

Playing with Syn-tax

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

1. **Grammar.** The ways in which a particular word or part of speech can be arranged with other words or parts of speech.
2. **Logic.** The order and arrangement of elements in a formal language, without reference to meaning.
3. **Computing.** The set of rules according to which code in a particular programming language must be structured in order for it to be properly processed by a compiler or interpreter.
4. **Other.** An orderly or systematic arrangement of parts or elements; structure, organization or a connection or correlation between abstract things; congruity.

What happens to meaning when words in a sentence are shuffled? Does the meaning change? Become incomprehensible? Take on new significance? How much does order matter?

Playing with Syn-tax offers a way to reconsider rules or order through combination and disorder. As with syntax, the works included in this show play with (re)connection and (re)arrangement to constitute new meaning. Some collect, reassemble, and record alternative materials like fingernails and receipt paper to elevate ephemeral materials. Others, with vibrant, sometimes dissonant, color, abstract natural forms or create fictional universes. Other works intervene in the syntax of technology by manipulating and disrupting Artificial Intelligence or embracing glitch aesthetics. Through the syntactical play of these 20 artists we are prompted to rethink standards and orders—from the institutional to the everyday and the bodily—and to consider how they are, themselves, destabilizing. This exhibition highlights the work produced by studio art majors, fourth year Distinguished Majors, and Fifth Year Aunspaugh Fellows during their final year at the University of Virginia.

Curated by **Jennifer Marine** (Ph.D. candidate, Art and Architectural History) and **Stephanie Polos** (Ph.D. candidate, Program in Mediterranean Art and Archaeology), *Playing with Syn-tax* came together after critical conversations with artists, faculty, and colleagues from the Art Department at UVA.

LIST OF WORKS

Third Floor

Virginia Gibson (Aunspaugh Fellow), *Did you know it could be genetic?*, Insulation foam, paper, canvas, twine, fishing wire, mortar dust, house paint, 2023

Virginia Gibson, *Out of adrenaline*, Insulation foam, paper, canvas, twine, driveway sealant, 2023

Mia Gualtieri (Distinguished Major), *how to see when the line stops ringing*, Super 8mm and 16mm film transferred to video, wood, fabric, and plexiglass, 2023

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Detail from *two moon planet*, David Askew

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Third Floor, Continued

Mira Manalastas (Distinguished Major), *Jeepney Corruption*, Monotype and crayon on paper, 2023

Mira Manalastas, *Jollibee Head*, Paper mâché and cardboard, 2023

Sean Moore, *A Lost Boy (selection)*, Wood, glass, epoxy resin, 2023

Anna Myers (Aunspaugh Fellow), *Refractive Error*, Pigment print, 2023

Claire Szeptycki (Distinguished Major), *My Right Hand*, Chine collé and monotype, 2023.

Claire Szeptycki, *Tending to my Material Life II*, Soft ground etching, 2023

KJ Vaughan (Distinguished Major), *multiplicity of.*, Acrylic on canvas, 2023

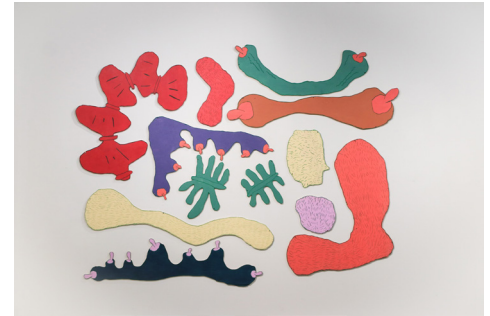
Alyce Yang (Distinguished Major), *E-Digging at the Sites*, Wood, plaster, sand, digital photographs, large format photographs, found images, 2023

Alyce Yang, *Jade Fish*, Gifted 1992, 16mm film, 2023

Léo Zhang (Aunspaugh Fellow), *Intercontinental Breakfast I*, Xerox transfer on repurposed receipt paper, 2023

Léo Zhang, *Intercontinental Breakfast II*, Xerox transfer on repurposed receipt paper, 2023

Léo Zhang, *Yellowcake Fever*, Xerox transfer on repurposed receipt paper, 2023



she's not the prettiest but has eighteen great tits,
Maddie Butkovich

Second Floor

David Askew (Aunspaugh Fellow) “two moon planet”, Oil on canvas, 2023, (left to right), *Delvina relaxing in the Carifarn Gardens*, *Octavia lost in thought in the snap pea field*, *Cece posed in the garden of Fron Sei Du*, *Bouton walking through the hanging posies of Alveridgedam*

Maddie Butkovich (Distinguished Major), *pink rutabagas*, Monotype, 2023

Maddie Butkovich, *pink rutabagas (negative)*, Monotype, 2023

Virginia Gibson (Aunspaugh Fellow), *To clear my head*, Etching print on paper, 2023

Benjamin Larsen, “I'd Go Farther”, Shot 15, Polyester plate lithograph of medium format film scans, 2023

Mary O'Connor (Aunspaugh Fellow), *Our Mother*, Lithograph, 2023 **Tori White**, Distinguished Major, *The Voyeur*, Relief print on paper, 2022

Alyce Yang (Distinguished Major), *Articles of China 1*, Black and white large format photograph, 2023

Alyce Yang, *Articles of China 2*, Black and white large format photograph, 2023

Ruoxuan Yuan, *Untitled 1*, Oil on canvas, 2023

Ruoxuan Yuan, *Untitled 2*, Oil on canvas, 2023

First Floor

Maddie Butkovich (Distinguished Major), *she's not the prettiest but has eighteen great tits (selection)*, Acrylic and crayon on wood, 2023

Virginia Gibson (Aunspaugh Fellow), *spilt emotions*, Viscosity print on paper, 2022

Pilar Grover, *Curtains (selection)*, Fabric sculpture, 2023

Scott Hong, *Tanks*, Digital Film, 2023

Christopher Pinto, “augmented reality”, Digital artwork, artificial intelligence, photography, coding, viewer interaction, 2023

Olivia Shepard, *Nyan_is_the_Glitch*, Multichannel video installation (6:31), 2023

Tori White, (Distinguished Major), *The Conduit*, Digital photo print on rag paper, 2023

Tori White, *This is Not a Baby Doll*, Digital photo print on rag paper, 2023

Zhiwen Xu (Distinguished Major), *Great Ultimate Series (selection)*, Digital art, 2023

Zhiwen Xu, *The Merge of Two Worlds (selection)*, Insulation foam board, PVC pipes, fiber fills, tissue, and other media, 2023



Still from *Nyan_is_the_Glitch*, Olivia Shepard