Immersive Healing

with Creative Coding

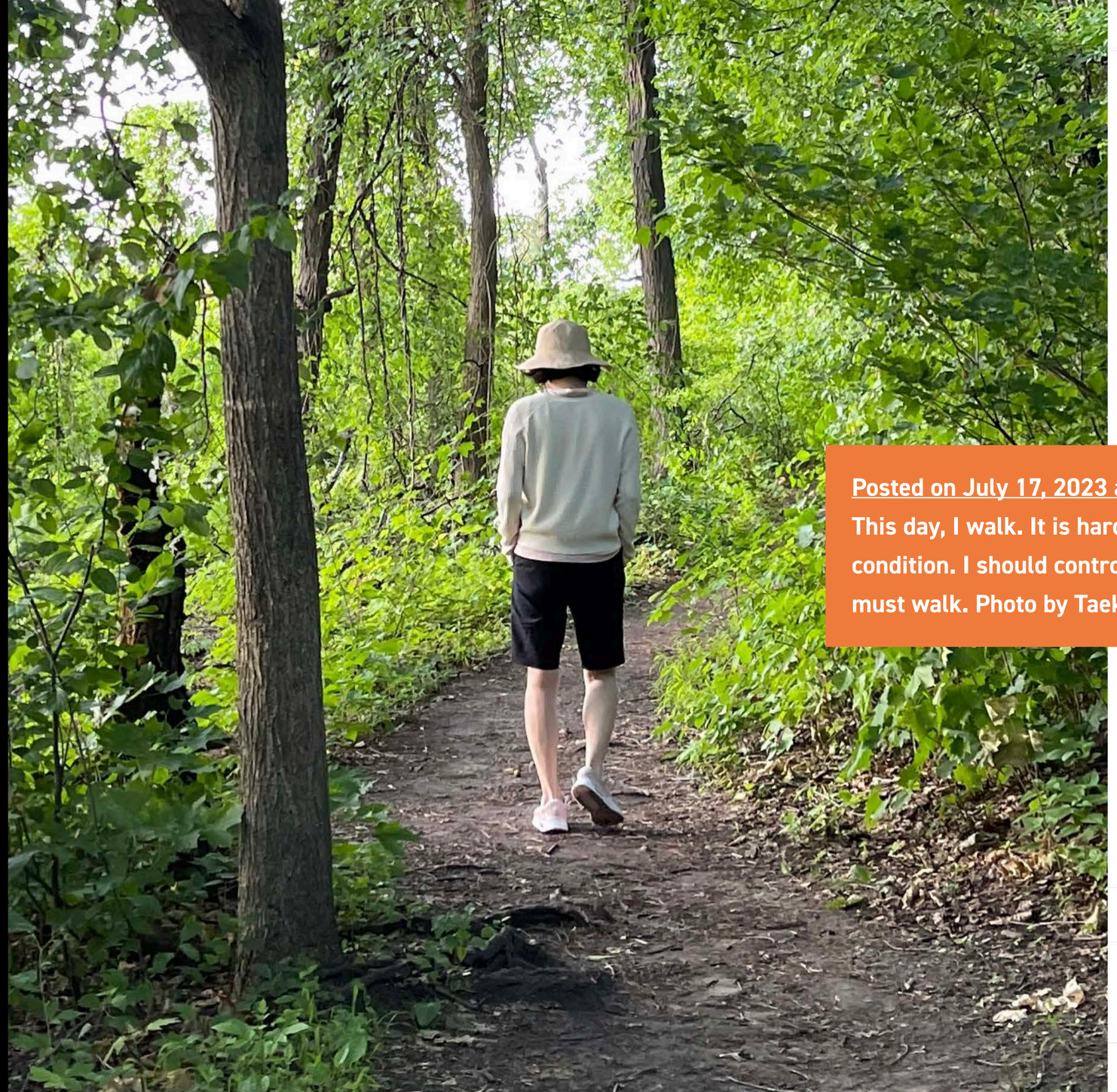
YEOHYUN AHN
Emerging Scholar Award 2025

21st International Conference
on the Arts in Society

Center for the Arts in Society
Carnegie Mellon University

May 28-30, 2025

The study begins with a personal exploration of a life transformed by medical leave, focusing on experiences with open-heart surgery, cardiac rehabilitation, and the challenges of living with a long-term disability since April 2023. The journey began in spring 2023 in Madison, Wisconsin, where fear and uncertainty loomed as the presenter awaited surgery. To regain her heart health, she incorporated daily walks into her routine, capturing the changing landscapes through photography. Despite the emotional turmoil, she found beauty around her.



yeohyunahn

yeohyunahn These day I walk. It is hard to walk with my current medical condition. I should control my blood sugar after meal. I must walk. Thank you all surrounding me. Have a peaceful evening.

90w

kayley.hackett 😌❤️ sending love your way!!

90w 1 like Reply

[Posted on July 17, 2023 at Instagram]

This day, I walk. It is hard to walk with my current medical condition. I should control my blood sugar after meals. I must walk. Photo by Taekyeom Lee at UW Arboreteum,

View insights Boost post

Liked by **sarahfitzsimons.art** and **64 others**

July 17, 2023

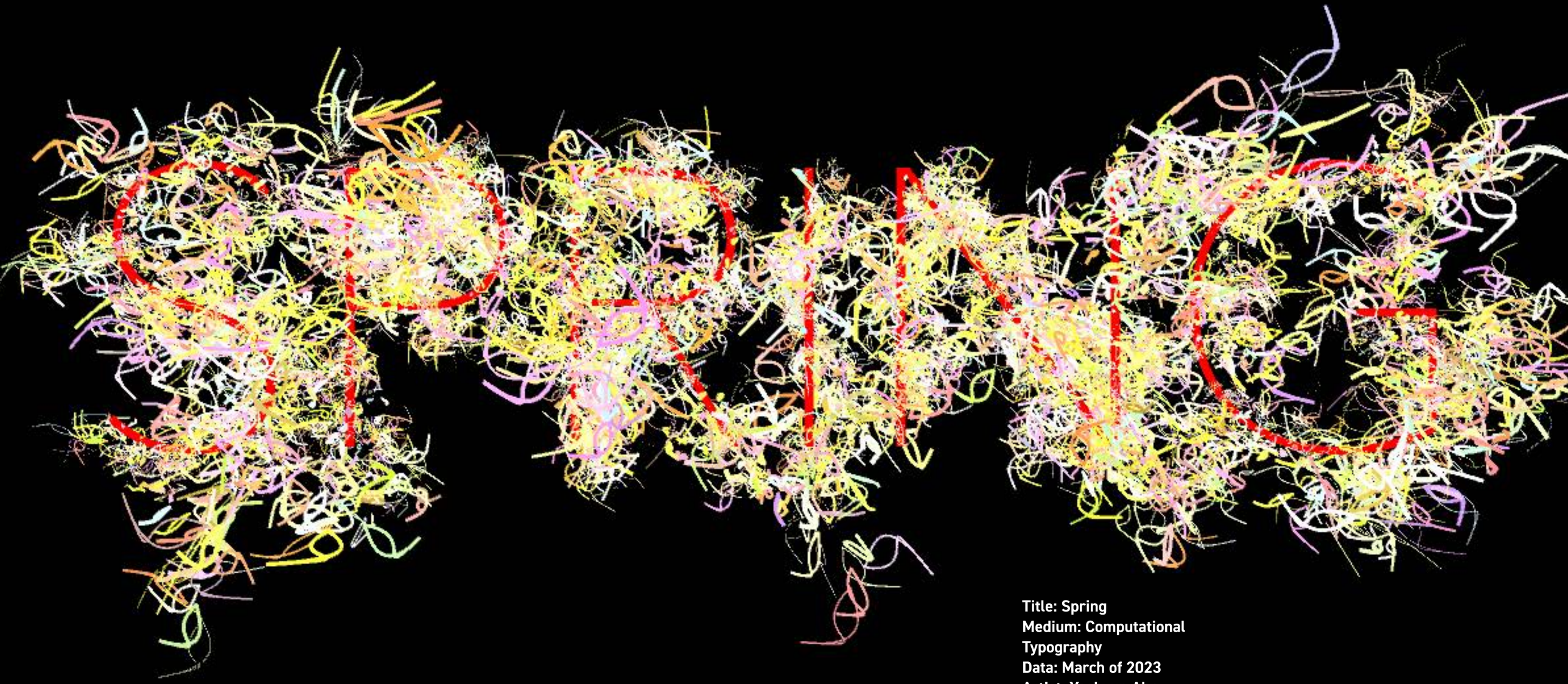
Add a comment... Post



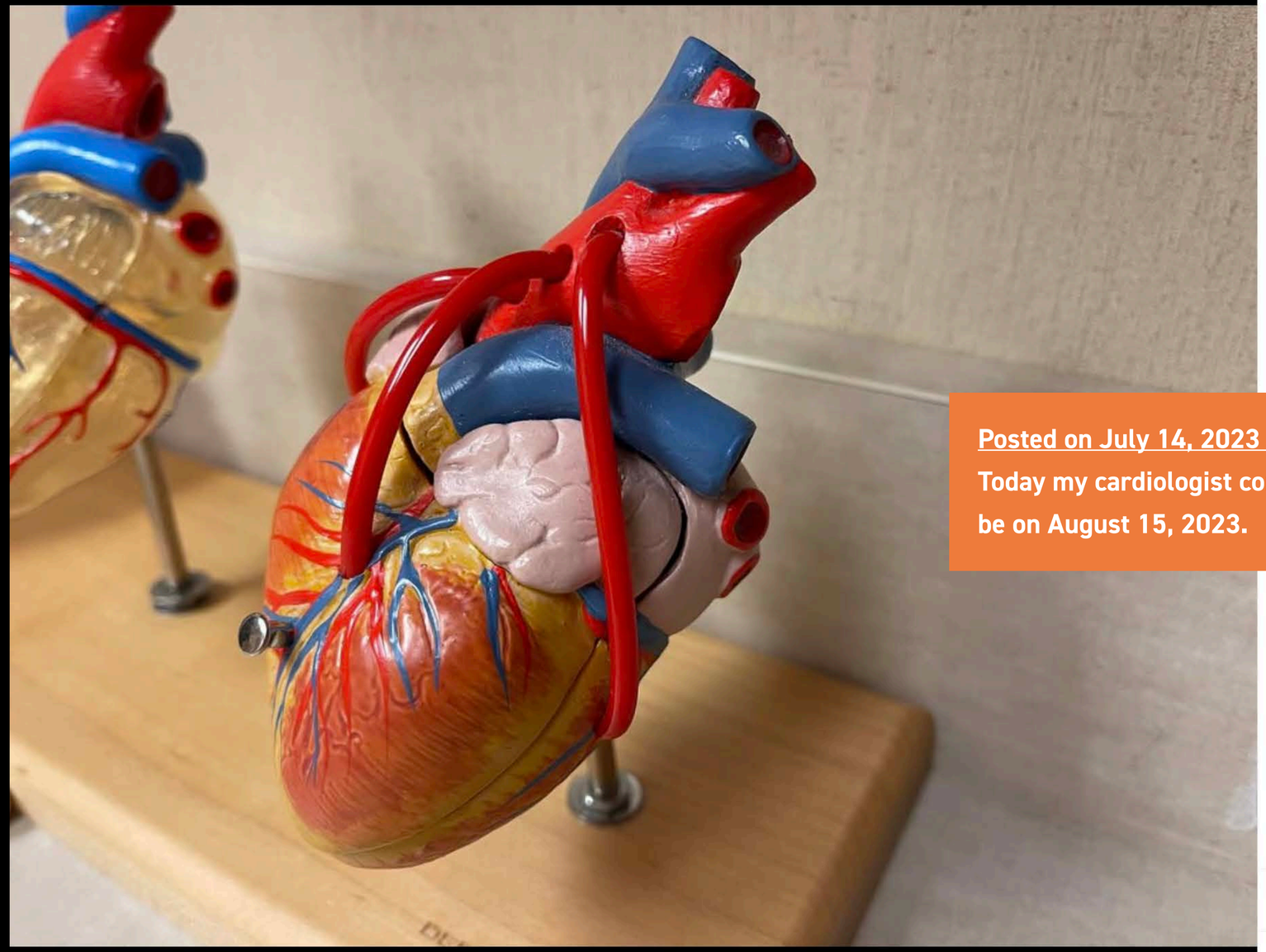
UW Arboreteum, March 8, 2023







Title: Spring
Medium: Computational Typography
Data: March of 2023
Artist: Yeohyun Ahn



yeohyunahn

yeohyunahn Today my cardiologist confirms that my heart surgery will be on August 15, 2023. It requires 12 weeks to recover. He and I are positive and hopefully to rejuvenate my heart through bypass. We made a good decision based on my current medical condition. Now I walk, drive, reading, social media, meeting friends, etc. I look forward to my next chapter. Thank you all. 🙏❤️.

Edited · 90w

dictionaryofnegativespace I wrote an essay for @pineywoodatlas about reframing hospital visits as being artists in residence at a hospital. I find that the process reduces my stress level tremendously. Best wishes

90w 4 likes Reply

View replies (1)

whaleworksdesign Swift healing.❤️‍🩹

90w 1 like Reply

almahoffmann Thinking of you. ❤️

sitive

sitive

90w 1 like Reply

[Posted on July 14, 2023 at Instagram]

Today my cardiologist confirms that my heart surgery will be on August 15, 2023.

View insights Boost post

Liked by **sarahfitzsimons.art** and **57 others**

July 14, 2023

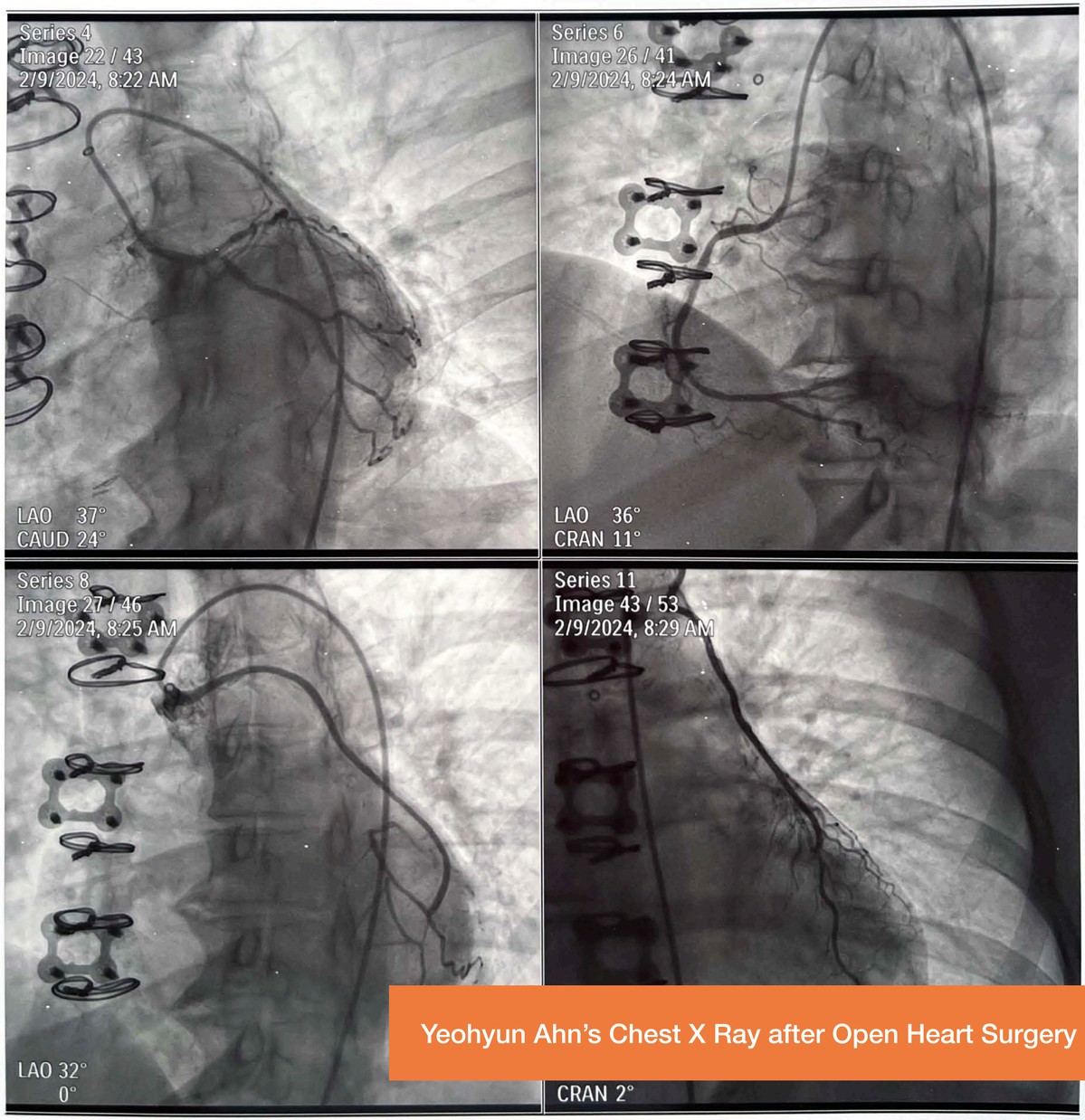
A pivotal moment arrived on August 16, 2023, during the surgery, followed by intense physical pain that clouded her early recovery. After the surgery, she entered cardiac rehabilitation but often felt like a “dead man walking,” as her recovery progressed slowly, eventually leading to a long-term disability diagnosis.



Chest Wall Stabilization Prototype After Open Heart Surgery

AHN, YEOHYUN
Patient ID: E12244643
Gender: Female

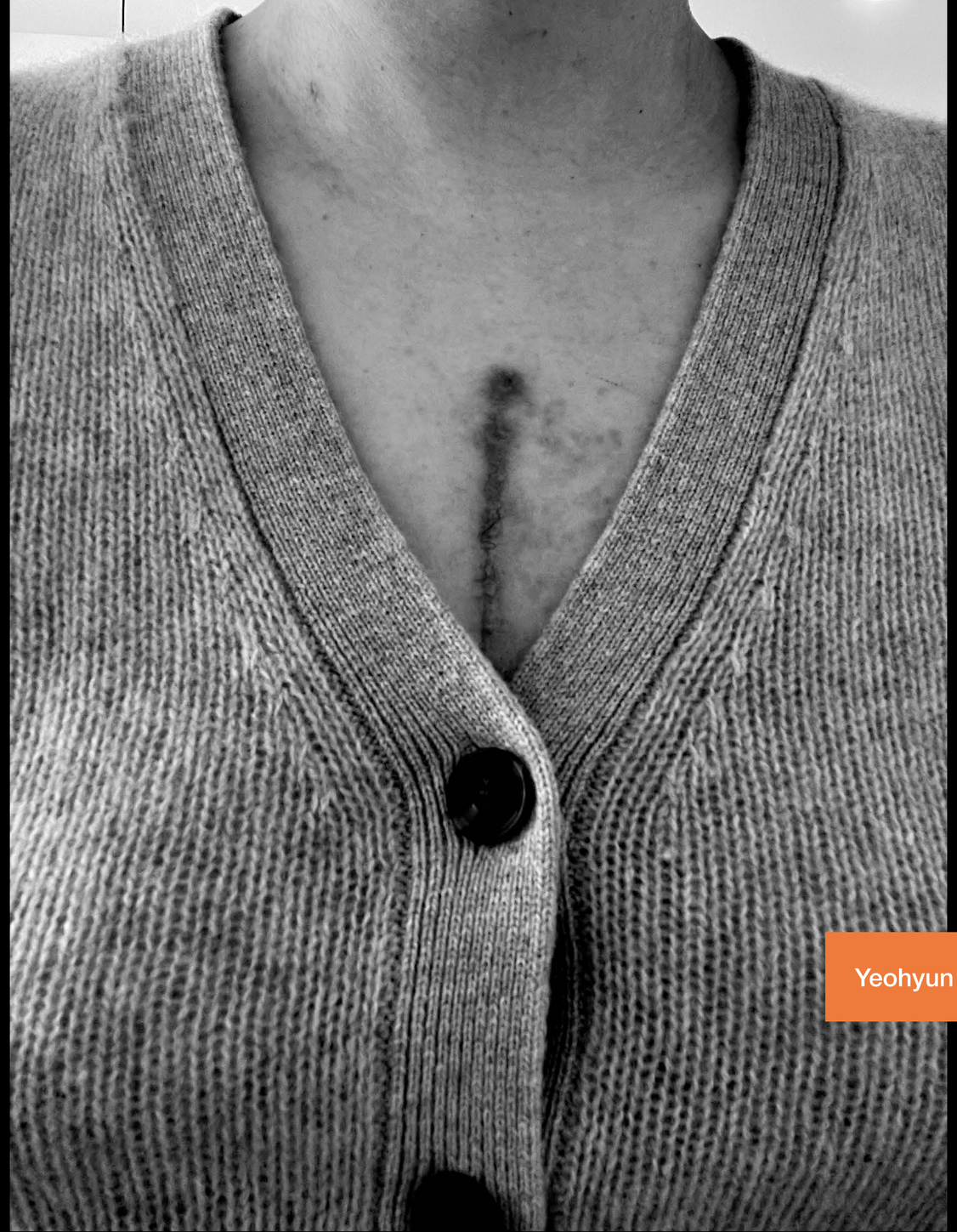
PHILIPS
ST MARYS MADISON



Study Date: 2/9/2024

1 of 1

Yeohyun Ahn's Chest X Ray after Open Heart Surgery



Yeohyun Ahn’s Chest after the Open Heart Surgery, Fall 2023



Posted January 19, 2024, Madison, WI, USA

I do believe that I will have a bright future to leverage this experience as my future academic and artistic activities. I came back to Chicago suburb this morning to stay with my family before another heart procedure. .....



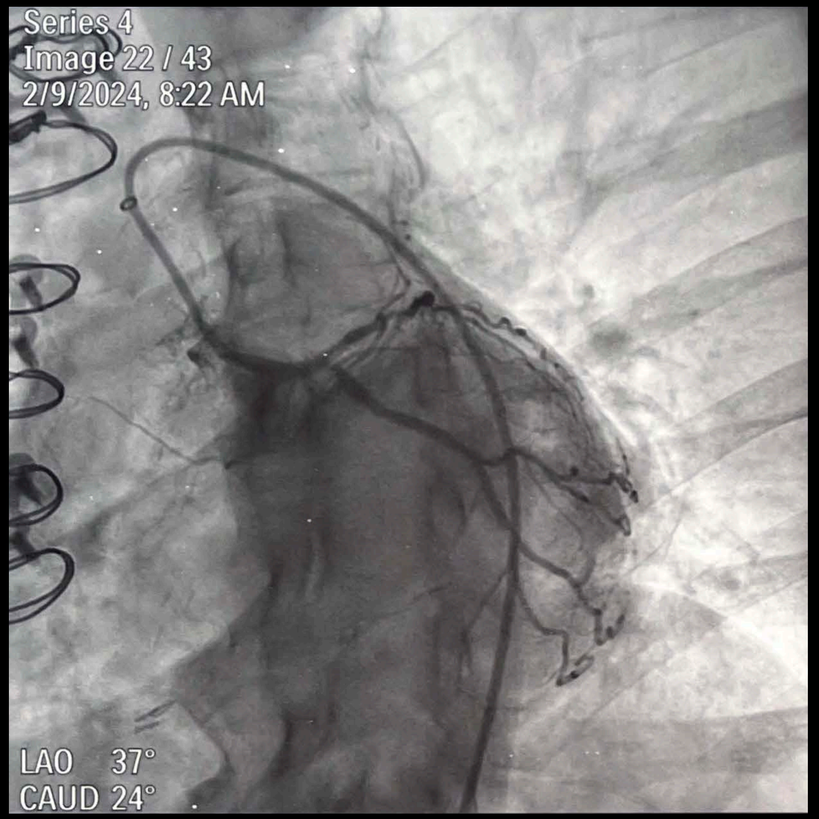


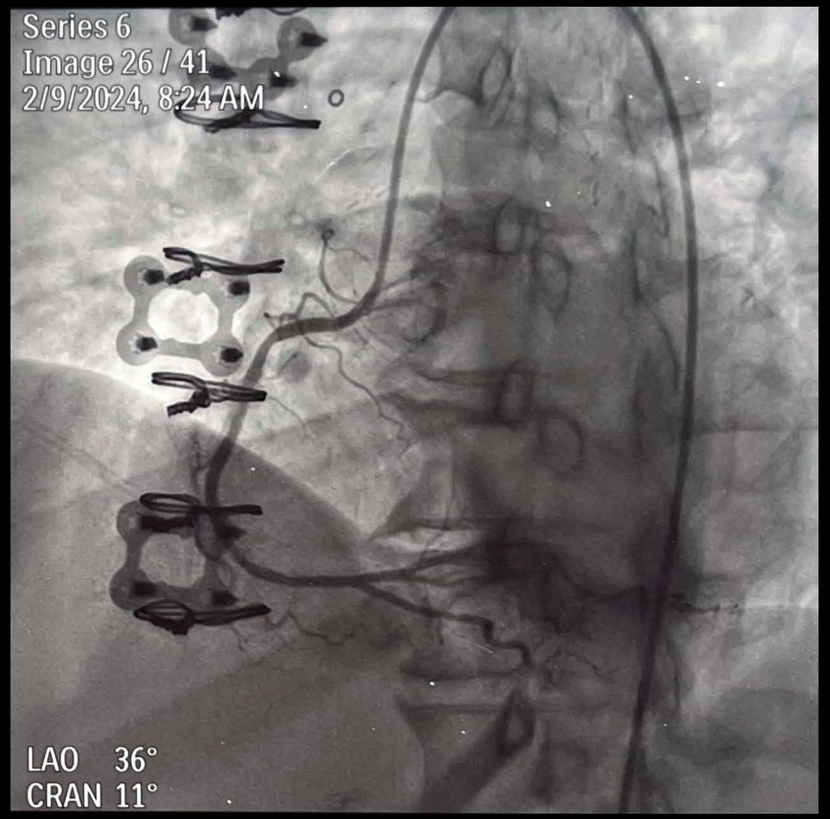
Commuting between Madison, WI and Chicago, IL for Family who live in Chicago Suburb

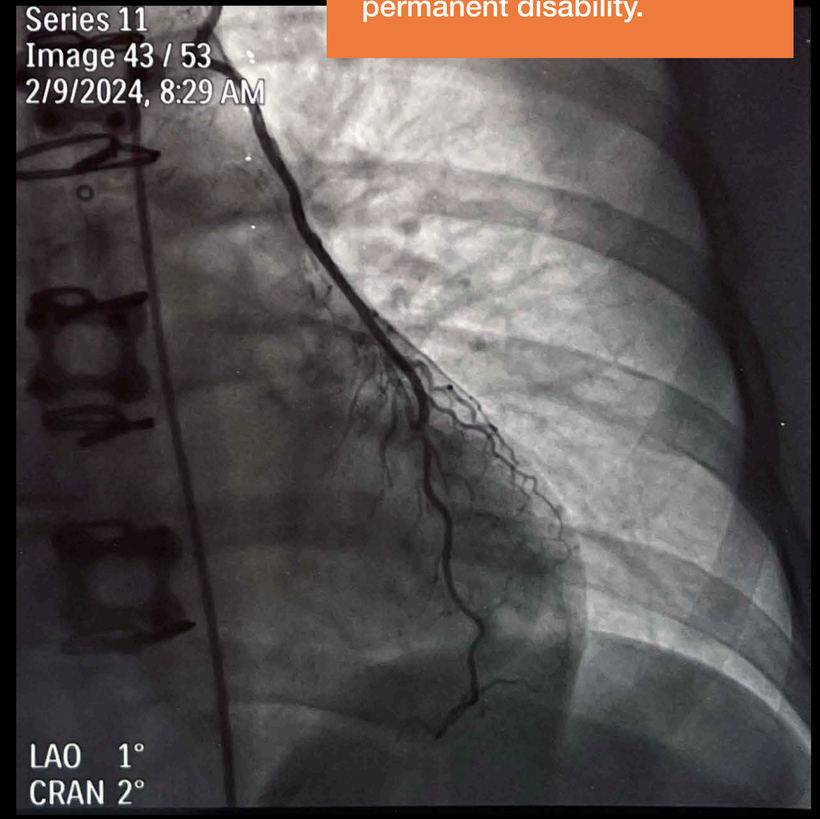

EXPRESS LANES
CLOSED
DO NOT ENTER
LEFT LANE
ENDS
1000 FEET
WEST
Wisconsin



Yeohyun Ahn’s Chest X-ray on February 9, 2024, and she was diagnosed with a permanent disability.



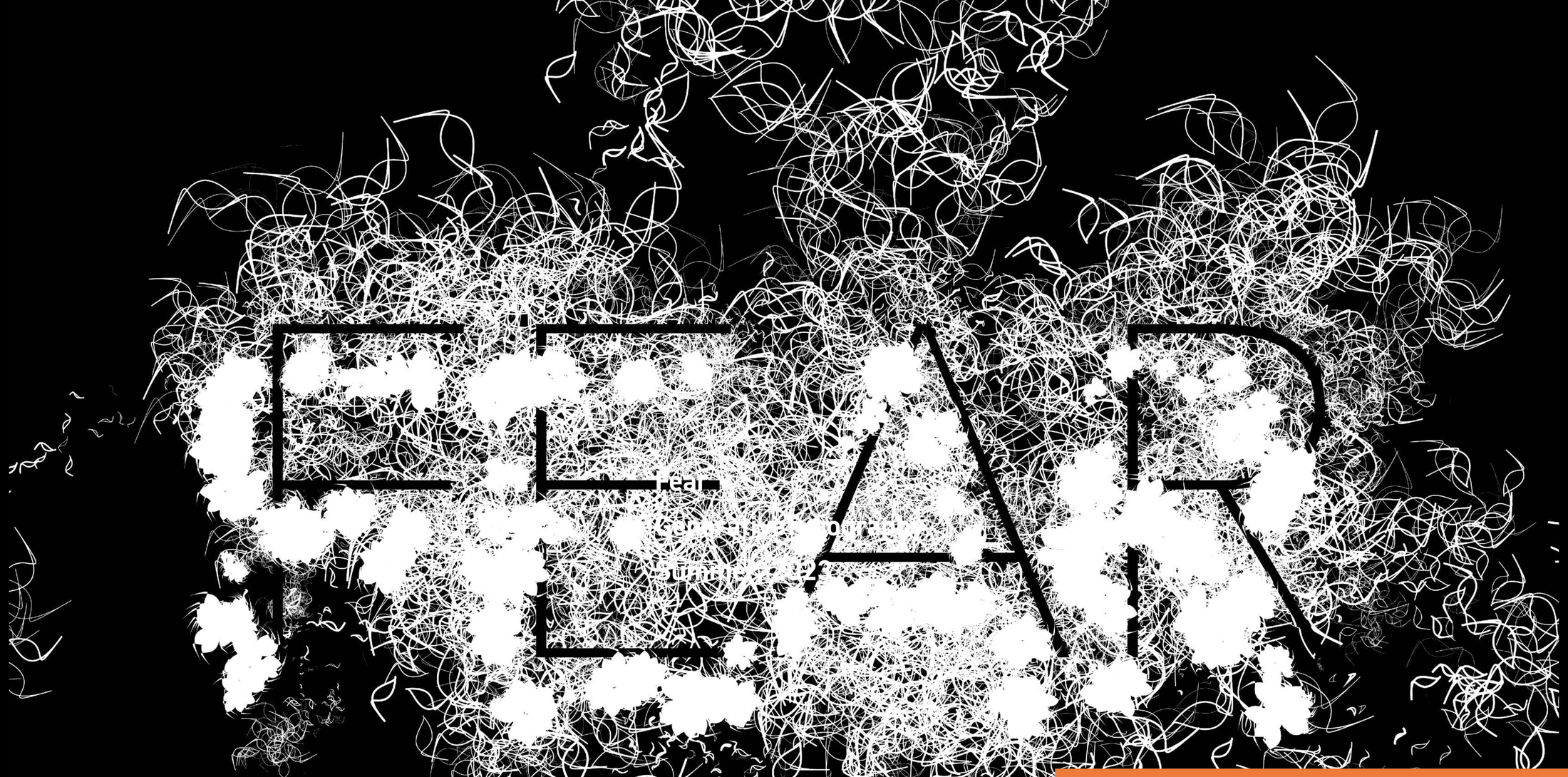




Her life became a cycle of pain and uncertainty, documented through photography that conveyed her emotional struggles. Meanwhile, her partner managed the family responsibilities in Chicago, IL. Facing physical limitations with traditional art, she turned to technology for expression, coding from home. From fall of 2023 to spring 2025, she explored computational graphic art, reflecting her frustrations and emotions in vibrant digital forms. This cross-disciplinary project focuses on healing through creative coding, merging photography, graphic art, extended reality, and elements of artificial intelligence. The audience can navigate her journey from despair to recovery, enhanced with sound, video, and evocative imagery.


UW Arboreteum March 8, 2024



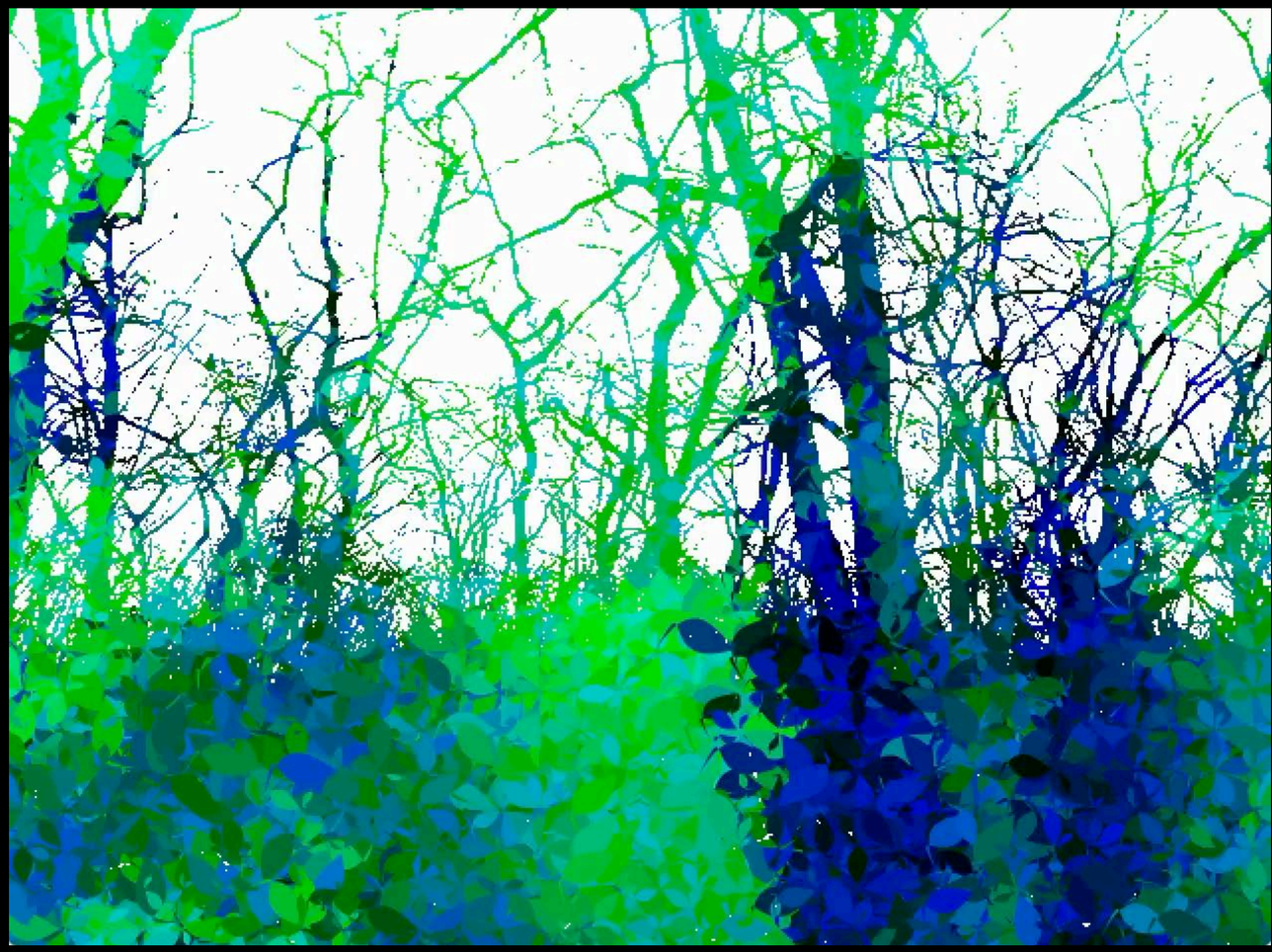


FEAR, Computational Calligraphy (typography)
February 19, 2024

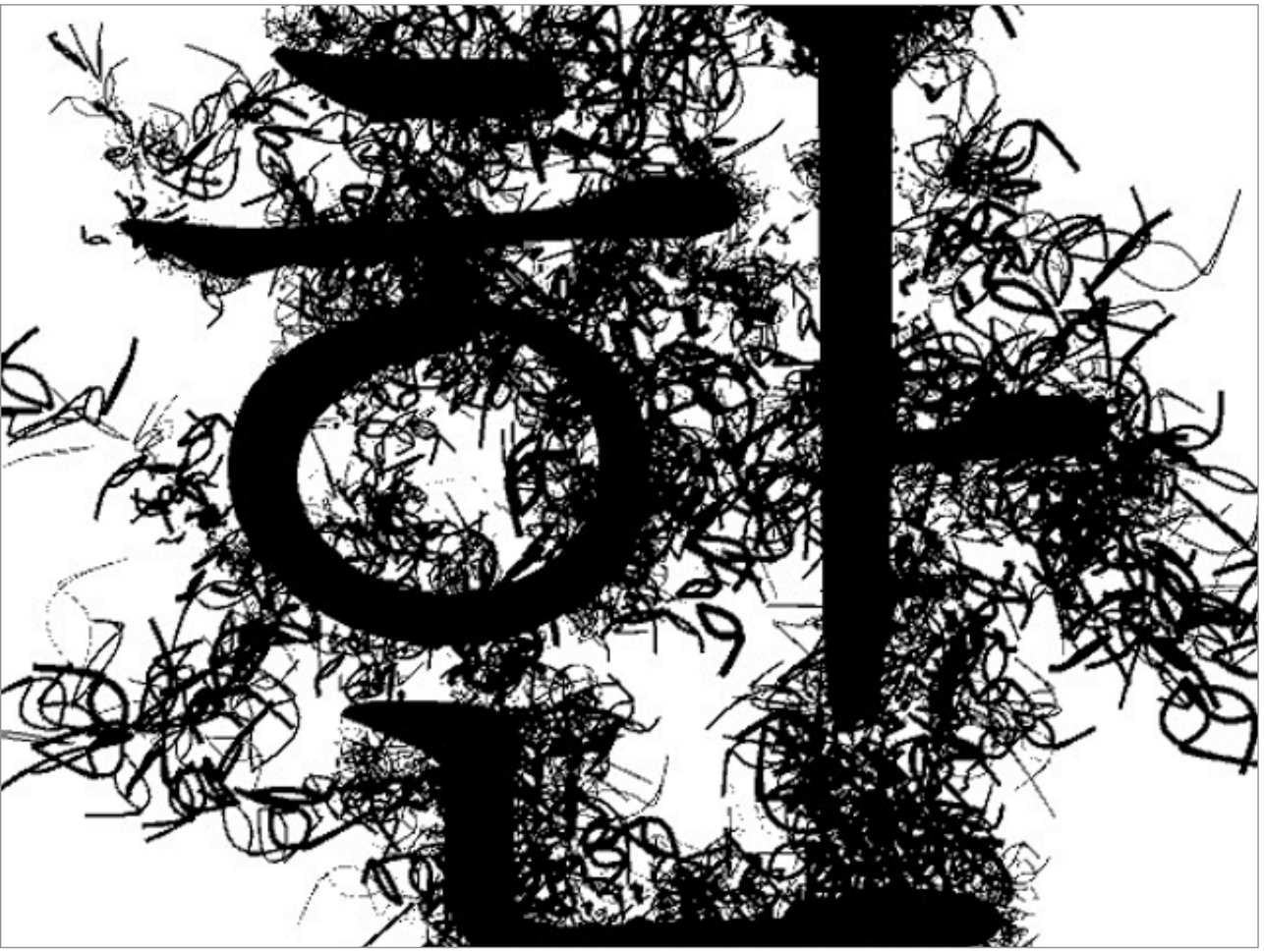
Posted on February 19, 2024
Today I started creating my computational calligraphy for the first time since my open heart surgery on August 2023. I feared to get through all the unexpected surgeries and cardiac procedures since last summer. I feel like that it was surreal during one year. I do not remember all the details due to the prescribed medications. I am glad to the visual documentation as my generative typography before I lose this feeling. Oriental calligraphy is still used to improve ADHD and meditation for younger and older people. Also the daily pracice for calligraphy prevents the memory losses for the old as mental health. It would be another interesting visual research with User Experience and user test if I would go back to work. Thank you.
#heart #heartbroken #heartcardiac #heartsurgery #cardiac #openheartsurgery #heartfailure #hear tsurvivor



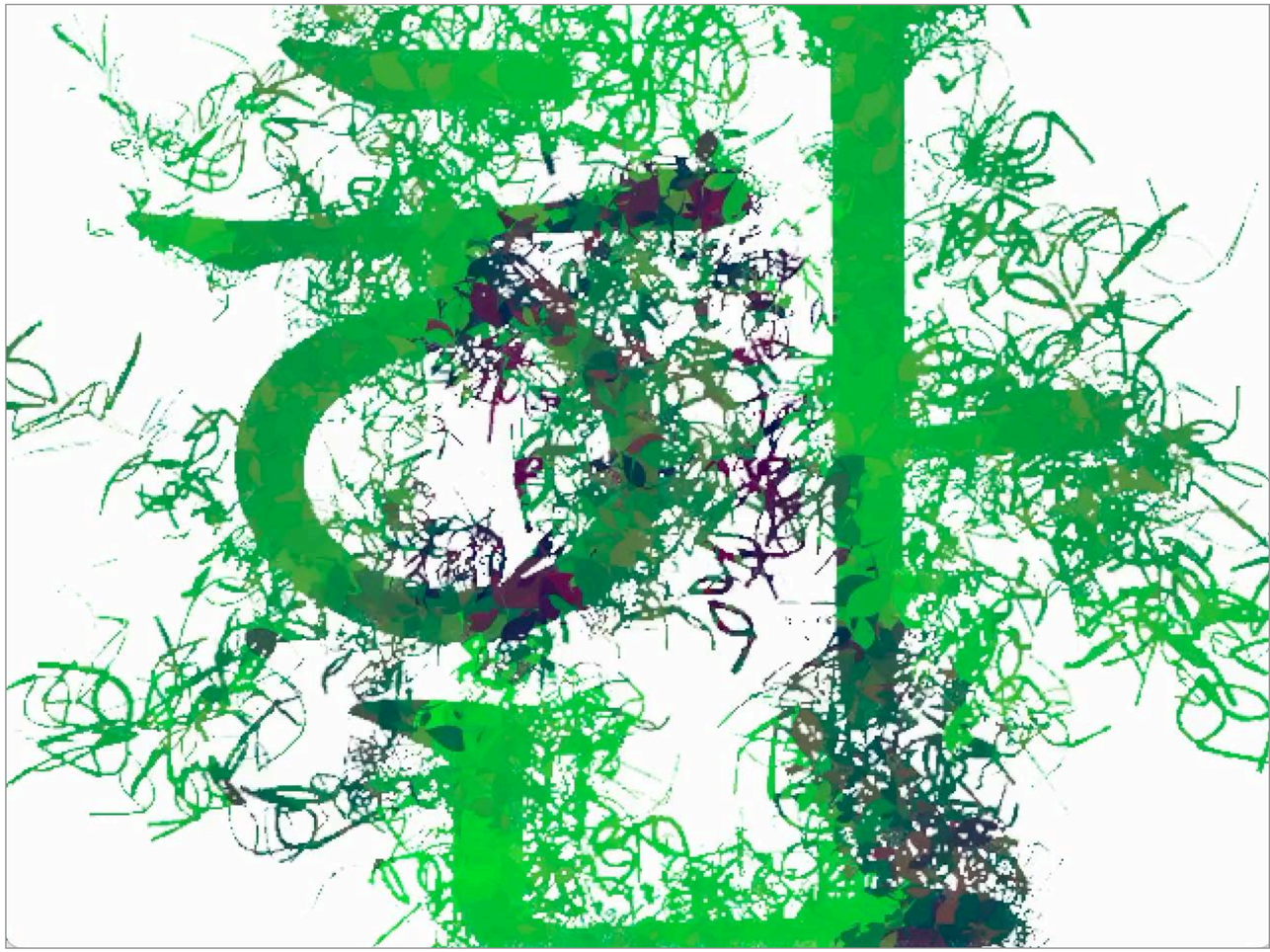
UW Arboreteum, Photography, April 8, 2024



UW Arboreteum, Mixed Reality, April 8, 2024



한 (Deep Sarrow), Generative Typography, Spring, 2024

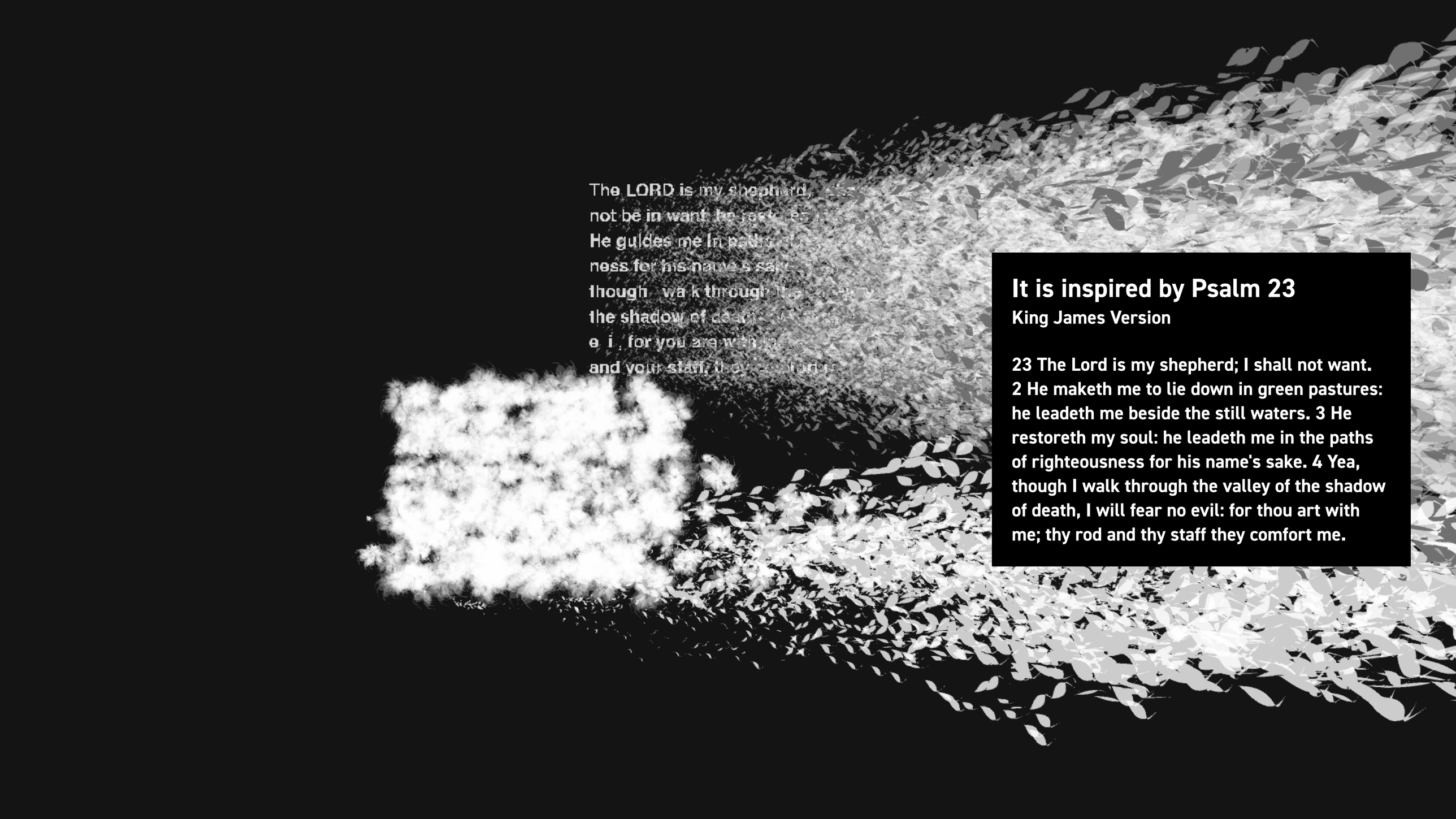


한 (Deep Sarrow) , Mixed Reality, Spring, 2024



Posted on April 27, 2024
Due to my current medical condition, I can not climb stairs. I took this photo at the beginning of the stairs. I can be there this summer when the weather warms and my cardiac rehab is completed. Frankly, I am frustrated sometimes. Still, it is an essential break in my life.


The LORD is my shepherd,
not be in want. he
He guides me in
ness for his name's
though I walk through
the shadow of
e i , for you are
and your staff,
New Psalm 23 + CODE, April 13, 2023



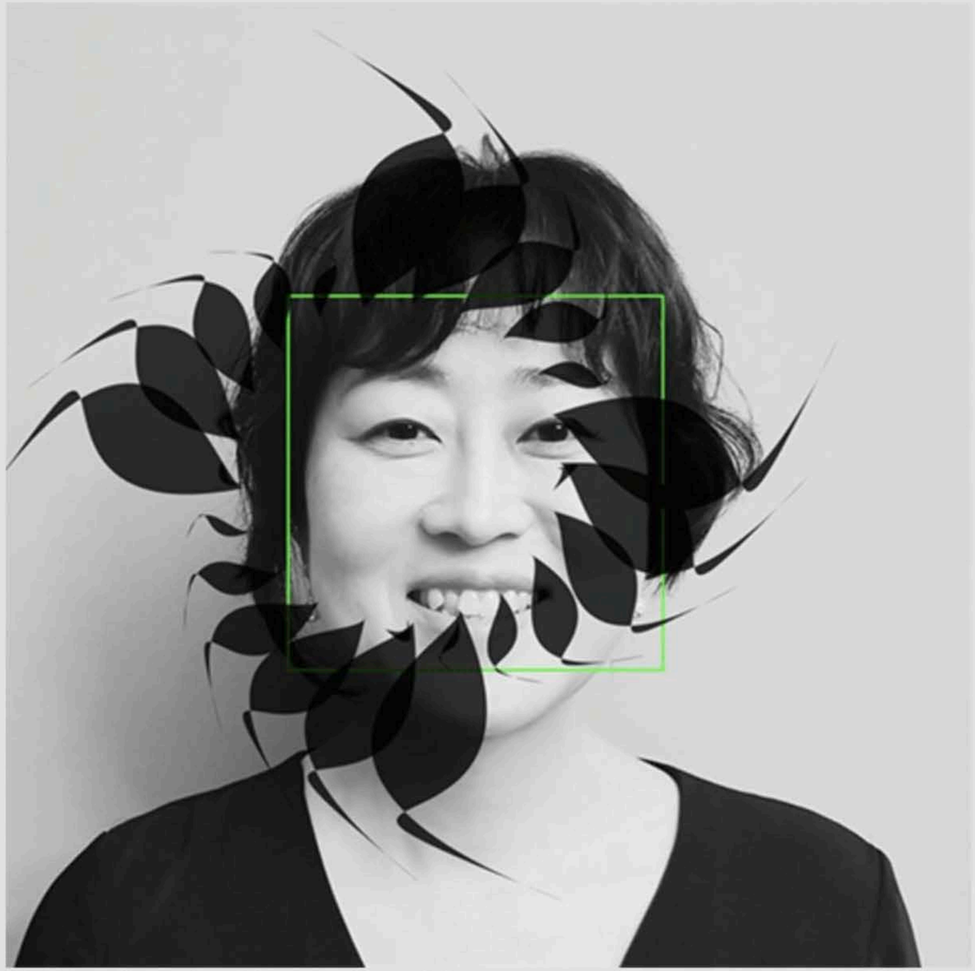
It is inspired by Psalm 23

King James Version

**23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He
restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea,
though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with
me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

UNG | UNIVERSITY of NORTH GEORGIA
THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF GEORGIA

Yeohyun Ahn - Computational Graphic Exploration of the Sacred Texts



November 1 – November 21

Please join us for a reception and artist's talk on Wednesday, November 6, 2 - 3 p.m.

yeohyunahn

yeohyunahn My solo exhibition, "Computational Graphic Exploration of the Sacred Texts," will be at Roy C. Moor Gallery of the University of North Georgia from Nov 1-21, 2024. Huge gratitude to Victoria Cooke, Director of the Galleries, and Joy Prater, Associate Professor, for inviting and installing my exhibition instead of me due to my term disability. I will be at UNG for the guest artist talks for the open reception next Wednesday at 2 pm EST. Personally it was difficult to complete due to my medical condition. I had to find the meaning and the motivation for this exhibition beyond my secular research activities. The exhibition theme, Psalm 23, has been my dream solo exhibition since 2010. Thank you all to make it happen. For more information: https://ung.edu/art-galleries/gainesville.php @hangul_project @techspressionism @museumofbible #psalm #psalm23 #bibliotherapy

26w

cdidonato_art Congratulations!!!

26w 1 like Reply

Posted on October 30, 2024

My solo exhibition, "Computational Graphic Exploration of the Sacred Texts," will be at Roy C. Moor Gallery of the University of North Georgia from Nov 1-21, 2024. Huge gratitude to Victoria Cooke, Director of the Galleries, and Joy Prater, Associate Professor, for inviting and installing my exhibition instead of me due to my term disability. I will be at UNG for the guest artist talks for the open reception next Wednesday at 2 pm EST. Personally it was difficult to complete due to my medical condition. I had to find the meaning and the motivation for this exhibition beyond my secular research activities. Thank you all to make it happen.

View insights Boost post

Liked by **sc4rlett.jin** and **others**

October 30, 2024

Add a comment... Post

TIME IS A GREAT HEALER.



January 18, 2024, Madison, WI



On the way of Cardiac Rehab
on January 18, 2024



Morning Routine for Cardiac Rehab at St. Mary's Hospital from Winter to Spring 2024



UW Arboreteum, Photography, Winter, 2024



Photography, UW Arboreteum, Winter, 2024, Madison, WI,



Photo Manipulation, iPhone App, Winter, 2024, Madison, WI





Photo Manipulation, iPhone App, Winter, 2024, University Blvd, Madison, WI



A slow afternoon, 2024



Daily Morning Routine, Giving Ride for Scarlett, February, 2024



Photography, iPhone Photo App, Daily Morning Routine, Giving Ride for Scarlett, February, 2025



Traveling to Michigan City, Indiana, Fall, 2024



Commuting between Madison, WI and Chicago, IL for Family who live in Chicago Suburb



Commuting between Madison, WI and Chicago, IL for Family who live in Chicago Suburb



December 23, 2024, Chicago Dowotown, IL



December 23, 2024, Chicago Dowotown, IL



Readings for Healings, Social Health, Forgiveness, since 2023, Munster, Indiana


TRUST
DR. HENRY CLOUD
WORTHY
BOUNDARIES
Cloud / Townsend
ZONDERVAN
SAFE PEOPLE
DR. HENRY CLOUD &
DR. JOHN TOWNSEND
Changes that Heal
Dr. Henry Cloud
HOW PEOPLE GROW · CLOUD & TOWNSEND
NECESSARY ENDINGS
Dr. Henry Cloud

When a toxic person can no longer control you, they will try to control how others see you. The misinformation will feel unfair, but stay above it, trusting that others will eventually see the truth just like you did. - Jill Blakeway

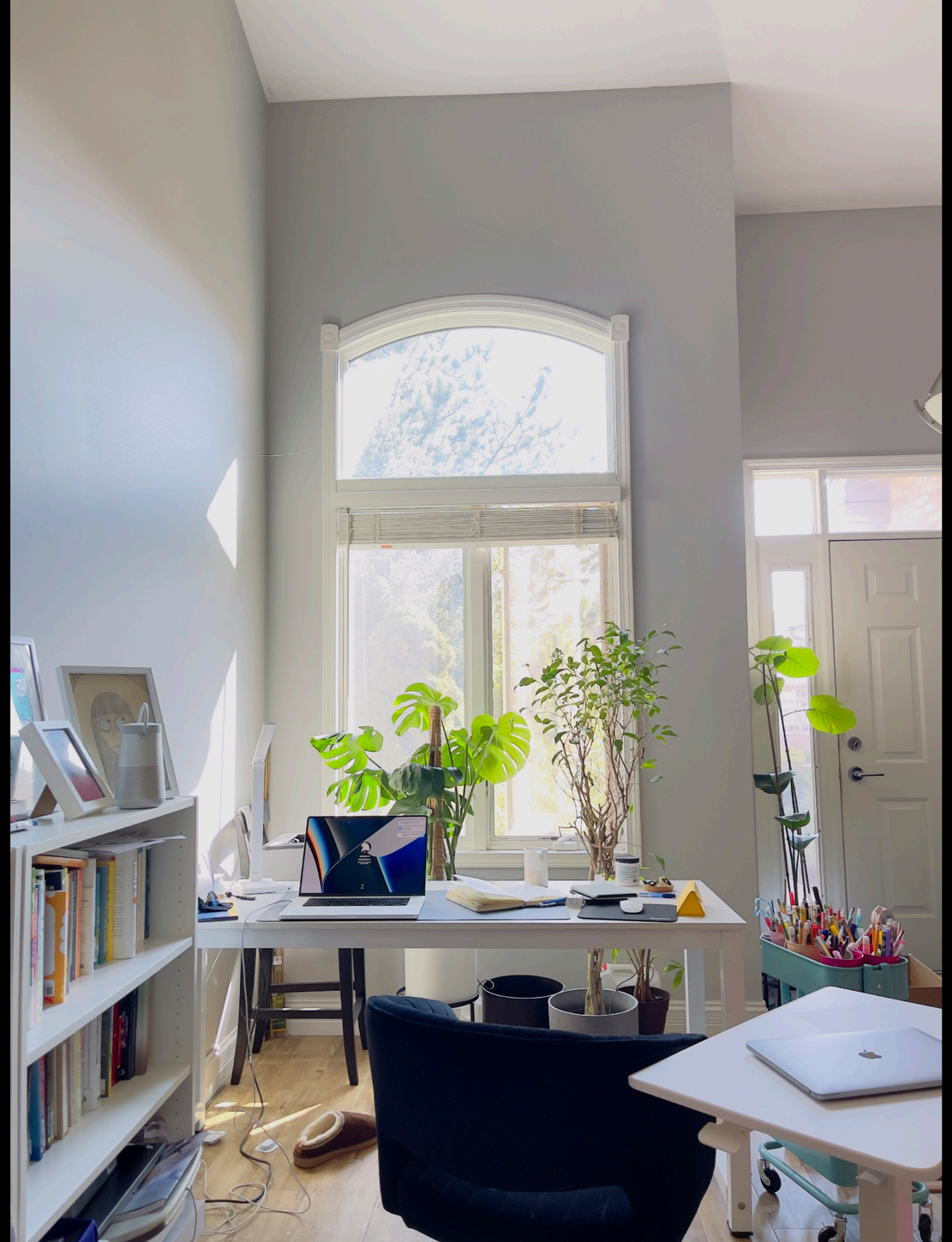




Indoor gardening for comfort, mindfulness, and healing.



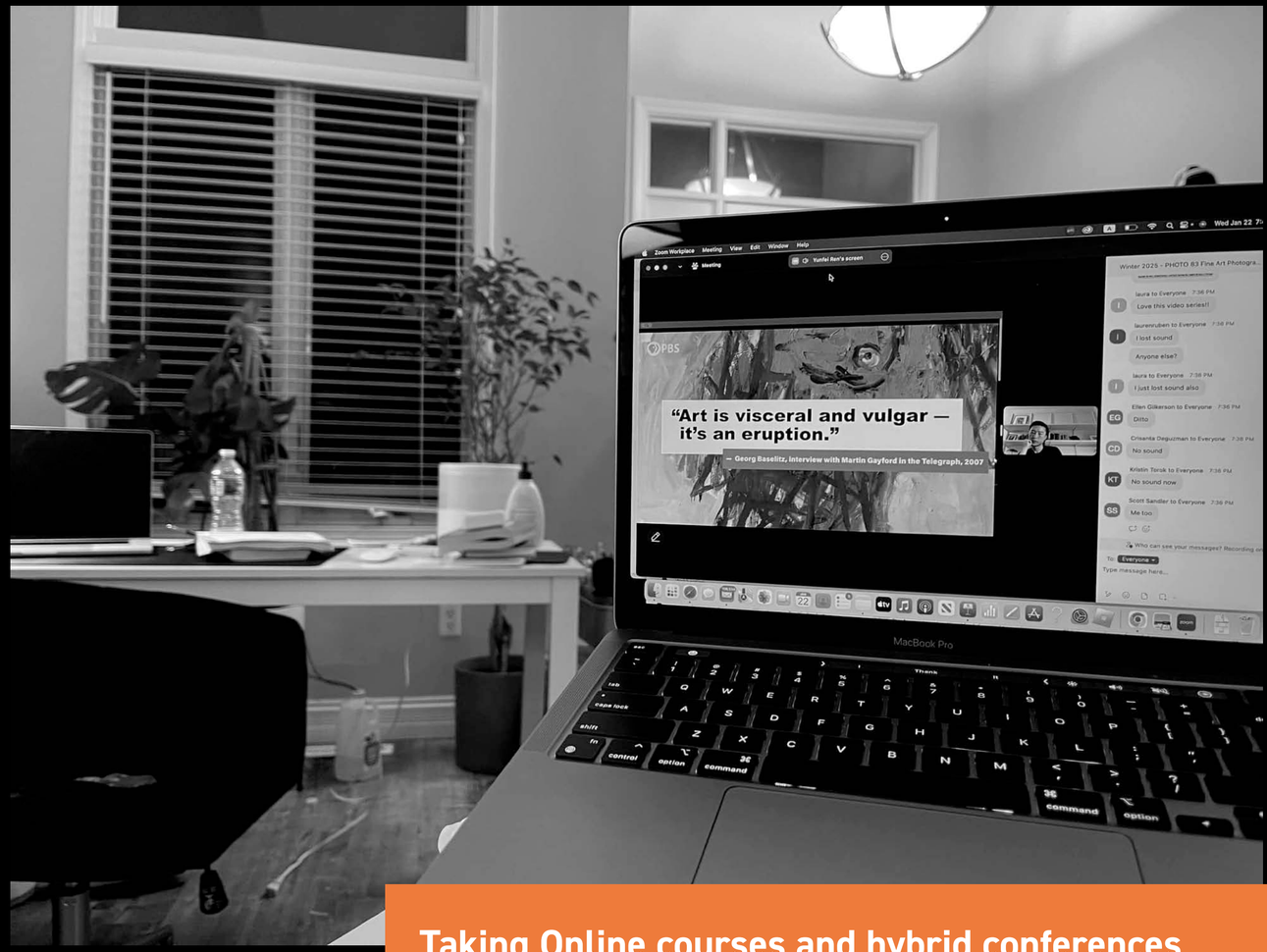




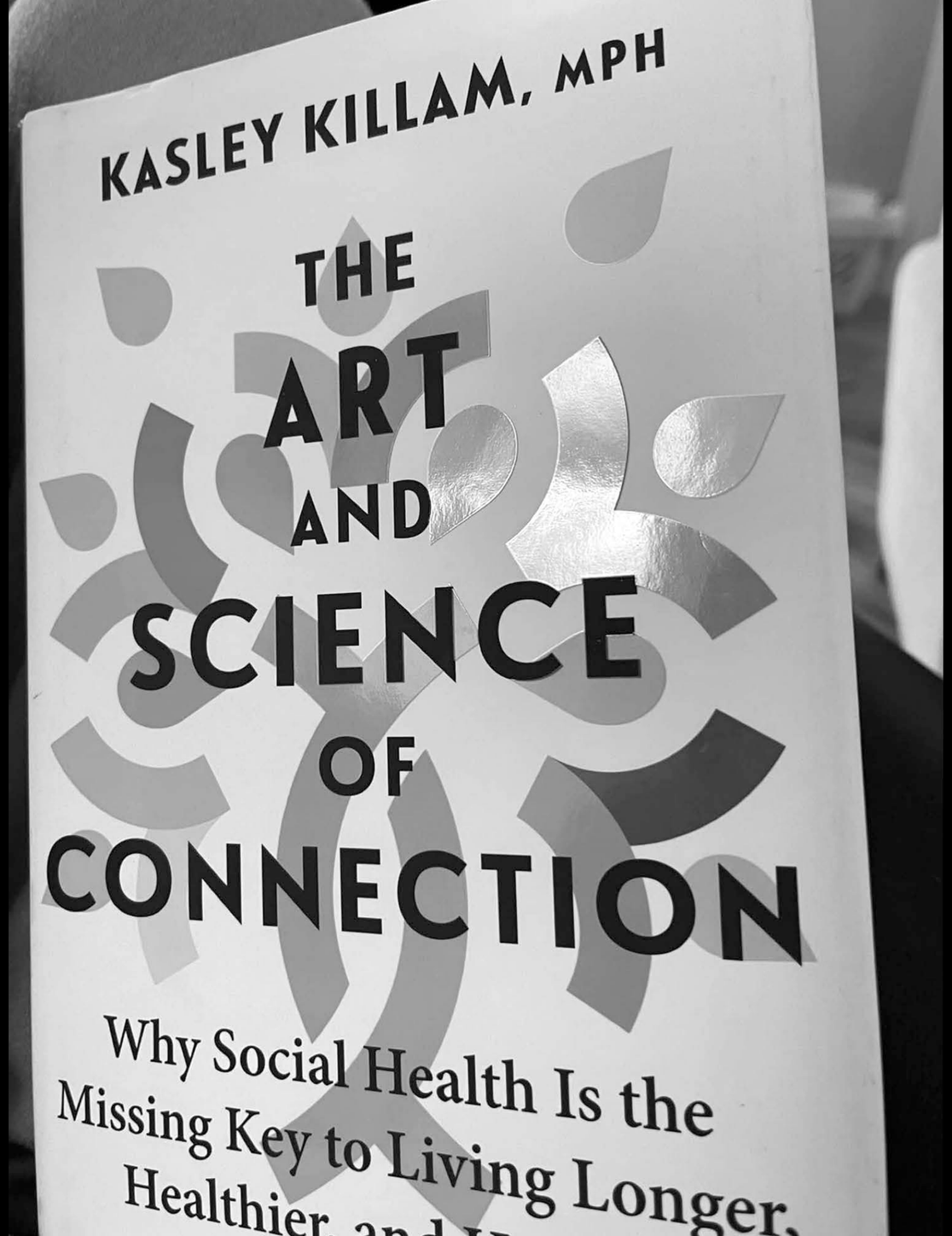


Another late afternoon, January 16, 2025





Taking Online courses and hybrid conferences for Mindfulness, Resilience, and Well-being, 2024-2025, Chicago Suburb



Introduction

The Future of Health Is Social

What do you do to be healthy?

Let's say you follow the advice of doctors, health blogs, a wellness influencers perfectly. You walk ten thousand ste per day. You get eight hours of quality sleep at night. You plenty of fresh vegetables and avoid processed foods. You wo through challenges with a therapist. You meditate and take h baths for self-care.

Your



Virtual Co-Working Group, Techspressionism

Every Tuesday, 11 am, CST







Virtual Social Gathering, Asian Female Scholars, Every Third Saturday, noon, CST



International and National Travels with Wheelchair Service since the fall of 2023 for Conferences, Exhibitions, Artist Talks, Workshops, etc., including Brisbane, Australia, Seoul, South Korea, New York City, NY, Chicago, IL, New Mexico, NM, etc.















May 16, 2025, Seoul, South Korea

EMPATHY



yeohyunahn

yeohyunahn Empathy and belonging: I go to Cardiac Rehab program every MWF at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison WI. It is a small utopian facility and community. All the participanting patients had either cardiac stent or open heart surgery before joining this program. Each puts a heart monitoring device to do exercise. Everything is slower that is normal here. The age ranges are from seventies to nineties old patients. I am an youngest patient and only Asian. I feel safe and belonging in this community. We do not ask why you are here since all from heart procedure and surgeries. We are all nice, generous and supportive to each other. Therapists are very nice to create a welcome, warm and safe place for heart disease patients. We are not rushed, no competition for speed and strength. Each has own paces to walk and exercise. The central heart monitoring system keeps us feel safe medically during exercises. All of the patients are old enough to slow down and restful as needed. Empathy toward each patient is core of this community. I feel safe and belonging here. #belonging #empathy

Edited · 79w

View insights

Boost post

Cardiac Rehab Program at St. Mary's hospital, Madison, WI, OCTOBER, 2023

Posted on October, 2023 at Instagram

I go to the Cardiac Rehab program every MWF at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, WI. It is a small Utopian facility and community in Wisconsin. Before joining this program, All participating patients had either a cardiac stent or open heart surgery. Each puts a heart monitoring device to do exercise. Everything is slower than normal here. The patients range in age from the seventies to the nineties. I am the youngest patient and the only Asian. I feel safe and belong in this community. We do not ask why you are here since it is all from heart procedures and surgeries. We are all nice, generous, and supportive of each other. Therapists are very nice to create a welcoming, warm, and safe place for heart disease patients. We are not rushed, no competition for speed and strength. Each has its own pace to walk and exercise. The central heart monitoring system keeps us safe medically during exercises. All patients are old enough to slow down and rest as needed. Empathy toward each patient is the core of this community. I feel safe and belong here. #belonging #empathy

BELONGING/TRUST

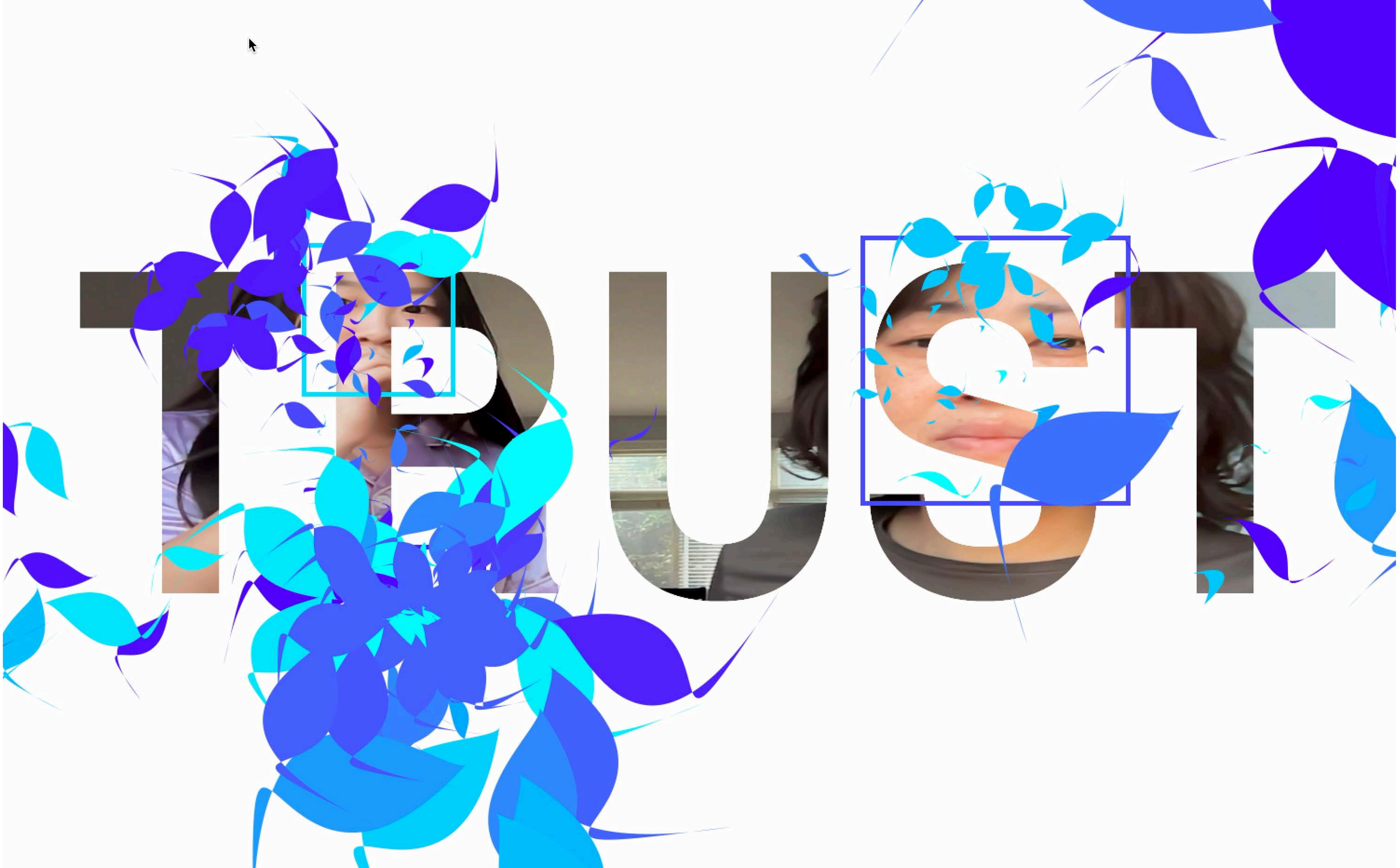
Experiential Typography, a Mixed Reality, Yeohyun Ahn, FALL 2024-SPRING, 2025

From Artist Statement: BELONGING&TRUST

Belonging is a fundamental human need, driven by our desire to connect, feel accepted, and find our place in a group. This deep need is tied to trust, helping us form meaningful relationships. Historically, flowers have symbolized human emotions like love and joy, enhancing emotional connections between individuals. They also promote mental well-being and bridge the gap between humanity and nature. It uses artificial intelligence to create generative flowers responding to the audience's real-time movements on TRUST letterforms. It offers a multi-sensory graphic experience combining sound, virtual floral elements, and human interaction, resulting in a mixed-reality experience of belonging.

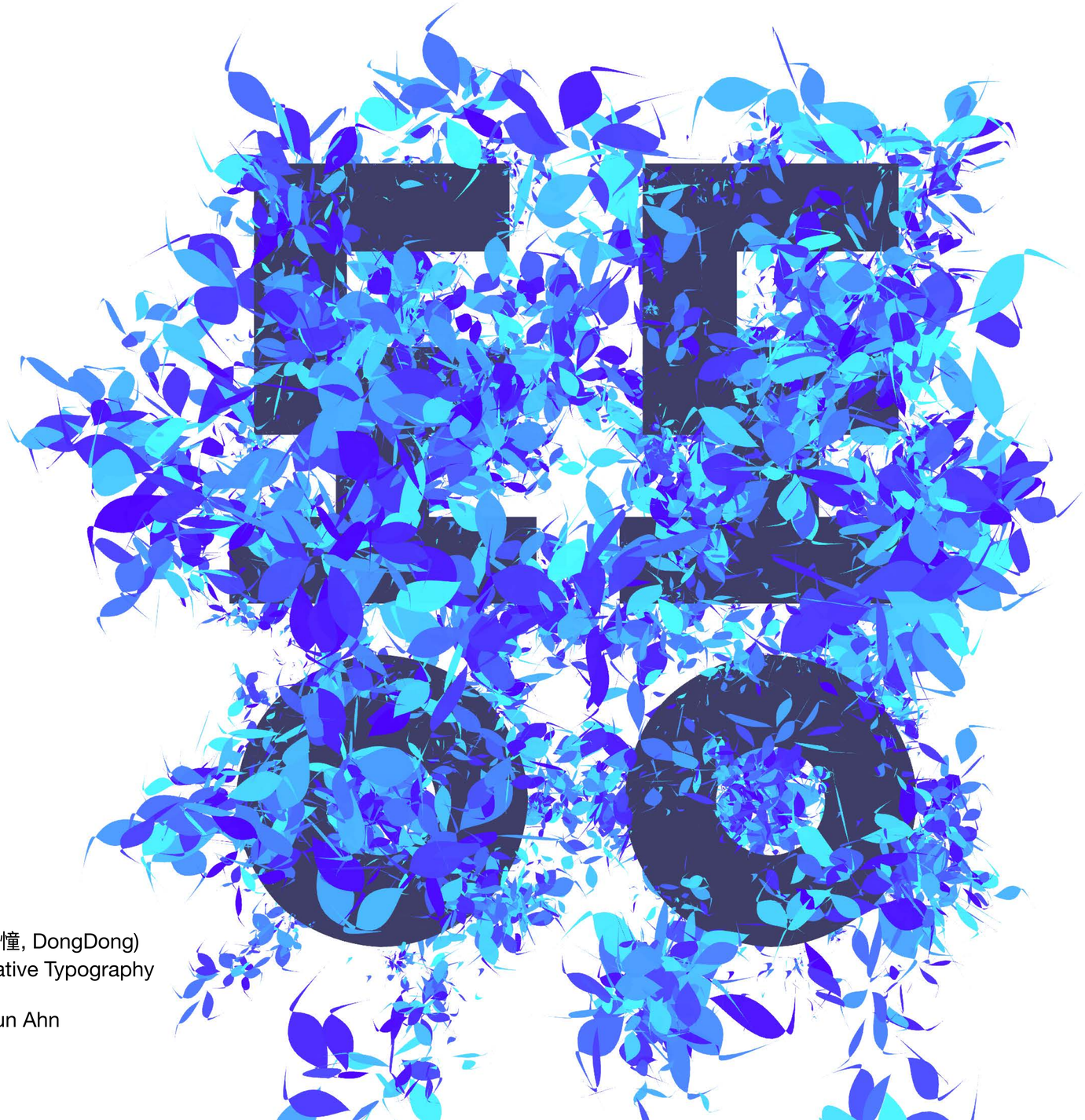


Belong/Trust
Experiential Typography & a Mixed Reality, 2025
Yeohyun Ahn


TRUST

From Artist Statement, 동동

동동(憧憧, DongDong) captures the vibrant essence of anticipation, evoking a tangible sense of excitement as one awaits the arrival of something joyful and enriching. This expressive term serves as an onomatopoeic representation of human emotional interaction, laying the foundation for a transformative project centered on the profound themes of "Belonging" and "Trust." These elements address one of our most fundamental human needs: the innate desire to forge connections, feel accepted by a community, and find our unique place within shared spaces. This deep-seated need is intricately linked to trust, which is the cornerstone for cultivating meaningful relationships and emotional bonds.



동동(憧憧, DongDong)
Generative Typography
2025
Yeohyun Ahn

Yeohyun Ah is curating the Exhibition Curation for a Special Invitational Exhibition, “Creative Graphics for “동동(憧憧, DongDong), “May 23-29, 2025, at the 30th International Symposium on Eletronic Art, Seoul, South Korea.



憧憧 (Ciinese), 동동, DongDong, Creator's Universe, 30th International Symposium on Eletronic Art, Seoul, South Korea, 2025

Thank you.

Any inquiries,

Yeohyun Ahn, yeoahndesign@gmail.com

Emerging Scholar Award 2025
20th International Conference on the Arts in Society
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Guest Curator for an Exhibition, Creative Graphics for 동동
30th International Symposium on Eletronic Art, Seoul, South Korea

Society for Experiential Graphic Design 2022 Educator Award

CAA Annual Conference Committee
At-Large Member, College Art Association, New York, NY

Founding Directors & Co-directors:
Evolving Graphic Design
TYPE + CODE
Hangul Project
Asian Female Scholars
Graphic Design for Accessibility.