

Chao-Ying Rao

Betty // *Femme Castratrice* (b.1991, China). Lives & works in Glasgow, Scotland
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Chao-Ying Rao (Femme Castratrice) is an East Asian visual artist based in Glasgow who primarily works with performance, photography, and moving image. Her practice involves negotiating the complexities around objectification and narcissism, often using humour to disarm and charm the viewer. Rao is interested in the absurdity of desire, excessive consumption, racial and bodily fetishisation, and abject femininity. Working with Kristeva's theory of abjection and Creed's monstrous feminine, her work plays with that very fine line between attraction and repulsion.

EDUCATION

Glasgow School of Art

BA(Hons) Fine Art: Painting & Printmaking (2017 - 2020)

Leith School of Art

Foundation Diploma Art & Design (2016-2017)

University of Edinburgh

MA(Hons) Philosophy and English Literature (2011-2015)

PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITIONS & SCREENINGS

- 2025
- *The Other Art Fair x East London Strippers Collective*. Truman Brewery, London
 - *The Participatory Clinic* (performance), curator: Shona MacNaughton. The Women's Library, Glasgow
 - *Narratives & CounterNarratives*, (moving image) Floating in Ecosystems, curator: Indigo Korres. Queer East Festival. Rio Cinema, London
 - *Gentlethems Club* (performance) Queer Theory. Nice'n'Sleazy, Glasgow
 - *Gobbling Market* (performance) BUZZCUT Double Thrills. CCA, Glasgow
 - *EUSEXUA: fka twigs album launch party* (performance) w/ Pixie Chanel. Ponyboy. SWG3, Glasgow
- 2024
- *Lesbian Vampires at the Swan Lake* (performance) w/ Pixie Chanel. Ponyboy Halloween. Stereo, Glasgow
 - *Pregnant Playboy Bunny* (performance) Grind Yer Axe. Rum Shack, Glasgow
 - *MANUAL* (performance) w/ Adam Kinner, Christopher Willis & Hanna Sybille Muller. Fierce Festival. The Library of Birmingham, Birmingham
 - *Narratives & Counternarratives* (moving image) Queer Asia, curators: Nat Hall & Huss. Scottish Queer International Film Festival. CCA, Glasgow
 - *Narratives & Counternarratives, The MILFsters* (moving image, photographic print) WORKING GIRLS! Curator: Mathilde Friis. Gallery 46, London
 - *GAYSCENSION* (spoken word) Queer Theory. Stereo, Glasgow
 - *Ponyboy x Inferno* (performance) Ponyboy. Exit, Glasgow

- *Narratives and Counternarratives* (moving image) (S)exhibition, curators: XRage & Museum of Sex Objects, London
- *The Other Art Fair x East London Strippers Collective*. Truman Brewery, London

2023

- *EXIT NYE PARTY*(performance) Healthym8. EXIT, Glasgow
- *Whorely Yours* (performance) Truth & Lies, curators: Arika, Sex Workers Union & National Ugly Mugs. Conway Hall, London.
- *Noughties Teenage Lullaby* (performance) Shae Myles' Hush Lil Baby, curators: 16 Collective. French Street Studios, Glasgow
- *Plenty More Fish in the Sea* (performance screening) Festival of the Accused + Light Source, curator: Amy Kingsmill. The British Library, London
- *Ponyboy's 1st birthday*(performance) Ponyboy. Stereo, Glasgow
- *Hotter than a Vindaloo, Untitled, Alex & Alex Smith* (Spoken word) Waterwings Press. Market Gallery, Glasgow
- *MANUAL* (performance) w/Adam Kinner, Christopher Willis & Hanna Sybille Muller. Take Me Somewhere Festival. The Mitchell Library, Glasgow
- *Hey Big Spender*(performance) w/ Len Goetzee. Cabbage Cabaret, curators: Len Goetzee & Cabbage Arts (Jenny Tipton). French Street Studios, Glasgow
- *Nun the Wiser*(performance) Queer Theory. Kelburn Garden Party, Scotland
- *Toxic Waste* (performance) Ponyboy x GSASA Degree Show Afterparty, The Art School, Glasgow
- *Leave* (performance) Sexquisite Cabaret. Bethnal Green Working Mens Club, London
- *Trolllops* (performance) The Berkeley Suite, Glasgow
- *Sirenes* (performance) Bonjour, Glasgow
- *How it Started* (performance) Lover2Lover, GSASA Valentines. The Art School, Glasgow
- *Triple Treats* (performance) Freaks Deserve Love too, curators: Ponyboy. Stereo, Glasgow

2022

- *Sound of the Underground* (performance) Cabbage Christmas Party, curator: Cabbage Arts (Jenny Tipton). French Street Studios, Glasgow
- *All Hail Aileen* (performance) Sexquisite Events. BGWMC London.
- *Forever Yours* (performance) Velvet Rage, by Queer Theory. Stereo, Glasgow
- *Ponyboy Showcase* (performance) Ponyboy. Bonjour, Glasgow
- *Let's Play a Game* (performance) Double Thrills, by BUZZCUT. CCA, Glasgow
- *Narratives and Counternarratives* (installation, moving image & performance) SKIN FLICKS, a duo exhibition w/ MV Brown. Cabbage Resilience Programme by Cabbage Arts. French Street Studios, Glasgow
- *Dolly Bird* (performance) Truth & Lies book launch, curators: Arika and NUMbrella Lane. CCA, Glasgow
- *Carpole Tunnel* (performance) Glasgow School of Art Degree Show Afterparty, GSASA. SWG3, Glasgow
- *All Hail Aileen* (performance) Aye Festival with Spit it Out. Stereo, Glasgow
- *TROLLOPS* (performance) The Berkeley Suite, Glasgow
- *Paper Dress of Forgotten History* (performance) IMPURITY! Sexquisite Events x Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Bishopsgate Institute, London
- *The MILEsters* (photographic print) Entheos, curators: Sam Ainsley, Sharon Thomas 7 Thyme James. Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts (RGI Kelly), Glasgow

2021

- *All Hail Aileen* (performance) Aye Festival with Spit it Out. Stereo, Glasgow
- *My Friend Tasha* (installation) at Open Cut. Wunderkammer. Transmission Gallery, Glasgow
- *Carpole Tunnel* (performance) featuring track by LADYfingers, Shoot Your Shot at The Great Western festival. The Alchemy Experiment, Glasgow

- *The True Holy Trinity* (photographic installation) Graduate Drive Thru NCP Glasshouse, Glasgow
- *Weathervanes* (performance) Dance International Glasgow. Tramway, Glasgow
- *Let's Play a Game & Close Up* (performance) Journey to the East Festival. St Luke's, Glasgow
- *Weathervanes* (performance) Dance Base, Edinburgh International Art Festival, Edinburgh
- *Nun the Wiser* (performance) Shoot Your Shot PRIDE. SWG3, Glasgow
- *Plenty More Fish in the Sea & Mr Hitchcock* (performances) Don't be Rice-ist. Cyber Clown Girls, online/LA
- *My Tits in the Age of Social Media.* (photography) Contemporary Figures, Society of Scottish Artists, online/Scotland
- *Let's Play a Game* (performance) Pretty Ugly. SaltSpace Co-op, Glasgow
- *Community & Care* (double performance) Cyber Clown Girls, online/LA

- 2020
- *Degree Show Simulator: DS2020* (virtual degree show) curator: Ben Hall, online/Glasgow
 - *GSA Graduate Showcase* (degree show) Glasgow School of Art, online/Glasgow
 - Glasgow School of Art Degree Show. Glasgow (cancelled by covid-19)
 - *More Excerpts* (screening) Center for Contemporary Art, Glasgow, (postponed)
 - *Lady Lumberjacks* (duo exhibition) w/ Sam Harley. GSASA, Glasgow

TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- 2024
- Visiting lecturer (artist talk & workshop) Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh
 - We Loving Devise Your Public Flop. (workshop) w/ Rachel McBrinn, Firefly Arts, Bathgate
 - *To Weaponise, To Fetishise.* (artist talk) Museum of Sex Objects, London
- 2023
- *Arika & Truth and Lies* (artist talk) w/ Arika & National Ugly Mugs. GSASA, Glasgow
- 2022
- *Tramp Stamping* (workshop) at West End Pole Academy, Glasgow
 - *Entheos* (artist talk) The Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts, Glasgow
- 2021
- *To Weaponise, To Fetishise* (artist talk) Light Source, curator: Amy Kingsmill. The Horse Hospital, London
 - *Imagining Meaningful Representation* (workshop) Researcher Activist Network, Napier Uni, online/Edinburgh

EXPERIENCE

- 2025
- Producer. *Decriminalised Futures*. Glasgow/London/Ireland/Remote (2024 onwards)
 - Consultant. SWERV. London School of Health and Tropical Medicine (2025 onwards)
 - *Freelance photographer*. Glasgow/London (2022 onwards)
 - Stripper. Edinburgh/Glasgow/London (2008 onwards)
- 2024
- Performance mentor. Ponyboy, Glasgow
 - Visiting Lecturer. Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh
 - *Consultant*. Grassroots Movement Fund. Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, UK

- Branch organiser. Sex Workers Union at Bakers and Food Allied Workers Union, London/remote (2022-2024)
- 2023
- Producer & curator. Truth & Lies w/Arika & NUM. Conway Hall, London
 - Producer. Trollops. Berkeley Suite, Glasgow
 - Co-director / Programming Committee. Transmission Gallery, Glasgow (2021-23)
- 2022
- Producer. Trollops. Berkeley Suite, Glasgow
 - Steering Group & panel host, Arika Mutual Aid, online/Glasgow
- 2021
- Producer & curator. Graduate Drive Thru, NCP Glasshouse, Glasgow
 - Press & media team. United Sex Workers at United Voices of the World. London
 - Advisory Committee. Glasgow Open House Art Festival, Glasgow
 - Campaign group. SCOT-PEP, Scotland
 - Life model. Online/Scotland
 - Blog curator. Dirty Slut Mouth, online/Glasgow

CONTRIBUTIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- 2025
- 'Hotter than a Vindaloo' (text) *Playing Femme*, Eds: 16 Collective. Glasgow
- 2024
- 'We Lovingly Devise Your Public Flop' (text+images) w/ Rachel McBrinn. *Leap Magazine*, ed. Xiaoyi Nie. Shanghai
 - 'Confessions pt 2' (radio show) w/ Militant Empathy. Clyde Built Radio & EHF double bill. Glasgow & Edinburgh
 - 'The Fight to Keep Scottish Strip Clubs Open' (images) Brit Dawson, *Vice*
- 2023
- Dead Girl, Found in Transmission. (text) Waterwings Press reading. Market Gallery, Glasgow
- 2022
- 'My Tits in the age of Social Media' (images) *The Debutante – The Feminist-Surrealist Arts Journal*, eds: Rachel Ashenden & Molly Gilroy. Edinburgh, Scotland.
 - 'You Have Been Banned from Tinder', zine, curator: Cabbage Arts (Jenny Tipton). Glasgow, Scotland.
 - 'Two Thousand and Eight' (text+images) *Truth & Lies: An Anthology of Art & Writing by Sex Workers* curated by Arika & NUMbrella Lane. Glasgow
 - 'Truth and Lies' (images) *Boom Saloon*. Online
 - Miss Polly Had a Dolly (images) *NSFTV – Not Safe for TV*. Singapore/Online
 - Queer Whore Collective: Straight for Pay (images) *Polyester Zine*. Online
 - 'United Sex Workers' legal challenge to Edinburgh strip club ban underway' (images) Sean Bell, *The National*
 - 'Will the closure of Edinburgh's strip clubs really benefit women in Scotland's capital?' (images) Caitlin Logan, *The National*
 - "I'll Have to Leave Edinburgh": Sex Workers' Fears After the City Bans Strip Clubs' (images) Polly Smythe, *Novara Media*
 - 'Women Face 'Serious Harm' As Local Councils Move to Ban Strip Clubs' (images) Danielle Wordan, *Each Other*

- 2021
 - 'Class War and Some Class Whores: Sex Workers Organising During Covid' (talk) w/ Scot-PEP. *Edinburgh Anarchist Feminist Bookfair*, online/Edinburgh
 - 'Sex Work and the Nordic Model w/ Freja & Elizabeth' (podcast) *The Importance of Being Feminist*, host: by Iris Pase. YWCA Scotland, online/Glasgow
- 2020
 - 'Feminism & Sex Work Series' (blog) *The Young Women's Movement Blog*, also available on the *Dirty Slut Mouth* blog, online
 - 'Sushi d*ck pics, destigmatising sex work, slut shaming ft Elizabeth aka Femme Castratrice' (podcast) *But Where Are You From?* besea.n (Britain's East and South East Asian Network) host: Viv Yau, online
 - *Ode to Selfie* (book) artist/curator, Glasgow

PRESS

- 2025
 - 'Gobbling Market' (Daring Work) Donald Steward, *FringeReview*
 - 'An Evening With – Double Thrills Review' (five stars) *The Effervescent Magazine*
 - 'Art & Defiance: Queer Bodies' *National Galleries of Scotland*
- 2024
 - 'Glam and Grotesque Looks from Queer Club Utopia, Ponyboy' *Dazed Beauty*
 - 'Glasgow Artist-led Charity Announces First Major Exhibition' Craig Williams, *The Herald*.
- 2023
 - 'Truth& Lies' by Pandora Blake on Patreon
- 2022
 - 'The List Hot 100 2022' *The List*
 - 'In the Wild: GSA Graduate-initiated projects' *The Skinny*
 - 'The Power I Feel When I Pole Dance' *BBC Loop / Scotland broadcast* (17th & 19th March 2022), online/Scotland
- 2021
 - 'Critic's Choice' *The Herald Magazine*, Scotland
 - 'Light Source presents Chao-Ying Rao: to weaponise, to fetishise at the Horse Hospital' Jamie McLaren, *Run-Riot*, London
 - Art graduates show work on roof of a multi-storey car park w/ Pauline McLean, *BBC News*, 24/09/2021
 - 'Grassroots art project opens on roof of Glasgow car park' *STV News*, Scotland
 - 'Galleries: Art lovers can get their fix in the most unusual of places' Jan Patience, *The Herald*, Scotland
 - "How very Glasgow" art graduates unveil installation on top of car park' Jane Cassidy, *The National*, Scotland
 - Journey to the East w/ Polly Bartlett, *STV News*, 28/08/2021
 - 'Adult content creators in the lurch as OnlyFans bans porn' Leonie Cater, *Politico Europe*
 - 'Journey to the East – Festival Preview' *Clyde Built Radio*, Glasgow
 - "Paralysed" sex doll takes to the stage in groundbreaking display with artist' Tom Towers, *DailyStar.co.uk*, UK
 - 'Sex Dolls Gone Wild' Adults Only (TV Series), *Channel 5*, UK
 - 'Pretty Ugly: A Non-Binary/Trans Masc Perspective' *Artificial Womb Zine*, Glasgow

- 2020 ▪ ['Instagram's cruel & unusual guidelines: how they blacklist marginalized bodies'](#) Katherine Breeher, *The Revival Zine* at Sonoma State, Sonoma State University, CA, USA

RESIDENCIES, AWARDS & FUNDING

- 2025 ▪ Creative Scotland Open Fund for Individuals
- 2024 ▪ CCA Creative Lab, w/ Rachel McBrinn
▪ Studio Somewhere, Take Me Somewhere
- 2023 ▪ BUZZCUT Emerging Artist Award
▪ Performer of the Year, Sexual Freedom Awards
- 2022 ▪ The List Hot 100 2022
▪ Cabbage Resilience Programme
- 2021 ▪ Hospitalfield Graduate Residency
▪ The William Syson Foundation
▪ The Hope Scott Trust
▪ Glasgow School of Art
- 2020 ▪ SPUR Virtual Residency, (community member)

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2019- Sex Workers Union @ BFAWU
2025 Scottish Artists Union