

Here, illustration student Xiangzi Xu reflects on the [UN]Commoning Architectural Language Symposium, organized by CCA Architecture and MoAD.

Their illustration weaves together some of the main themes brought up by presenters Lonny Brooks, Nyame Brown, Bz (Brenda) Zhang, and Ife Salema Vanable: how do our connections to land manifest in our bodies? In our psyche? How does our bodies' response to our environments affect our worldview? And how do those views then, in turn, affect our environments and the many species making homes in them? Where is the place for radical imagination in architecture? Xu's fluid style mirrors the many ideas brought together through the symposium, providing visualization for how "cultural movements like Afrofuturism and Afrosurrealism can reveal new languages of spatial imagination." –Katherine Jemima Hamilton, editor in chief



Xiangzi Xu is an illustrator with many years of art training and has many styles of painting. Skilled in using various drawing software and traditional media. During their senior year, they were awarded the Society of Illustrators Student Scholarship 2022.