

Kuai Shen was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador in 1978. He lives and works in Cologne, Germany.

Awards

- **BRIDGE Art and Science Stipend**, Michigan, USA, 2016-2017
cross-disciplinary practice at Michigan State University
- **Auslandsstipendium NRW**, Düsseldorf, Germany, 2016
3 months residency in Vilnius for new commissioned work National Art Gallery
- **Cynetart Förderpreis des Sächsischen Kunstministerium**, Dresden, Germany, 2014
for «Playing with ants & other insects»
- **Prix Ars Electronica Hybrid Art Honorary Mention**, Linz, Austria, 2013
for «0h!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment»
- **Edith-Russ Haus Emerging Artist Award**, Oldenburg, Germany, 2013
for «0h!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment»
- **26th Toronto Images Festival Overkill Award**, Toronto, Canada, 2013
for «0h!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment»
- **VIDA 14.0 Art: and Artificial Life International Competition**, Madrid, Spain, 2013
Production grant for «Yupana Emergente»
- **VIDA 13.2: Art and Artificial Life International Competition**, Madrid, Spain, 2011
Honorary Mention for «0h!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment»
- **Share Festival Smart Mistakes 2nd Prize**, Turin, Italy, 2010
for «0h!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment»

Exhibitions / Performances

- **Thermotaxis**, National Art Gallery Vilnius
Vilnius, Lithuania, February 3rd – March 12th, 2017
- **Erschöpfte Demokratie / Ameisenutopie**, Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung
Cologne, Germany, November 12th – 18th, 2016
- **Viral Ecologies: technologic hypnotism and the zombie ants**, Hublab Mérida
Yucatán, Mexico, September 19th – 23rd, 2016
- **The inexorable colonization of the self**, Diskurs Gallery
Berlin, Germany, June 30th – July 24th, 2016
collaboration with Pengyu Huang
- **The inexorable colonization of the self**, Matjö Raum für Kunst
Cologne, Germany, Mai 12th – June 9th, 2016
collaboration with Pengyu Huang
- **Plectrum: bioacoustic ants and electroacoustic visions**, Hackteria Hydra Project at Sonnenstube
Lugano, Switzerland, March 11th, 2016
- **Plectrum: bioacoustic ants and electroacoustic visions**, Visual Sounds at Saint Gertrud Church
Cologne, Germany, September 28th, 2015
- **Yupana Emergente**, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo
Quito, Ecuador, December 3rd 2014 – February 8th 2015
collaboration with Gabriel Vanegas
- **Playing with ants & other insects**, Cynetart Festival, Transmedia Hellerau
Dresden, Germany, November 13th – 19th, 2014
- **0h!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment**, Edith-Russ Haus
Oldenburg, Germany, October 1st – 28th, 2013
- **Playing with ants & other insects**, Transitio MX05
Mexico DF, Mexico, September 20th – 29th, 2013
- **The Initiate (You) & The Mystics (Them)**, Quartier am Hafen
Cologne, Germany, September 27th – October 18th, 2013
collaboration with Gonzalo H Rodriguez
- **0h!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment**, 26th Images Festival, Interaccess Gallery
Toronto, Canada, April 13th – May 11th, 2013
- **Playing with ants & other insects**, Beijing's Museum of Science and Technology
Beijing, China, November 1st – 30th, 2012
- **0h!m1gas: Biomimetic Stridulation Environment**, Manifesta 9, European Biennial of Contemporary Arts
Genk, Belgium, June 2nd – September 30th, 2012
- **Hypothese zur Entstehung / Sensorial Panopticum**, Beck & Eggeling Galerie
Düsseldorf, Germany, May 2nd – 20th, 2012
collaboration with Aljoscha

- **Oh!m1gas: Biomimetic Stridulation Environment**, SIGGRAPH 2011
Vancouver, Canada, August 7th – 11th, 2011
- **Oh!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment**, Kapelica Gallery
Ljubljana, Slovenia, May 24th – June 24th, 2011
- **Oh!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment**, Museo Regionale di Scienza Naturale
Turin, Italy, November 2nd – 7th, 2010

Lectures

- **Myrmecophilia**, Abrams Planetarium, Bridge Art Residence at Michigan State University
East Lansing, USA, October 27th, 2017
- **Ant Mediated Phenomenologies**, LASER Talks: Interspecies Creativity at Central Saint Martins
London, UK, March 27th, 2017
- **Enter the colony: the 3 portals into the techno-culture of ants**, 6th Inter-Format Symposium on Hybrid
Natures at Nida Art Colony in Nida, Lithuania, July 22nd, 2016
- **Viral Ecologies: the parasite, the social contagion & the internet**, Köln International School of Design
Cologne, Germany, April 19th, 2016
- **Myrmecophilia**, Heinz Nixdorf Institute at Department of Computer Science (invitation by Dr. Heiko Hamann)
Paderborn, Germany, May 18th, 2016
- **The noise of self-organization**, Cynetart Forum, Trans-Media-Hellerau
Dresden, Germany, November 12th, 2015
- **Ecologías Virales/Viral Ecologies**, Artist residency, Universidad Nacional de Colombia
Bogotá, Colombia, September 18th, 2014
- **Enter the colony: the 3 portals into the techno-culture of ants**, Köln International School of Design
Cologne, Germany, December 3rd, 2013
- **Oh!m1gas: Biomimetic Stridulation Environment**, 5th RENEW Media Art Histories Conference
Riga, Latvia, October 11th, 2013
- **[Eco]mimetismos: cibernética, biomimética y fenomenología**, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo
Quito, Ecuador, August 5th, 2013
- **Ant mimicry in the post-biologic technology of humans**, 19th ISEA, University of Sydney
Sydney, Australia, June 13th, 2013
- **Beware of the ants because they shall inherit the Earth**, Balance-Unbalance funded by UNESCO
Noosa Bioserve, Australia, June 2nd, 2013
- **Ant mimicry in the post-biologic technology of humans**, Tsinghua University
Beijing, China, November 2nd, 2012
- **I Love Ants**, Arts Academy of Ljubljana University
Ljubljana, Slovenia, June 26th, 2011
- **Oh!m1gas: Biomimetic Stridulation Environment**, Living Matter: art & research & science studies in
biological laboratories, Academy of Media Arts Cologne in Cologne, Germany, July 19th, 2010

Workshops / Seminars

- **Biomimetic Stridulation Environments**, workshop on piezoelectric amplifiers and analog oscillators
Broad Museum at Michigan State University, East Lansing, April 12th, 2017
- **Klangökologie**, workshop for kids on building your own air and sound pollution sensors
Bornheim Jugendzentrum, Bonn, October 12th – 13th, 2016
- **The thermoacoustics of wood ants**, workshop on hacking biological data for visualization and sonification of
the thermoregulation of European wood ants
National Art Gallery, Vilnius, October 3rd – 5th, 2016
- **DIY Antibiotics #2: grow [ant]ibiotica**, wetlab workshop about sampling and identifying symbiotic Actinomyces
and how to interact with leaf-cutter ants
Wetlab at De Waag, Amsterdam, June 3rd – 4th, 2016
- **The Sound of Ants**, on the stridulation of leaf-cutter ants and how to build your own piezoelectric amplifier
Matjö Raum für Kunst, Cologne, June 8th, 2016
- **Insect mediated technologies: biomimicry in the machine**, seminar on the DIY creation of electronic
artefacts which mimic insect communication and behaviours
Köln International School of Design, April 6th – June 15th, 2016
- **Stridulation Crystals**, cooking and creating your own crystals from Rochelle salts to use them as vibration
amplifiers, based on the model of acoustic vibration in leafcutter ants
Sonnenstube, Lausanne, March 12th, 2016
- **Pflanzenpower**, workshop on collecting the biological rhythm of plants to create sounds
Kaarst Jugendzentrum, October 23rd – 25th, 2015

- **Ameisenwelt**, workshop for children about ants and their relation to video games
Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln, August 3rd – 8th, 2015
- **Ecologías Virales: arañas inspiradas por hormigas**, seminar for postgraduate students about ants, audiovisual anarchism and Gabriel Tarde's social contagion
Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, September 10th – 28th, 2014
- **La invasión de las hormigas algorítmicas**, workshop for parents and children about ants and electronics
Espacio Fundación Telefónica, Madrid, June 6th – 8th, 2014
- **[Eco]-sistemas de mimetismos cibernéticos**, public seminar and workshop about the cybernetics of ants and other tropical insects
Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Quito, August 5th – 11th, 2013

Publications

- **Bio Art: Altered Realities, by William Myers, Thames & Hudson, UK, 2015**
Chapter IV: Experimental Identities and Media, pp. 194-195
- **TECHNO-ECOLOGIES II**, Latvia, 2014
Acoustic Space, Vol. 12, ISBN-13: 978-9934843419:
«Oh!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment», pp. 214-215
- **CyberArts 2013, Ars Electronica, Austria, 2013**
International Compendium - Prix Ars Electronica, Hybrid Art:
«Oh!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment», pp. 130-131
- **Manifesta 9, the deep of the modern, Italy, 2012**
A subcyclopedia of artists by International Foundation Manifesta:
«Kuai Shen, Oh!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment», pp. 244-247
- **Kunstforum International, August Issue, Germany, 2012**
Manifesta 9 Review: Interview by Jocks Heinz-Norbert, pp. 394-397
- **Biologically-Inspired Computing for the Arts, USA, 2012**
Chapter 4: «Oh!m1gas: biomimetic stridulation environment», pp. 59-80
- **Neural Magazine, Issue 42, Italy, 2012**
Section: Review of Artworks: «Biomimetic surveillance for scratching»
- **Leonardo Journal, MIT Press, Volume 44, Issue 4, USA, 2011**
Special Issue for Siggraph Vancouver 2011: «Tracing Home Art Gallery», pp. 52-53