# Postbug - Multicentric Community Building Exploring Human-Insect Sympoiesis Through Speculative Artistic Practice

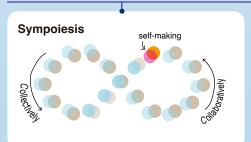
Yiran Zhang School of Arts & Culture, Newcastle University, Newcastle, United Kingdom

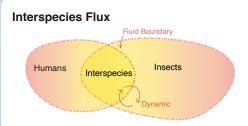


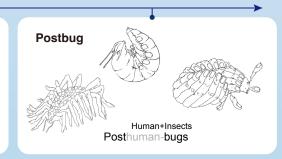
#### INTRODUCTION

Inspired by the 1978 Chinese cartoon Strange Patient, this project challenges conventional hierarchies of "beneficial insects", "pests", and other species, while questioning anthropocentric classification. Through participatory art practice, it reimagines the boundaries between humans and non-humans, especially insects, envisioning the creation of a sympoietic interspecies community called Postbugs.

#### **FRAMEWORK**







#### **METHODS**

#### 1. Artistic Workshop

Speculative Fabulation

Hybrid Media Creation

Printing, Drawing, Collage, Writing,

### **OUTCOMES&DOCUMENTATION**

#### **Workshop Artifacts**







By collaboratively creating visual representations and narratives of Postbugs, we explore how artistic methods foster encounters between human and insect life beyond conventional taxonomies.

### 2. Experimental Performance

Vocal

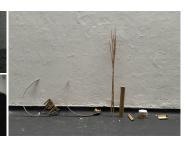
**Body Movements** 

Self-made Instruments

#### **Performance Documentation**







Through improvisational performances, participants simulate transformations from humans to hybrid entities.

This process blurring rigid species boundaries, opening up new ways of being.

## **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

- · Art books featuring the works of Postbug.
- $\cdot$  Regular live performances at various locations, accompanied by documentary presentations.
- · Curating immersive exhibitions on Sympoiesis.

#### **REFERENCE**

- · Agamben, G. (1993). The coming community. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press (Theory out of bounds, v. 1).
- · Braidotti, R. and Hlavajova, M. (2018). Posthuman Glossary. Bloomsbury Academic Press.
- Haraway, D.J. (2016). Staying with the trouble: making kin in the Chthulucene. Durham: Duke University Press.
- · Shanghai Film Studio Co., Ltd. (1978). Strange Patient. YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKHhMUtuelk.

