

# BEYOND THE DREAM

Curated by Elaine Kim

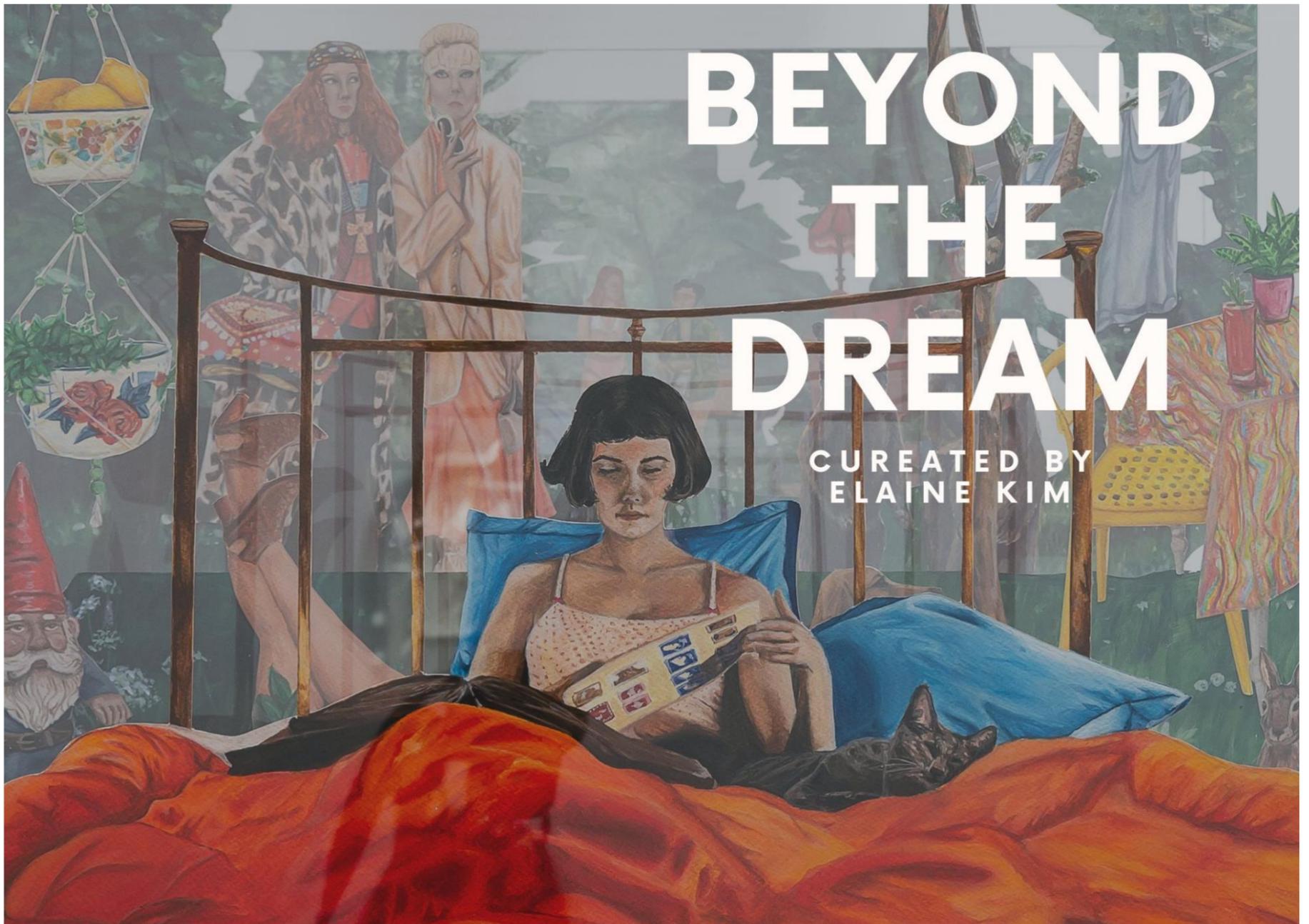


Image by Lucy Thurston

## CONCEPT STATEMENT

Dreams that you can only see when you close your eyes are wistful and mysterious. Sleep and dreaming occur together at every stage of slumber, except when you think you didn't dream, you just don't remember it. From the moment you wake up from a dream, the afterimage of the dream is only naturally forgotten in your brain.<sup>1</sup>

In dreams, we fly all night long and travel to places we've never been to before. Unbelievable situations that cannot happen in real life are sometimes entangled in a nonsensical story. For some, dreams are often terrifyingly strange nightmares. That is why dreams are mysterious, bizarre and frightening.

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<sup>1</sup> Lewis, PA, "What is dreaming and what does it tell us about memory? [excerpt]." in *Scientific American*, Scientific American, 2014, <<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-is-dreaming-and-what-does-it-tell-us-about-memory-excerpt/>> [accessed 12 October 2022].

A dream is material for expressing untamed thoughts and the possibilities are endless.

Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, said that the world of the unconscious is a dream. Freud argued that the subconscious desires that were suppressed by the ego when awake were revealed in dreams and that the unmet needs during daytime activities were expressed in the subconscious as the ego relaxes and falls asleep.<sup>2</sup>

People have dealt with dreams in various fields such as medicine, science and culture.<sup>3</sup>

'Surrealism', a trend in literature and art that spread throughout the world, mainly in France in the 1920s, expressed the world of the unconscious and dreams as art.<sup>4</sup> Dreams became the inspiration for artists to create.<sup>5</sup> It has become the subject of a work that is impossible. It is very unrealistic, distraught and fantastic. Surrealist artists, who were greatly influenced by Freud's philosophy, sought to illuminate the world of dreams and desires and expressed them frankly.<sup>6</sup> So, whilst surrealist paintings are fanciful, sometimes they feel like a nightmare. As psychoanalysis became the basis of psychology, people came to believe that dreams are symbols of the human unconscious and hidden desires.<sup>7</sup>

It is a treasure trove of imagination that is not bound by rational consciousness, which is the unconscious revealed through dreams. In this exhibition, each artist imagined a dream and expressed it visually in their work. It may be simply to escape from everyday life, or it may be because he wants to remember the world of dreams that disappear when he opens his eyes. We have always had a desire and a curiosity for the world of dreams. This may be due to the habit of wanting to be placed in a new environment far removed from the usual daily life. Artists can unleash their imagination without restrictions, because there is no right answer to dreams. This exhibition presented endless possibilities for artists to explore a deeper and wider world of the unconscious by crossing realistic and illusory spaces through their works.

## EXHIBITION DESIGN

### The purpose of this exhibition

The purpose of this exhibition is to give the audience the feeling of traveling in a dream from the moment they enter the exhibition hall. Through careful curating, the exhibition space enhances the immersion of the zone through visual and auditory stimulation provided by light, music and artwork. The expansion of the senses through these stimuli presents a new type of 'dream' to the audience at the exhibition. This exhibition space is a surreal area that can only be experienced in a dream, a territory where you can enjoy freedom and comfort. It becomes a fantastic and chimerical space in a dream, and sometimes returns to a reality mixed with frustration. But in the end, it guides the audience back to an arena filled with hope.

### A variety of ways to experience art

The aim of this exhibition is to provide a fantasy space in an art museum that allows the audience to leave reality for a while. It provides visitors

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<sup>2</sup> Freud, S, *The Interpretation of Dreams and Beyond the Pleasure Principle*. in, Oxford, England, Benediction Classics, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Jha, A, "Field of dreams." in *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 2004, <<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2004/jun/10/science.research2>> [accessed 14 October 2022].

<sup>4</sup> Mann, J, "What is Surrealism?" in *Artsy*, 2016, <<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-what-is-surrealism>> [accessed 16 October 2022].

<sup>5</sup> Order, KV, "Visions from the mind's eye: The art and science of dreams." in *Lateral Magazine*, Lateral Magazine, 2015, <<http://www.lateralmag.com/articles/issue-4/visions-from-the-minds-eye-the-art-and-science-of-dreams>> [accessed 14 October 2022].

<sup>6</sup> Unknown, "Sigmund Freud and his influence on fine art." in *Invaluable*, 2020, <<https://www.invaluable.com/blog/sigmund-freud-influence/>> [accessed 10 October 2022].

<sup>7</sup> Cherry, K, "Why do we dream." in *Verywell Mind*, 2022, <<https://www.verywellmind.com/why-do-we-dream-top-dream-theories-2795931>> [accessed 15 October 2022].

with a variety of ways to experience art through artwork such as media art and physical objects. Media artwork is produced by combining various media image technologies such as augmented reality (VR) and virtual reality (AR).

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The music flowing from the exhibition space gives the audience a quiet feeling as if it induces sleep and awakens the original thoughts and senses of those who enter the world of dreams. This exhibition pursues an interactive experience where the audience can create new works together while drawing their own dreams, beyond simply looking at artwork.

## Result

This exhibition space can be a place for understanding fine art or a fantasy space where creative ideas can be conceived. You can experience the uniqueness and mystery of dreams with excellent display quality and expressive power by providing various, unique spaces with dreams as the subject matter. In other words, the space itself becomes another art and it is an exhibition that can communicate with the audience.

The various forms of dreams expressed through contemporary art and music will awaken the audience to new imaginations and inspire to redraw their dreams based on their infinite artistic creativity.

# Curator

## Elaine Kim

Curator Elaine Kim is a Sydney-based Curator and Artist of Korean background. Elaine has a studio at Kil.n.it Experimental Ceramics Studio in Glebe, Sydney. She is currently studying Master of Curating and Cultural Leadership at UNSW where she got a Bachelor of Fine Arts Honours degree. She curated "The Third Space" in 2021, "Ceramics and Emotions" and "Daily Rhythms" in 2022.

Elaine is Finalist in Gosford Art Prize, Penrith Show 2017(Second Prize), Jenny Birt Award 2020(Highly Commended), and Shelly Simpson Prize 2021(Finalist). She has exhibited her artwork in Hazlehurst Gallery, AD Space, UNSW Gallery, Gaffa Gallery, and Kerrie Lowe Gallery in Sydney. She sees the world through two cultures Korea and Australia, giving her perhaps a broader scope with how she perceives the particularly visual world. Her practice is led by a series of experiments that aim to destroy traditional art structures of time and space. Elaine explores the notion that all cultures are hybrid, and there is no longer a pure obedient culture that preserves and thrives on its own. She seeks to express the moment when the boundary between obedience and hybridity breaks down, through a process of translation of her cultures.

### [Exhibition]

The Muse 2015, 2016 November, The Muse Gallery in Ultimo, NSW  
Graduate Exhibition 2017 November, The Muse Gallery in Ultimo, NSW  
ORIGINS 2018 April, Hazlehurst Gallery in Gymea, NSW  
Object of Influence 2019 May, AD Space in Paddington, NSW  
Interactive Artifacts 2019 August, Black Box in Paddington, NSW  
Jenny Birt Award Online Exhibition 2020 August  
A&D ANNUAL 2020 December, UNSW Gallery in Paddington, NSW  
IN GOOD COMPANY 2021 May, Gaffa Gallery in Sydney city, NSW  
A Fresh Perspective 2021 May, Kerrie Lowe Gallery in Newtown, NSW  
Mental Health and Me 2021 Sep, UNSW Library Gallery in Kensington, NSW

Pots Springs Eternal 2021 Oct, Kil.n.it in Glebe, NSW

Gosford Art Prize 2021 Nov, Gosford Regional Art Gallery in Gosford, NSW  
Curators Opinion Market 2021 Dec, Puzzle Art Gallery in Chippendale, NSW  
You Crack Me Up 2022 Apr, Kil.n.it in Glebe, NSW  
Tending to 2022 Apr, Kudos Gallery in Paddington, NSW  
We Are Kil.n.it 2022 July, Raft Artspace with the Australian Ceramics Triennale in Alice Springs, NT

### [Curatorial Project]

The Third Space 2021 Sep, Kudos Gallery in Paddington, NSW  
Ceramics and Emotions 2022 Apr, Kudos Gallery and Comber St Studio in Paddington, NSW  
Daily Rhythms 2022 May, Saywell Gallery in Marrickville, NSW

### [New Coming Projects]

CeramiXR: The Brilliance of Earth 2023 May, Comber St Studio in Paddington, NSW

### [Grant and Awards]

Penrith Show 2017 - Second Prize  
Jenny Birt Award 2020 - Finalist, Highly Commended  
Shelly Simpson Prize 2021 - Finalist  
Gosford Art Prize 2021 - Finalist  
Kudos Emerging Curator Award 2021 - Finalist  
Kudos Emerging Writer Award 2021 - Finalist

### [Published]

2022: Framework Collection #34 | Coalescence, Interviewed with Michelle Huynh  
월간예세이 in Seoul, Korea. Feb 202

## Artists

### Lucy Thurston

Currently complicating her Honours degree in Visual arts at the University of Sydney (Unceded Gadigal Land) Lucy Thurston is a multi-media artist with a focus in painting and collage. As an artist, she aims for her work to bring a sense of comfort, fun and nostalgia to the viewer. Like the illustration from a beloved children's book or a scene from your favourite film, last night's dream, Thurston intends for her art to provide an escape into a whimsical, silly scene, while reflecting on life.



### Shiya Lu

Shiya Lu is an artist and creative producer living and working on the traditional lands of the Wangal (Wentworth Point, Sydney). In 2012, she dropped out from the University of Oxford where she was studying Mathematics and began her career in cultural journalism and creative producing. Shiya's rich experience across different continents, cultures, and disciplines offered her a unique holistic and transdisciplinary approach towards her artistic practice. Shiya works across different disciplines including video, photography, installation, ceramics, performing arts, curating, and immersive technologies and she is always exploring new possibilities of creative expression.





Butterfly Dream Series - Model: Katherine Nheu

*In my dream, I was a butterfly.*

*I woke up ...*

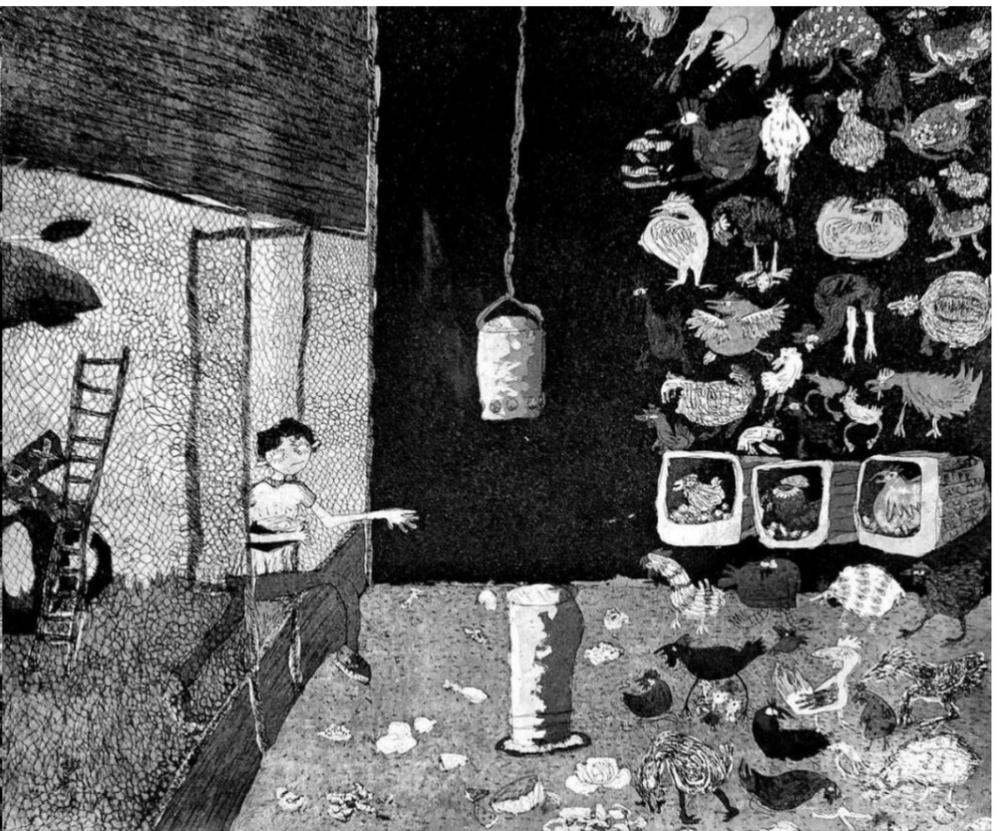
*Did I dream of being a butterfly*

*Or is the butterfly now dreaming of being me?*

*Daoist philosopher Zhuangzhou who lived around the 4th century BC, wrote the parable of the butterfly dream. He poetically addressed the constant flux between dreaming and awakening, and between joy and melancholy. Unable to distinguish between reality and imagination is a beautiful, transformative yet terrifying experience. Through these surreal photographs, I want to reconnect and translate some personal memories and explore the double meaning of dreaming.*

## **Peter Bourke**

Peter Bourke's practice centres on the exploration and depiction of memory. Through accessing and entering a dialogue with the inner child, Peter aims to expose and explore his mental space, exploring concepts of mental illness, childhood, and identity. His work takes place in a surreal, dream-like otherworld in which intangible psychic constructs can be materialised and interacted with. Through the physical process of artmaking, Peter interweaves past memory with present action, allowing the inner child to awaken and re-integrate into his present understanding of self, exposing and attempting to work through unaddressed traumas.



Artist Peter Bourke