



Portfolio

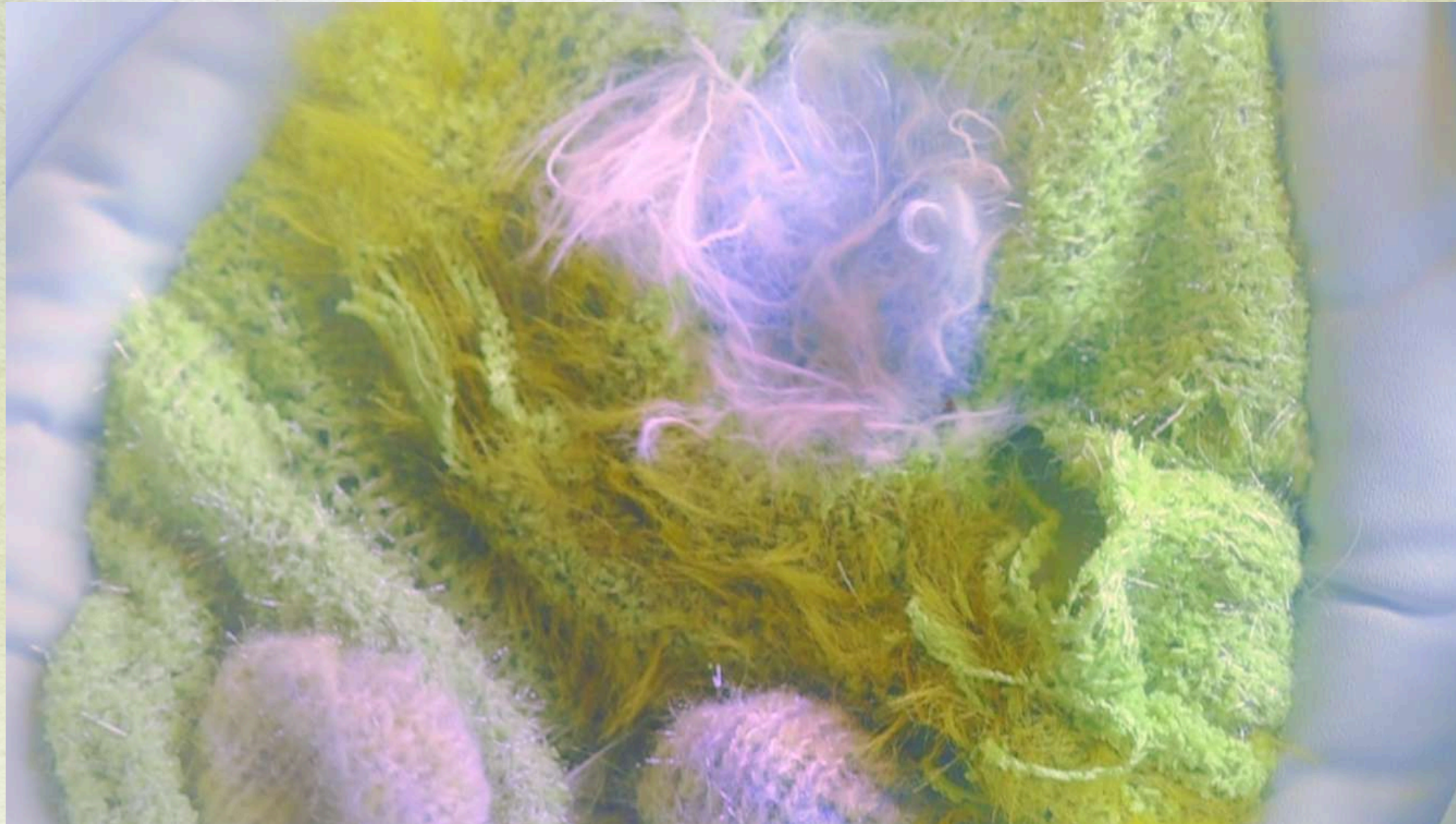
Breathing Companion



Two Women Sitting

Ruitong Cui is a London-based artist working with garment-based forms, wearable technology, and knitted textiles. Her practice explores relationships between human and non-human entities, reimagining garments as living companions rather than functional clothing. Through breathing, tactility, and embodied interaction, her work investigates alternative forms of connection, care, and co-existence beyond human-centered narratives. Ruitong is currently completing an MA in Fashion Futures at University of the Arts London, where her practice engages with speculative futures and post-human perspectives.





"The garment is introduced as a living entity."

Breathing Companion
2025

Garment-based artwork
Knitted textile, pneumatic elements

Dimensions: Variable / wearable scale

This thesis aims to critique anthropocentrism and speciesism, utilising fashion design as a medium to predisposition to perceive animals a particular way in order to prompt critical reflection and challenges the user to see clothing not just as an object.

Through the creation of an interactive garment that mimics the presence and behaviour of a companion animal, the work challenges the assumption of human dominance in interspecies relationships. The garment responds to the wearer through subtle movements, breathing-like rhythms, and reactive behaviours, positioning itself not as a passive object but as an active, sensing entity.

Rather than serving the human body, the garment initiates a reciprocal relationship—one that invites attentiveness, care, and negotiation. By shifting the role of clothing from a functional object to a companion presence, the project proposes an alternative model of coexistence, where agency is shared rather than owned.

The work invites viewers to reconsider how intimacy, dependency, and companionship are constructed across species, and how design might function as a tool to question deeply embedded human-centred hierarchies.



"When the wearer puts it on, she notices subtle responses—
breathing, shifting, reacting."

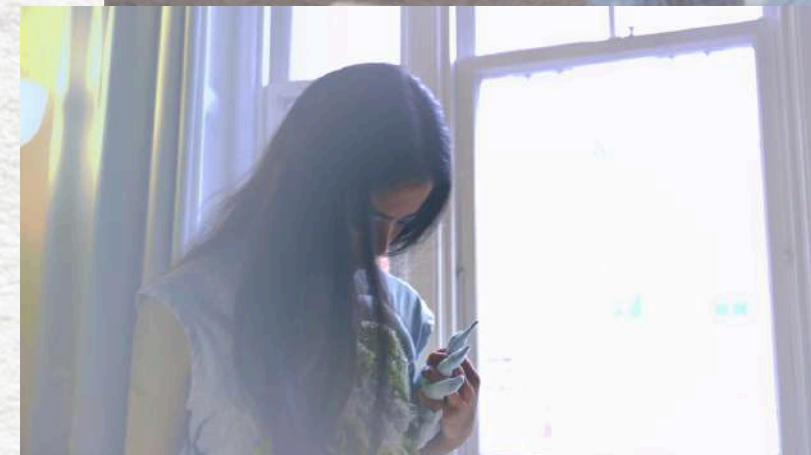


Breathing Companions
2025

Garment-based artwork
Knitted textile, pneumatic elements

Dimensions: Variable / wearable scale





"Neither leads. Neither follows."



"A dialogue emerges."

Breathing Companions
2025

Garment-based artwork
Knitted textile, pneumatic elements

Dimensions: Variable / wearable scale





"The final dance becomes a moment of co-existence."



Breathing Companions
2025

Garment-based artwork
Knitted textile, pneumatic elements

Dimensions: Variable / wearable scale



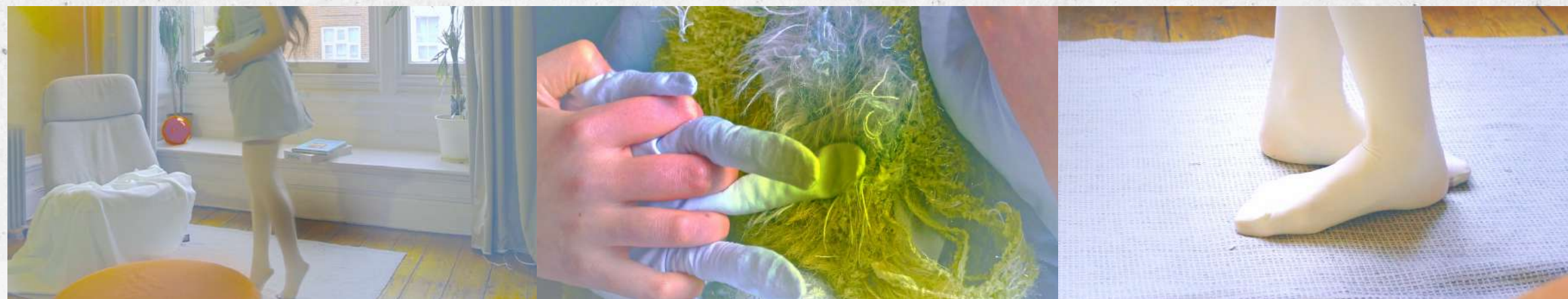


ALIVE FEELINGS

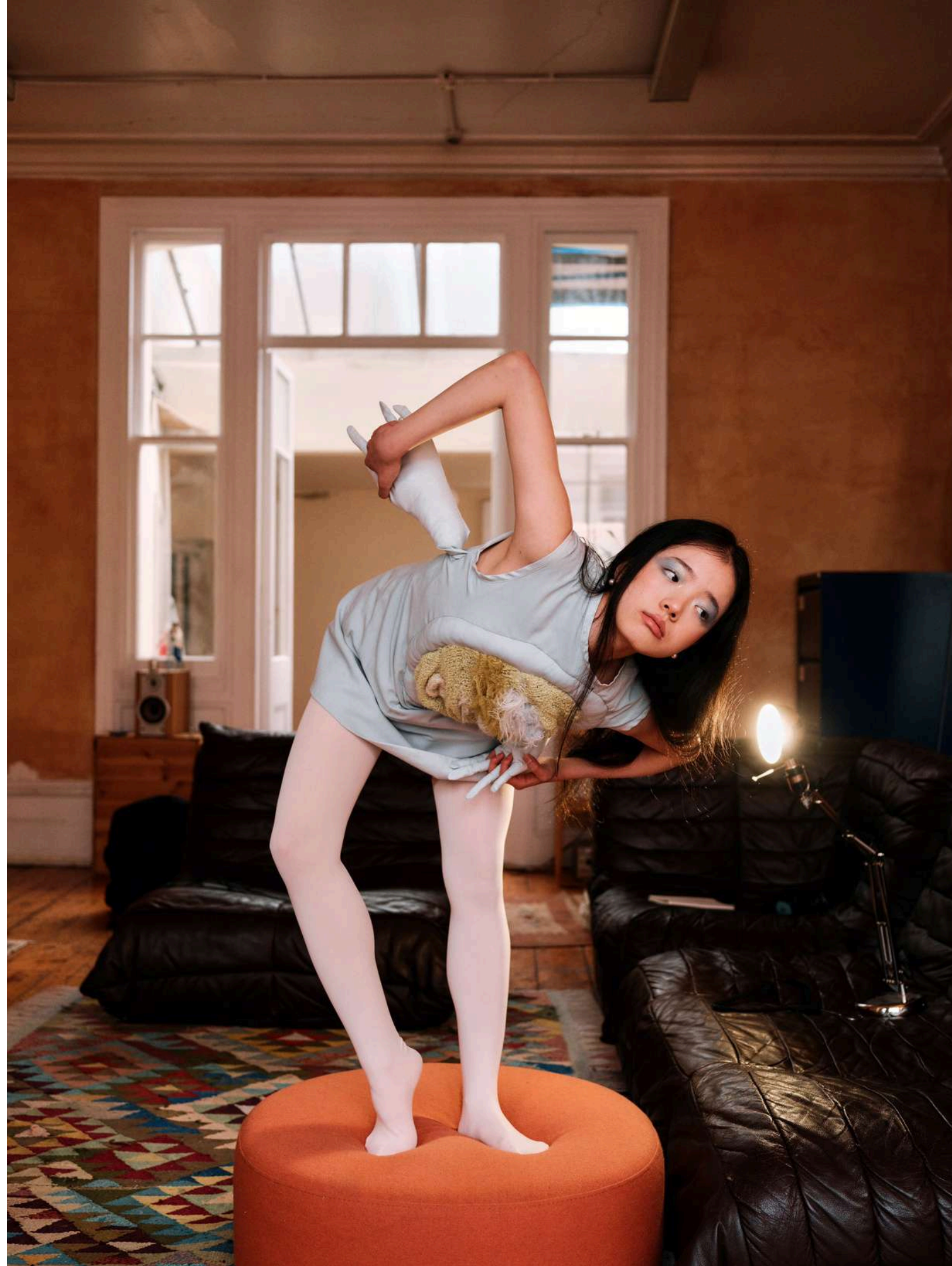
SPECULATIVE FILM
PHOTOGRAPHY

FILM DESIGN AND
SHOOTING

2024-2025



Film: Beathing Companion
Concept & Garment Design: Ruitong Cui
Director: Ruitong Cui
Camera & Shot Design: Xizhe Li, Qizhi Che
Editor: Xizhe Li
Actor: Amily
Makeup & Hair: Joana Lopes Dialho
Music: Tunne Ai



Garment Design: Ruitong Cui
Photographer: Bo fan
Actor: Amily
Makeup & Hair: Joana Lopes Dialho



Garment Design: Ruitong Cui
Photographer: Bo fan
Actor: Amily
Makeup & Hair: Joana Lopes Dialho

Garment Design: Ruitong Cui
Photographer: Bo fan
Actor: Amily
Makeup & Hair: Joana Lopes Dialho
Music: Tunne Ai

