in *Dance Journal/HK*. 2021-2022

As Visiting Artist, researched on virtual dance in the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts for 7 months. 2021-2022

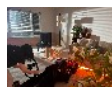
Artist-in-residence at Leonardo21 (digital arts organization in Hong Kong), conducting artistic research on body and technology. 2021

Presented a talk on *ID Transfer in future dance VR*, at 25th Digital Research of Humanity and Arts Conference, Berlin. 2021

Attended Zuhören #4 forum, *Climate change & democracy: from complexity to action*, at the Radialsystem, Berlin. 2019

Flaneur, a series of site-specific improvisation movement research in Paris, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong etc. 2015-2021

AR/VR/FILM X Dance X Video Art



Director, producer and film editor of an experimental dance media project, *Scarlet Pathways*. 2025



As a video projection designer for theatre play, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. shifting visual worlds to deepen the play's spatial and mindful dialogues. Scrip by Stephen Adly Guirgis, directed by Tramaine Raphael Gray. Exploring the boundaries of faith, forgiveness, and redemption in this courtroom drama in Mod Theatre. 2024



As video designer and programmer, crafted the frames in *Prometheus Bound* delving into themes of Fate, Sacrifice, Freedom, and Confinement. Presented at the Directing Lab, CalArt. 2024



As a director, executive producer, choreographer and performer, works for *REfract*, a hybrid performance with a solo dancer interacting with motion capture system, avatars and XR technologies from 2023-2025.



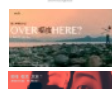
Directed & choreographed *Accelerating Dimension*, a live mocap/avatar/AR interactive work. 2022



Directed & choreographed *ID in Bodies*, a VR creation/experience with avatars in Cyprovox (virtual platform) and a documentary, presented by Randian INST. 2022



Choreographed, designed & performed *Sensing Adjacency*, a mocap experimental work (online); choreographer, media artist & performer in *Sensing Adjacency* (documentary video). 2022



Directed, choreographed & produced film *Over Here?*, commissioned by Jumping Frames International Dance Video Festival. 2020

