

Minnesota  
Street  
Project  
Foundation



THE  
SPACE  
PROGRAM  
SAN FRANCISCO

Joint Space Award Presents  
**Connie Zheng: *new yamfish seed exchange (nyse)***

June 26 – July 31, 2021



*Connie Zheng in residency at The Space Program San Francisco.*

**Exhibition Opens During Minnesota Street Project's Summer Party**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, June 21, 2021 – Minnesota Street Project Foundation and The Space Program San Francisco are pleased to announce ***new yamfish seed exchange (nyse)***, an exhibition by the Joint Space Award grantee, **Connie Zheng**. Opening on Saturday, June 26, 2021— coinciding with the Minnesota Street Project Summer Party — the exhibition will be on view through July 31, 2021, at 1275 Minnesota Street Project in Gallery 211 and on Adjacent, Minnesota Street Project's virtual space. The *nyse* was created for the Joint Space Award by Zheng. The Joint Space Award is supported by Minnesota Street Project Foundation and The Space Program San Francisco.

## For Immediate Release

Zheng's *nyse* is a micro-inversion of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), the world's largest stock exchange with billions of dollars in equity bought and sold daily. These investments are made with the hope of specific returns. The *nyse* is a prototype for a different investment ecosystem, rooted in speculative fiction rather than financial speculation. At the *nyse*, new futures are imagined.

The interactive multimedia exhibition invites viewers to imagine planting the beginnings of a new future. Zheng asks, "Whether you plant money melons and yamfish or drought-resistant wheat and climate-justice seeds, your mind is fertile. Does it matter that yamfish are not real if they might help us cross into generative new territory? What divisions would you bridge? What inequities would you repair?"

Zheng's work encourages the public to become collaborators, considering what sprouts from their communities and cultures, from science fiction to ancient history. As a creative laboratory, *nyse* features a wall-sized map documenting migrations of major food plants over several millennia, mixed-media prints suggesting speculative germination sequences, and short experimental films about rumored seeds. Visitors are invited to take free soil and postcards, seed-making kits and non-GMO seeds sourced from independent growers. In exchange, Zheng encourages visitors to leave behind seeds of their own, whether real or conceptual.

"This collaboration provided an artist with the opportunity to be creatively ambitious knowing they have the support of The Space Program, Minnesota Street Project, and Minnesota Street Project Foundation," says The Space Program co-founder Jacob Pritzker. "It is a unique partnership of neighboring Dogpatch organizations that amplifies our respective support for Bay Area artists."

"Increased collaboration with neighboring organizations and presenting new ways for visitors to experience art has been our goal since founding the Project five years ago. With Connie Zheng's project and the support of The Space Program we have achieved both," comments Deborah Rappaport, President, Minnesota Street Project Foundation.

*new yamfish seed exchange (nyse)* opens on June 26, 2021 and runs through July 31, 2021. The exhibition is free and open to the public at 1275 Minnesota Street Project in Gallery 211 or online. For information on the Project's social distancing requirements and hours of operations visit:

<http://minnesotastreetproject.com>.

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**Minnesota Street Project  
Summer Party  
Saturday, June 26, 2021**

Celebrate togetherness after more than a year apart at the Minnesota Street Project Summer Party. Project galleries across campus will remain open late for exhibition visits. Fort Point beer, a bar by Besharam, and a food truck will be available. Stop by, see friends old and new, and toast to the summer.

## For Immediate Release

**Where:** 1275 Minnesota St. & 1150 25th St.

**When:** 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 26, 2021

In recognition of the new COVID guidelines in California, vaccinated visitors are no longer required to wear masks in the atrium and other public parts of 1275 Minnesota St. Unvaccinated visitors are required to wear masks, and of course, anyone who chooses to wear a mask is welcome to do so. We respectfully urge anyone who has any symptoms of COVID or has recently been exposed to anyone with COVID to refrain from visiting. Individual galleries may choose to enforce different guidelines and these guidelines might change based on the number of visitors in a gallery at any one time.

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### About Connie Zheng

Connie Zheng is a Chinese-born artist, writer and filmmaker living in Oakland, California. Zheng's practice moves between screen-based media, drawing, painting, text and installation, and primarily examines diasporic memory, ecological elegy, and divergent articulations of hope from an environmental justice perspective. Zheng's recent work is organized around the fraught histories and migrations of seeds, as well as the ways in which bio-matter simultaneously embodies humans' hopes for survival and our fears of contamination. Rooted in the idea of home as a contested space, Zheng's practice treats seeds as immigrant vessels for dreaming, self-sufficiency and transformation in ecologically and politically hostile environments.



### About Joint Space Award

[Joint Space Award](#) is a collaborative grant-making program created through a unique collaboration between the Minnesota Street Project Foundation and The Space Program San Francisco. The opportunity was for an individual BIPOC artist or pair of collaborating artists. The chosen grantee received \$5,000, plus up to \$5,000 in materials budget to create artwork during a residency at The Space Program and an exhibition at the 1275 Minnesota Street Project Galleries, as well as virtually on Minnesota Street Project Adjacent.

The Joint Space Award grant is administered by the Minnesota Street Project Foundation, a nonprofit organization. Recommendations for Joint Space Award grantees were made through a juried selection process comprising Bay Area artists and arts leaders.

For information visit: <https://minnesotastreetproject.org/joint-space-award>

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **About The Space Program San Francisco**

The Space Program San Francisco is a San Francisco-based residency, providing artists across a range of disciplines with the space, tools, and time to create. In a city facing rapidly diminishing spaces for creative pursuits The Space Program San Francisco aims to be an oasis for artists. Our goal is to nurture and revitalize the vibrant artistic culture that has long defined the Bay Area. The Space Program provides resident artists across a range of disciplines with the space, tools, and time to create. Residents have access to a 2,500 sq. ft. warehouse studio with screen printing facilities, a painting studio, wood and metal shop tools, plus a recording studio, and external capabilities in ceramics, fabrication, and sculpture. [www.spaceprogramsf.com](http://www.spaceprogramsf.com)

### **About Minnesota Street Project Foundation**

Established in 2019, Minnesota Street Project Foundation embarks on initiatives to further develop the diversity and vibrancy of arts-related culture within and beyond the Project's model. Through collaboration, the Foundation advances educational and civic programming and provides direct financial support to artist and arts organizations. The Foundation commits to fostering relationships with local, national, and international businesses, individuals, and institutions to support the evolving landscape of art practice and patronage. [www.minnesotastreetprojectfoundation.org](http://www.minnesotastreetprojectfoundation.org)

*Minnesota Street Project Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.*

**Photo Captions:** Courtesy of Connie Zheng. Image credit Brian von Bargen and Evan Karp.