



1AM

6AM in London (GMT), 3PM in Tokyo (GMT+9)

3rd.1: ReCollection: You Only Have Seven Seconds

Moderator: Todd N. Theriault, *Indiana University*

Panelists:

- Weidi Zhang, *Media and Immersive eXperience (MIX) Center at Arizona State University*
- Jieliang Rodger Luo, *CEO and Chief Scientist at Minus AI, Singapore*



Weidi Zhang

Weidi Zhang is a new media artist/designer based in Los Angeles and Phoenix. She is a tenure-track Assistant Professor of immersive experience design at the Media and Immersive eXperience (MIX) center of Arizona State University. Her interdisciplinary art and design research investigates A Speculative Assemblage at the intersection of immersive media design, experimental data visualization, and interactive AI art.

Her works are featured in international awards, such as the Best In Show Award in SIGGRAPH (2021,2022), Red Dot Design Award (2022), Honorary Mention in Prix Ars Electronica (2022), Juried Selection in Japan Media Arts Festival (2020), Lumen Prize shortlists (2020, 2021), and others. Her works have been exhibited at international venues such as ISEA, Times Art Museum (CN), Society For Arts and Technology (CA), SwissNex Gallery (USA), CVPR, IEEE VISAP, V2_Lab (NL), Zeiss-Planetarium Jena (GE), Planetarium 1 (RUS), and others. As a visual designer, she worked in the award-winning visual design studios in LA, and she was selected for Walt Disney Imagineering (WDI) educational initiative for entertainment design in 2015.

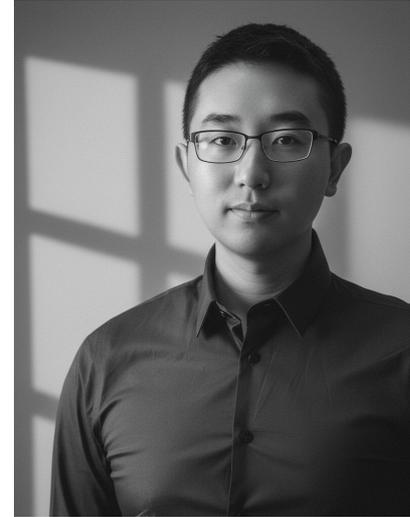
She holds her Ph.D. degree in Media Arts and Technology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, an MFA degree in Art + Technology at the California Institute of the Arts, and a BFA degree in Photo/Media at the University of Washington, Seattle. She lectured at both UC Santa Barbara and The Ohio State University.



Jielang (Rodger) Luo

Dr. Jieliang (Rodger) Luo is the Chief Scientist at Minus AI, a Singapore-based, research-driven startup focused on leveraging AI technology to empower the creative industry. The company develops AI tools to enhance creative processes and complete work more effectively. He holds a Ph.D. in Media Arts and Technology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and has previously served as a Senior Principal Research Scientist at the Autodesk AI Lab in San Francisco.

His artwork has been exhibited at several renowned international new media art festivals, academic conferences, and galleries, including ISEA (International Symposium on Electronic Art), SIGGRAPH Art Gallery, the IEEE VIS Arts Program, Beijing Times Art Museum, SwissNex Gallery in San Francisco, Cinema Mystica Art Gallery in Budapest, and the Vancouver International Film Festival. His latest piece won the prestigious A' Design Award in Italy.





Weidi Zhang

Artificial Memory
and **Collective Presense**

RECOLLECTION
RESEARCH

2022 - 2025

Part I : ReCollection - An Interactive AI Art Installation

Part II : You Only Have Seven Seconds - An AI Art Film

Weidi Zhang

ReCollection

Weidi Zhang & Rodger Luo

Imagination Rememberance

ReCollection is an interactive AI art installation that assembles synthetic **collective visual memories** based on **language input**, blurring the boundaries between remembrance and imagination through AI system design and interactive experimental visualization.



WWW.ZHANGWEIDI.COM

Motivation

ReCollection Research

WEIDI ZHANG / RODGER LUO

Weidi Zhang

"GIVING BIRTH TO MY SON WAS THE BEST THING I EVER DID."

I STILL REMEMBER OUR FIRST PHOTO TOGETHER, JUST MOMENTS AFTER HIS BIRTH, HIS PEACEFUL
SLUMBER AND MY RADIANT SMILE CAPTURED PERFECTLY, A MEMORY THAT I CHERISH DEEPLY..

拾
憶

RECOLLECTION

OUR A.I. SYSTEM
AUTO-FILL THE
DETAILS

WEIDI ZHANG / RODGER LUO



Weidi Zhang

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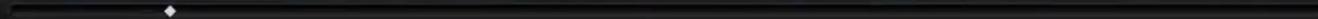
RE — COLLECTION

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RECOLLECTION



00:16



-02:03





Weidi Zhang

language imagination alternative narratives visual memories

-

When we coexist with machines, will we accumulate synthetic recollections of symbiotic imagination?

Is language capable of triggering and synthesizing memories?

How does our collective memory inspire new visual forms and alternative narratives?

Designer Questions

ReCollection Research

MEMORY, IMAGINATION, AND AN INTER-EMBODIED SELF AS A MONTAGE

“Contrary to person-centred approaches, the inter-embodied self does not require a unified or coherent narrative in order to thrive. On the contrary, our inter-embodied selves may be more fruitfully conceptualised as montages; polyphonic repertoires of voices and experiences that co-exist in dialogical relationship to one another; constantly updating, constantly changing.”

"connection flourishes when we shift away from the expectation of memory and toward the freedom of imagination and shared expression."

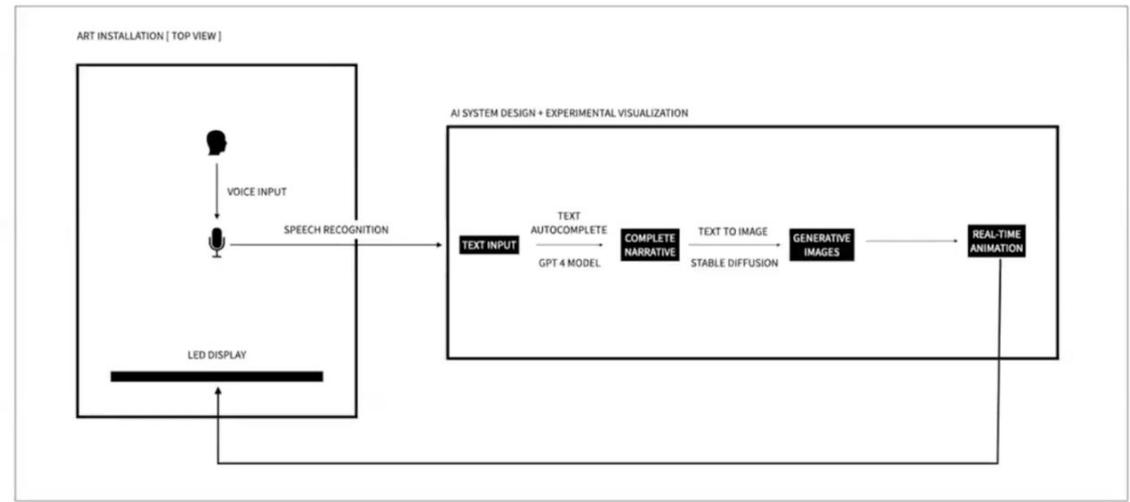


WEIDI

Weidi Zhang

ReCollection 2023

An Interactive AI Experience for Synthetic Memories



SYSTEM MAP

VIDEO DOCUMENTATION

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/880433966/2867957757](https://vimeo.com/880433966/2867957757)

USER INTERACTION

In the art installation, a participant will whisper **fragmented memories** into the microphone. The AI system will automatically fill in the details of the spoken words to complete the text with a narrative using the **GPT-4**, a large language model. The completed narrative will be sent to **Stable Diffusion** to generate synthetic images representing the memories based on the machine's interpretation. The images output by machines is further developed and visualized algorithmically as an **evolving interactive experience**.

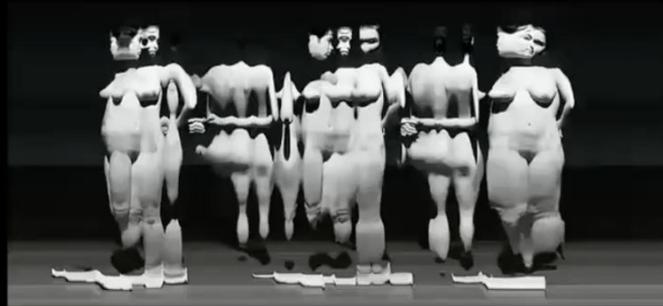
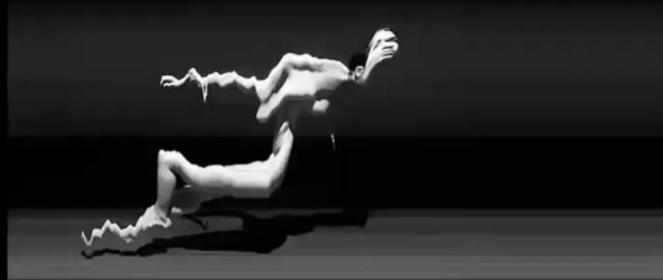


Aesthetic Decisions
ReCollection Research



Printmaking

YUKO KIMURA



Slitscan Photography STAGE DESIGN / SLITSCAN
Capturing Sequential Slices of A Subject Over Time

Weidi Zhang



Data Visualization
ReCollection Research

Synthesizing your memory...

Your Memory: Hello everyone!

ReCollection: Hello everyone! I wish I could join you all in the living room, reconnecting, laughing, and creating enduring memories, but more needs me by her side right now.

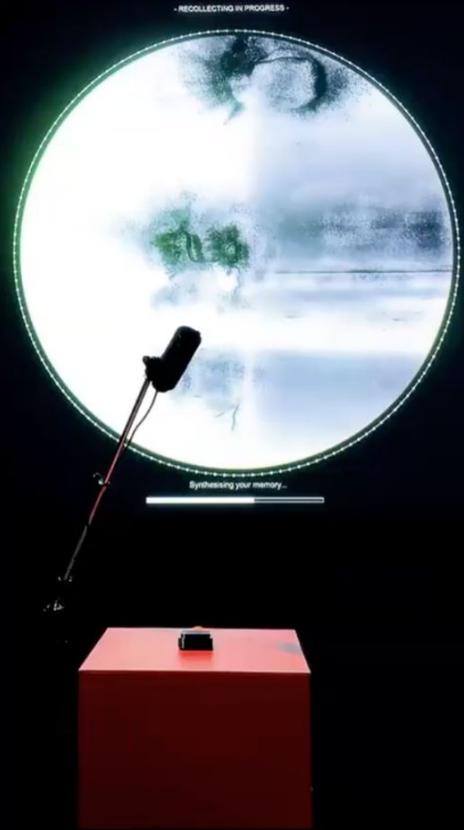
Push the button and whisper a one-sentence memory. Your memory will be synthesized within 25 secs.



Weidi Zhang



Weidi Zhang



Installation Design
ReCollection Research

Weidi Zhang

Installation Design
ReCollection Research



Weidi Zhang

ReCollection

IMMERSIVE EDITION
2024

AN INTERACTIVE
AI ART INSTALLATION

Installation Design
ReCollection Research



Weidi Zhang

WHISPER FRAGMENTED STORY
ASSEMBLE SYNTHETIC RECOLLECTION

Installation Design
ReCollection Research

Weidi Zhang

WHISPER A FRAGMENTED STORY FROM THE PAST,
OUR AI SYSTEM FILL IN DETAILS, IN REAL-TIME, WEAVES MEMORIES

Installation Design
ReCollection Research



Weidi Zhang

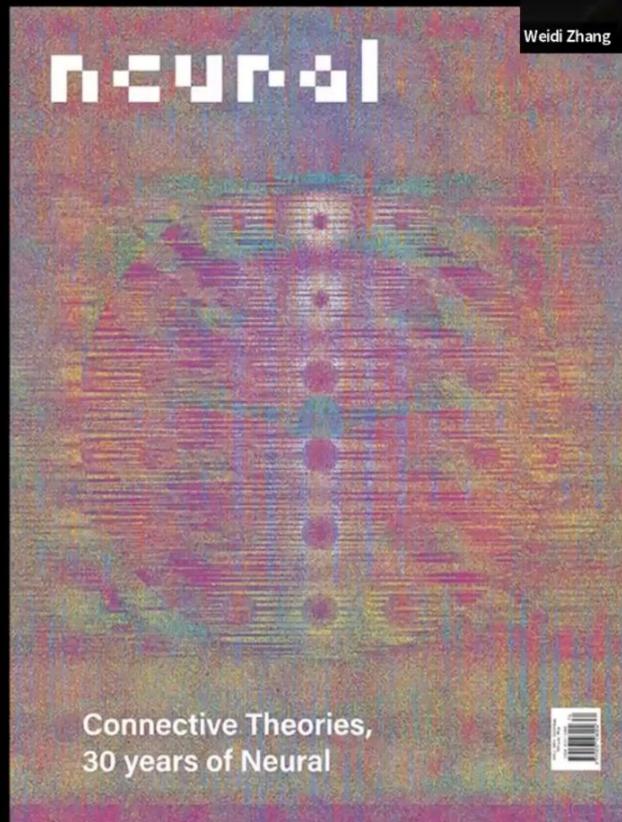


Press Coverage
ReCollection Research

ReCollection, recreating memories



Memories are in a crisis with biological failures through a steep increase in Alzheimer cases, and the creation of fake memories elaborated by machines. In ReCollection Weidi Zhang was inspired by her grandmother's memory regression due to dementia, and elaborated a customized AI application that uses speech recognition, text auto-completion, and text-to-image, to convert language input into image sequences of new memories using an experimental visualization, which are created after whispering your own personal memories with fragmented sentences. The initial inspiration is artificially addressed by the system, whose attitude to recreate serves what we can't (re)produce anymore.



Weidi Zhang



Publication | Full Paper Accepted at ACM Siggraph Art Paper



ACM DIGITAL LIBRARY Association for Computing Machinery

Weiwei Zhang

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RESEARCH-ARTICLE

ReCollection: Creating synthetic memories with AI in an interactive art installation

Authors: Weiwei Zhang, Lilian Cheng, Jielang Luo, Authors Info & Claims

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<https://doi.org/10.1145/3664207>

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390

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Abstract

This paper describes the conceptual background, artificial intelligent (AI) system design, and visualization strategies of an interactive AI art experience: ReCollection. In the art installation, the artwork assembles collective visual memories based on participants' language input, blurring the boundaries between remembrance and imagination through intelligent system design and experimental visualization. By providing a conceptual framework for non-linear narratives, constituting symbiotic imaginations for memories, this artwork aims to provide an inclusive art experience that inspires collective memory reproduction by providing an intimate recollection of symbiosis between beings and apparatus. Furthermore, this work provides a future prototype that cultivates empathy for the dementia community by investigating the tensions in the correlations between visual representations and narratives, as well as these between the past, present, and future.

"ReCollection: Creating synthetic memories with AI in an interactive art installation" Siggraph Art Paper
The Proceedings of the ACM on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques

DAY 2: SESSION 1 (FLASH TALKS)

(ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

"ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN A MULTI-SPECIES WORLD", DR
LIJAOZI CHENG (UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD)

In my flash talk, I will explore 'ReCollection,' an innovative art project by Weidi Zhang and Jieliang (Rodger) Luo. This project employs artificial intelligence (AI) to create visual representations of collective memories based on language inputs. Diverging from conventional memory retrieval approaches in dementia research, 'ReCollection' fuses memory with imagination, utilizing intelligent system design and experimental visualization. The presentation will showcase how 'ReCollection' employs AI as a dynamic, non-human narrative agent in collaborative worldmaking. I aim to discuss the project's artistic portrayal of memory and narratives, emphasizing AI's role in developing diverse and evolving self-perceptions, particularly within the context of dementia. Furthermore, the talk will critically assess the role and agency of AI in artistic endeavours. Drawing from Critical Dementia Studies, which challenges traditional emphases on narrative coherence and rationality in defining selfhood, as well as speculative posthumanism, I will explore imaginations of relationships between AI, humans, and other entities within a more equitable ecosystem.

5: Artificial intelligence in a multi-species world: tracing AI's material footprint through posthumanist inquiry
Lijaozi Cheng (The University of Sheffield)

[Send message to Author](#)

Short abstract:

This presentation examines AI's role as a dynamic narrative agent in worldmaking in recent art projects. It then extends this exploration through speculative posthumanism, highlighting AI's potential to redefine interactions among humans, non-human animals, and the planet.

Long abstract:

This presentation delves into 'ReCollection', an art project by Weidi Zhang and Jieliang (Rodger) Luo, which employs artificial intelligence (AI) to transmute language inputs into visual narratives encapsulating collective memories. Beyond traditional memory retrieval methodologies in dementia research, 'ReCollection' innovatively merges memory with imagination, leveraging AI as a dynamic, non-human narrative agent in collaborative worldmaking. It vividly demonstrates AI's capacity to enable diverse and evolving self-perceptions through inter-embodied subjectivity.

The installation and user engagement of 'ReCollection' subtly open avenues to reflect on AI's material implications. While the project primarily showcases AI's potential in reshaping narratives and identities, the physicality of its installation — from the hardware running AI algorithms to the interactive interfaces facilitating user engagement — serves as a tangible manifestation of AI's presence in our material world, prompting an investigation into how technology-mediated experiences are deeply intertwined with the physical dimensions of AI's operation, including resource consumption and environmental impact.

Through the lens of speculative posthumanism, the discussion broadens, urging a profound reconceptualization of AI's role within our interconnected ecosystems. This perspective challenges the anthropocentric view of technology, advocating for an understanding of AI that recognizes its agency and entanglements in a web of relations encompassing humans, non-human beings, and the environment. Speculative posthumanism invites us to consider AI not merely as a tool or an extension of human will but as a participant in the broader ecological and social fabric, capable of influencing and being influenced by multiple actors within this network.

Multidisciplin
Weidi Zhang
ReCollector. Researcher



Artificial Intelligence in a Multi-Species World

Dementia in a Multi-Species World

Artificial intelligence in a multi-species world: tracing AI's material footprint through posthumanist inquiry

The 2024 quadrennial joint meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S): Making and doing transformations

Rodger Luo



living archive of human memories

AI Film / Datasets

You Only Have Seven Seconds

Rodger Luo



RECOLLECTION RESEARCH

Part I : ReCollection - An Interactive AI Art Installation

Part II : You Only Have Seven Seconds - An AI Art Film

From Intimate Whispers to Shared Worlds in Participatory Data-Driven Cinematic Art



You Only Have Seven Seconds



A FILM BY

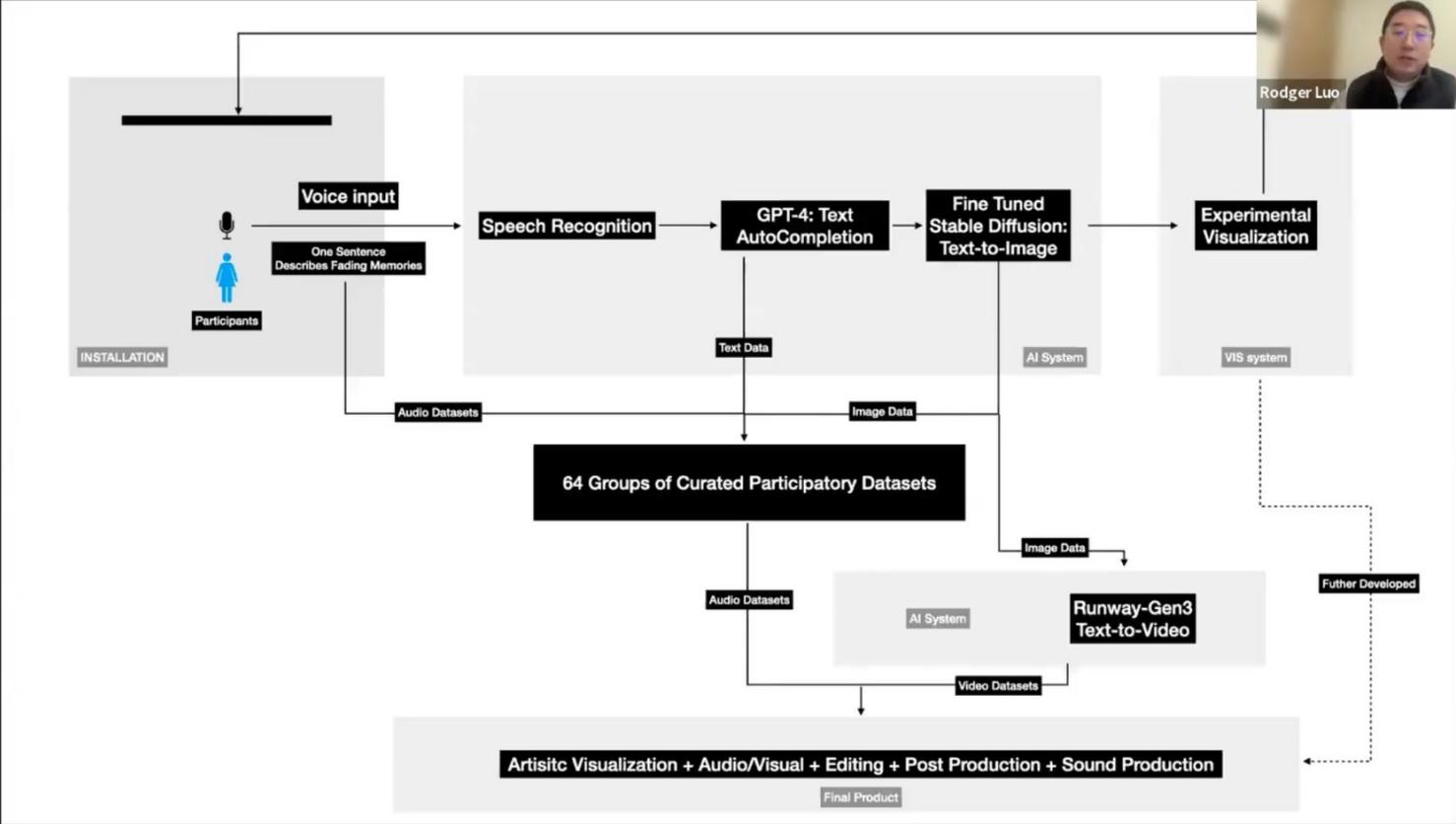
WEIDI ZHANG
RODGER LUO

SOUND PRODUCTION: PAUL TARO SCHMID | VOICE DENOISING: JONAS FULLEMANN
| SCREENWRITER: LIJIADZI CHENG

Rodger Luo



Rodger Luo



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AI Film / System Map

You Only Have Seven Seconds



A Poetics of Relations

ReCollection

Humans ↔ Machines

You Only Have Seven Seconds

Humans ↔ Humans



Machines

Data Curation / Five Categories

You Only Have Seven Seconds

A Poetics

Rodger Luo



family



food



place



achievement



different
experiences of
commonality

The participatory datasets are curated to build **dialogical relationships, forming patterns, counterpoints, and resonances** that evoke a poetics of relation.

Rodger Luo

AI Film
You Only Have Seven Seconds



Rodger Luo

"I remember swimming with my mom when I was six years old."

Cinematic Visualization
ReCollection Research



Rodger Luo



Best Prompt Magazine AI Art video

Artist/Filmmaker: Weidi Zhang & Rodger Luo

You Only Have Seven Seconds.

Sound Production: Paul Taro Schmidt
Voice Denoising: Jonas Fülleemann
Screenwriter: Lijiaozi Cheng
Special Thanks to: Sam Green

The audio and visual fragments in this film were drawn from an interactive AI art installation, *ReCollection*, where participants can speak brief, seven-second excerpts of fading memories. A customized AI system synthesized them in real time.

All recordings used are anonymised, non-identifiable personal information. These fragments are not personal narratives but woven together as part of a collective.

This work extends the spirit of the original piece—initially conceived as a personal reflection, *ReCollection* evolved into a shared worldmaking process, honouring the ephemeral, the unfinished, and the multiplicity of human expressions.

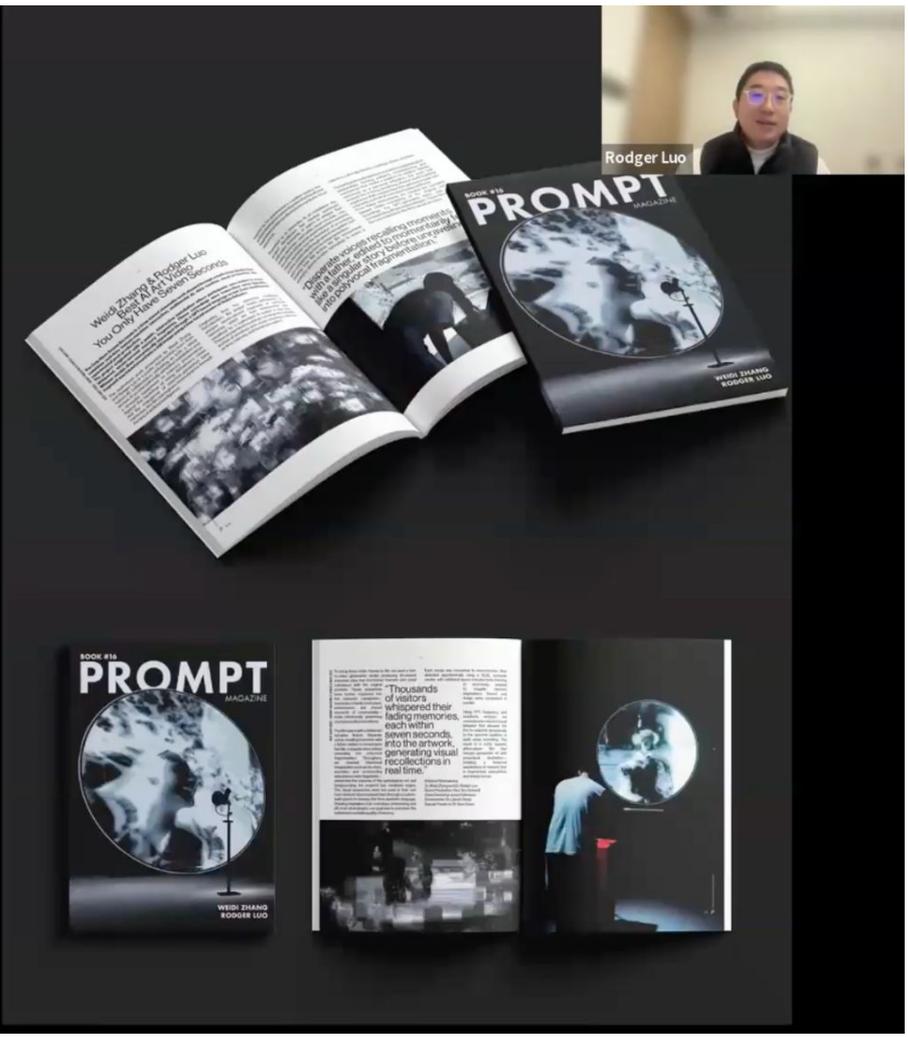
Thought.



Weidi Zhang & Rodger Luo ReCollection: You Only Have Seven Seconds

Originating from the interactive installation *ReCollection*, the project invites participants to whisper seven-second fragments of personal memories, which are then reinterpreted and visualized by a customized AI system in real time. These anonymised recordings converge into a shared archive of emotions and voices, weaving a cinematic reflection on time, memory, and human perception.

"Best AI Art Video at the Burano Artificial Intelligence Film Festival (Venice) — Prompt Magazine in collaboration with CoMeta." Prompt Magazine.
Retrieved from: <https://www.promptmagazine.ai/blogs/open-call-results/best-ai-art-video-at-baiff-venice>



You Only Have Seven Seconds: From Intimate Whispers to Shared Worlds in Participatory Data-Driven Cinematic Art

Weidi Zhang*
The Design School, Arizona State University
Tempe, US

Lijiaozi Cheng†
Department of Sociological Studies
University of Sheffield

Paul Taro Schmidt‡
Independent Researcher
Switzerland

Jieliang Luo§
Minus AI
Singapore



Figure 1: Screenshot of the AI Film *ReCollection: You Only Have Seven Seconds, 2025*.

ABSTRACT

You Only Have Seven Seconds is a cinematic artistic visualization derived from an interactive AI art installation (*ReCollection*) that explores how machine intelligence can reassemble collective human memory through language input. Motivated by the artist's personal response to her grandmother's cognitive decline and informed by current research in Critical Dementia Studies that advocates for reimagining—rather than repairing—memory, the project collects and curates whispered, seven-second recollections and machine-generated image data from installation participants. These selected datasets are transformed into a generative visualization presented as a cinematic art using custom-designed AI systems and experimental visualization strategies. This paper introduces the conceptual foundations and technical development of this project, with emphasis on data collection, experimental visualization, narrative construction, sound design, and intelligent system integration. Through the design of artificial memory, *You Only Have Seven Seconds* constructs a dynamic archive of shared, ephemeral recollections for storytelling.

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Index Terms: Generative Design, Experimental Data Visualization, Computer Animation, AI Art.

1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK: FROM INTERACTIVE INSTALLATION TO DATA-DRIVEN STORYTELLING

This project is based on data collected from the interactive AI art installation *ReCollection* (created in 2023) (Figure 2) [17]. Exhibited worldwide, the installation allowed participants to whisper their fragmented memories—with their consent—creating a unique participatory dataset from an international community through public interactive and performative engagement. This data serves as the foundation for this visualization's further development. In this section, we will discuss the installation's motivation, the data collection process, and the conceptual framework.

ReCollection emerged from the artist's personal experience of witnessing her grandmother's cherished life moments dissolve into fragmented language due to dementia—an emotional and deeply personal motivation for the project.

Set against the global rise of dementia—affecting over 57 million people in 2021 [15]—and the proliferation of machine-generated false memories, the work addresses a dual crisis of memory, as traditionally construed. At the same time, the advent of text-to-image AI systems has introduced new ways of reconstructing fragmented memories through language input. Positioned at the intersection of human vulnerability and machine imagination, *ReCollection* reimagines memory as a collaborative act between humans and Artificial Intelligence (AI), posing the question: *Can language reassemble what time and disease have unraveled?*



Rodger Luo

IEEE VISAP 2025

programme

VISAP Paper Session

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 09:30 - 10:45

Austria Center Vienna

Psychomare: A Psychoanalytic and XR-Based Artistic Exploration into Nightmare Visualization

Jiayang Huang, Joshua Nijjati Alimujiang, Kang Zhang, David Yip

You Only Have Seven Seconds: From Intimate Whispers to Shared Worlds in Participatory Data-Driven Cinematic Art

Weidi Zhang, Lijiaozi Cheng, Paul Taro Schmidt, Jieliang Luo

Tides of Memory: Digital Echoes of Netizen Remembrance

Lingyu Peng, Xiao Hu, Chang Ge, Pengda Lu, Liying Long, Qingchuan Li, Xin Li, Jiangyue Wu

Simulacra Naturae: Generative Ecosystem Driven by Agent-Based Simulations and Brain Organoid Collective Intelligence

Nefeli Manoudaki, Mert Toka, Iason Paterakis, Diarmid Flatley

The Living Library of Trees: Mapping Knowledge Ecology in the Arnold Arboretum

Johan Malmstedt, Giacomo Nanni, Dario Rodighiero

The Knowledge Cosmos: An Immersive Platform for Interdisciplinary Research Discovery

Alec McGail, Rifaa Tajani, Nikita Sridhar, Jiabao Li

You Only Have Seven Seconds: From Intimate Whispers to Shared Worlds in Participatory Data-Driven Cinematic Art IEEE VISAP Art Paper 2025

Conclusion

ReCollection Research



Honouring

**the ephemeral
the unfinished,
and the multiplicity of human expressions.**

Initially conceived as the artist's personal reflection, the work has evolved into
a living, breathing, shared world-building experience
that reassembles the ephemeral past into a dynamic portrait of collective human selfhood.

ReCollection + You Only Have Seven Seconds

Interactive Installation / An AI Art Film / Cinematic Visualization
2022 - 2025

AWARDS:

A' Design Award, Italy, 2024
Annual Recommendation, Asia Pacific Design, 2024
Finalist, Aurea#7 Award, 2025

EXHIBITIONS:

ReCollection [2nd Edition] Today's Art Museum
ReCollection [2nd Edition] (invited) Electronic Language International
Festival Brazil
ReCollection [2nd Edition] Highlight Art Gallery, Singapore, 2024
ReCollection [2nd Edition] CVPR AI Art Gallery, Seattle, US, 2024
[Shortlisted]
ReCollection [Immersive Edition] Alvolution, Cinema Mystica, Budapest,
Hungary, 2024
ReCollection [2nd Edition] Worlds For Change, Media and Immersive
eXperience Center, Arizona State University, 2023
ReCollection [2nd Edition] Signal Immersive Gallery, Curated by
Vancouver International Film Festival and DigiBC, Vancouver, BC, 2023
ReCollection [1st Edition] Siggraph Art Gallery, Los Angeles Convention
Center, CA, US, 2023
ReCollection [online] International Symposium For Electronic Arts (ISEA),
Paris, FR, 2023

PRESS:

Neural Magazine, 2024 'NEURAL 74, CONNECTIVE THEORIES, 30 YEARS
OF NEURAL' (ISSUE #74 2023 ISSN: 2037-108X) 'ReCollection:
Recreating Memories'

Piksel Bülten, "Hatırlamanın Eşiğinde: Weidi Zhang," Piksel Bülten
(2024): <https://www.pikselbulten.com/posts/hatirlamanin-esiginde-weidi-zhang> (accessed September 30, 2024).

RESEARCH PAPER:

"ReCollection: Creating synthetic memories with AI in an interactive art
installation" Siggraph Art Paper
The Proceedings of the ACM on Computer Graphics and Interactive
Techniques

AW

Best
BAIFF
Film
Rodger Luo
2025



EXHIBITIONS / SCREENING (S)

IEEE VIS Art Program, Austria
[upcoming] 2025
Envisioning Intelligence, US
[upcoming] 2025
Today's Art Musum, [upcoming]
2025
Hua Art Museum, Shenzhen Design
Week, Shenzhen, China, 2025
BAIFF Burano Artificial Intelligence
Film Festival, Venice, Italy 2025
Electronic Current, Gallery 130,
Mississippi, US, 2025
ChinaVis Art gallery, Hangzhou,
China, 2025

RESEARCH PUBLICATION

(Accepted) "You Only Have Seven
Seconds: From Intimate
Whispers to Shared Worlds in
Participatory Data-Driven Cinematic
Art" IEEE VISAP Art Paper 2025

PRESS

Zhang, W., & Luo, R. (2025). *Best
AI Art Video: You Only Have Seven
Seconds. Prompt AI Magazine,
Issue 16*. Retrieved from [https://
www.promptmagazine.ai/blogs/
open-call-results/best-ai-art-video-
at-baiff-venice](https://www.promptmagazine.ai/blogs/open-call-results/best-ai-art-video-at-baiff-venice)

You Only Have Seven Seconds



A FILM BY

WEIDI ZHANG
RODGER LUO

SOUND PRODUCTION: PAUL TARO SCHMID | VOICE DENOISING: JONAS FÜLLEMANN
| SCREENWRITER: LIJIAOZI CHENG

Rodger Luo



Artist(s)/Filmmaker(s)
Dr. Weidi Zhang | Dr. Rodger Luo

Sound Production
Paul Taro Schmidt

Voice Denoising
Jonas Füllemann

Screenwriter
Dr. Lijiaozi Cheng

Special Thanks to
Dr. Sam Green

24h Envisioning Intelligences
event slides and video recordings:



Call for exhibit submissions:
<https://scimaps.org/call-for-submissions>

