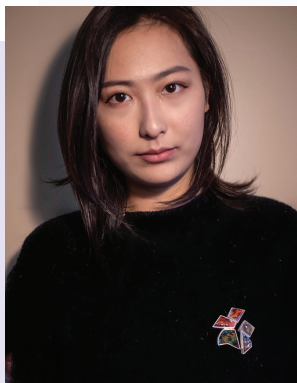


BFA Senior Thesis Conversations featuring Fan (Fran) Zhang

Questions by Daniela Segovia



Artist's Statement

I always feel a sense of distance and fear when standing in front of the imposing solidity of giant buildings and installations, but at the same time, the movement and dynamism I see after closer examination brings me joy and curiosity. These contradictory feelings inspire me to make miniature sculptures and wearable jewelry so that I can shrink my fear to a human-scaled size. The process of making and con around me. I like turning clay, resin, leather, fabric, wood, and especially metal into different objects, and watching different possibilities becoming a reality.

Before becoming a jewelry artist/designer, I had a strong interest in mathematics. This drove me to think about different possibilities in degrees and centimeters when designing my art projects. Four years of working with my hands in studios helped me to understand the mechanical theories of objects around me, like how hinges and cars work. These experiences pushed me to think more accurately and creatively. I assemble pieces of metal and other materials in many layers that can be opened to reveal multiple uses or made interactive with movable parts.

I went to the zoo in China and observed different animals' movements every weekend when I was a kid. Now as I grow up, these memories attract me to do more research and understand the relationships between animals and human beings that they are meant to cure people and bring us pleasure. I cast and enamel different creatures to capture their actions, so that I can hold with- in my hand and carry around these personal memories.

See more of Fran's work on Instagram at [@fanzjewelry](https://www.instagram.com/fanzjewelry).



What is your thesis investigating?

My thesis investigates multiple use in jewelry, the design of my pieces involves a lot of mechanism theories and mathematics studies.

What is the question you are trying to answer for yourself through your practice?

What is the simplest way to solve the design and show my stories to my viewers?



How has your project evolved?

After COVID-19, I built up my home studio, and started to work with many other materials which can satisfy my limitations, for example, use magnets to replace hinges for holding boxes.

What or who are your major influences?

My inspiration often comes from several different aspects, sometimes can be the movements of animals, sometimes can be contemporary architectures, sometimes can be a simple straight line.

What's next for you?

I am going to graduate school for jewelry/metal arts after graduation.

