

HUANG SHIH CHIEH

A Presentation by Ruby Baker



Born in 1975 in Taiwan, in his childhood Huang was captivated by the unique energy of the night markets he would regularly visit while growing up. The vibrant, unexpected things that he would experience there impacted him profoundly, and these magical, communal environments can be seen as a clear influence in his work.

Huang's experimentations in installation began as a child:

“I liked to make environments for people to explore and play. In these early installations, I would take plastic sheets, plastic bags, and things I would find in the hardware store or around the house. I would take things like highlighter pen, mix it with water, pump it through plastic tubing, creating these glowing circulatory systems for people to walk through and enjoy. I like these materials because of the way they look, the way they feel, and they're very affordable.”



Organic Concept, 2017

Painters tarp, box fan,
bungee cord

Part of his Installation
Reusable Universes

Renaissance Court of the
Worcester Art Museum



“Sometimes when I look at these pieces, I just see trash bags and fans, controlled in a certain way so that they’re moving; it’s very straightforward. But sometimes, I think that’s a cell, heart, a lung, a sea creature. I don’t want to tell the viewer how they should be looking.”



Technology, Sustainability, Biology and the Mundane

- Science and Biology fascinate Huang and heavily influence his work
- During a research fellowship in 2007 at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum looking at bioluminescent organisms in the ocean, Huang fell in love with these creatures:

“I love the way they look, the way they feel. They're soft, they're slimy, and I was fascinated by the way they use light in their environment, either to attract mates, for self-defense, or to attract food. This research inspired my work in many different ways, things like movement or different light patterns.”



Seductive Evolution of Animated Illumination, 2013

Glass, micro controller,
computer cooling fans,
plastic, LED, electric cables



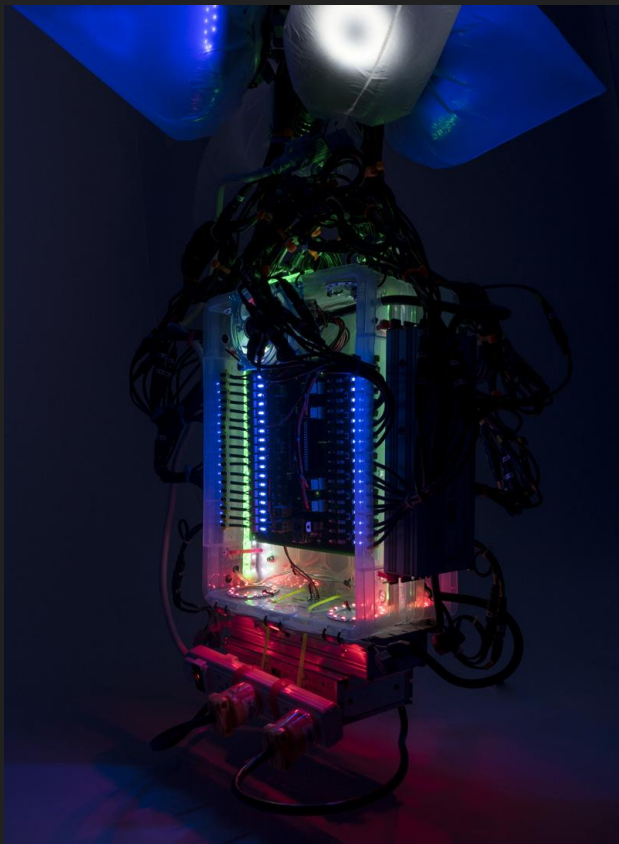




Cubozoa-L-09 2009, Brisbane.



Connected: Eject before disconnecting, 2009



VT-34-BTB (blue angel eye),
2017



VT-34-BTB (Red Angel Eye),
2017

“Shih Chieh Huang’s work injects art with science and technology. The artist creates site-specific installations that combine high-tech and everyday recycled materials with handyman aesthetics to form environments that are simultaneously playful, graceful, dynamic, fragile, and uncanny.”

From the RISD Museum

For More Information:

- <http://www.messymix.com/>
- <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/shih-chieh-huang-recycled-universe-origin-story-1018187>
- <https://risdmuseum.org/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/shih-chieh-huang-connected>
- <https://ideas.ted.com/gallery-buzzing-moving-multi-tentacled-sculptures-made-out-of-the-stuff-of-our-lives/>