

Lù Chén

Participatory Research, Data Visualisation, and Media Art

Portfolio l-lu-u.github.io/

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Education

2020–2025 Espoo, Finland	Aalto University Master of Arts in New Media, Minor in Creative Sustainability, Thesis “ Something that connects people: Pluralising the Nokia design archive through social remembering ” Bachelor of Arts in Design and Media, Minor in Information Design, Thesis “ From Workshops to Civic Life: Participatory Design in Supporting Immigrants’ Civic Engagement in Finland ”
2012–2016 Singapore	National University of Singapore Bachelor of Computing (Honours) in Information Systems.
Jan–June 2015 Istanbul, Turkey	Sabanci University Exchange studies, Computer Science and Visual Arts
July 2017 Kyoto, Japan	Doshisha University Summer school, Japanese Language and Culture Studies

Work Experience

Jan 2026–present Helsinki, Finland / Hybrid	Media Lab Onto Co-Founder, Participatory Research & Design Strategy Co-founded Onto, a media lab, conducting exploratory research, development, and artistic projects regarding digital archiving and AI ethics for news media, GLAM institutes, and public sector.
Nov 2025–Feb 2026 Helsinki, Finland	Demos Helsinki Junior Expert Coordinated and assisted research activities for international projects, especially in qualitative data analysis and visualisation; Designed participatory sessions for Demos20 anniversary event.
2023–2026 Espoo, Finland	Aalto University Research Assistant Nokia Design Archive - Designed and developed interactive data visualisation and digital archival portal; RISE Network in Fashion & Textile - Visualised the doctoral network and the literature review; Happy Hour Machine - Department of Art & Media teaching staff workload visualiser.
2024–2025 Espoo, Finland	Teaching Assistant Assisted the teaching and tutored BA students for course “Introduction to Research in Design and Media”
Oct–Dec 2022 Helsinki, Finland	ATARCA EU Research Assistant Produced educational video “Food futures: Learning by Doing”, finalist of the World Commons Week Teaching Video Contest
2016–2020 Singapore	Titansoft Pte Ltd User Experience Designer Led the internal git-based design system project to improve knowledge management across three offices;

Honours & Awards

2023 & 2025, International

Information is Beautiful Awards

Short List (2025)

Project “**Nokia Design Archive**”

Long List (2023)

Project “**Immigration in Finnish Election: An analysis on voting machine data**”

2018, Singapore

Adobe x General Assembly Creative Jam

Best Experience Design Award & People’s Choice Award

Prototype of digital service “**SoilMate: Inter-generational Solidarity through Urban Farming**” for “creating thriving neighbourhoods in Singapore”

2015, Singapore

Montage Photography Award First Prize in Youth Category

Photo titled “**An Extended Moment**” for the competition themed “Reminiscence”, exhibited in Objectifs, Centre for Photography and Film

2011, Singapore

Singapore Tertiary Chinese Literature Awards

Lianhe Zaobao Gold Award

Novella “**In Memory of My Friend Zhou Xiaofu**” received the Lianhe Zaobao Gold Award of the batch, published on the newspaper’s special issue

Languages

Chinese	native / bilingual
English	native / bilingual
Japanese	JLPT N2
Finnish	A2~B1

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Publications & Exhibitions

- Nov 2025 **WiderScreen**
Reunanen, Markku, Adela Lujza Lučenič, Petra Noppari & Lù Chén. 2025. "External, Integrated and Digital Personalization: How the Mobile Phone Became Unique". WiderScreen Ajankohtaista. <https://widerscreen.fi/numerot/ajankohtaista/external-integrated-and-digital-personalization-how-the-mobile-phone-became-unique/>
- Dec 2025 **ARCHIVIO Magazine**
Chén, Lù, & Minna Hölttä. 2025. "Aalto University Opens Access to Nokia's Design Heritage"
- Sep–Oct 2025
Espoo, Finland **Design for Cooler Planet**
Marsio, Aalto University
Exhibition and interactive activity design for the Nokia Design Archive project
- Aug–Sep 2025
Imatra, Finland **"Välillä Väärässä" Group Exhibition**
Imatran Väärätalo
Participatory art "Löytötavarat/Lost & Found" on personal and communal memories with Vera Rantamaa
- July 2025
Helsinki, Finland **Panoramic Unapologetic Kinetic Embodiment**
Asbestos Art Space
Mixed media exhibition on panoramic photography with Vertti Luostarinen
- June 2025
Espoo, Finland **Visualizing Knowledge**
Aalto University
Lightening talk on archival visualisation, showcasing 3 data art and information design projects
- Feb 2025
Tallinn, Estonia **DIGHT-Net workshop: Building the Digital Archive of a Scholar**
Tallinn University
Chén, Lù. 2025. "Building Nokia Design Archive: Weave with records and lived experience in information design", [seminar presentation]. Tallinn University.
- Oct 2024
Helsinki, Finland **Aavistus x Off The Wall**
Helsinki City Museum
Generative, audiovisual data art "Sonic Fetus / 阵痛"
- Aug–Sep 2024
Helsinki, Finland **Book Launch "Here, Not"**
Suomenlinna HIAP Gallery Augusta
Designed and contributed to publication "Here, Not" by curator Micol Curatolo, investigating how arts and culture address belonging, identity and access in the urban spaces of Helsinki.
- Jun-Aug 2015
İstanbul, Turkey **"Studies on Photobook" Group Exhibition**
Gallery Mixer
Artist book "Echo/回响"

Cultural Work & Advocacy Activities

Feb–Mar 2026, Espoo, Finland

EMMA | Espoo Museum of Modern Art

Art & Craft Workshop Facilitation

Designed and facilitated craft workshops with designer Burak Türköz for the Lunar New Year Open Art Workshop and Children's Museum Festival

Jan 2026–present, Espoo, Finland

Media Lab Library Project

Catalog Management

Assisted in registering and managing the catalog of books and audiovisual materials for the community library of Helsinki Media Lab at Aalto University

Sep 2025, Espoo, Finland

Kolibri Festivaali

Art & Craft Workshop Facilitation

Designed and facilitated workshop "A Lantern for Wishes" with designer Burak Türköz, focusing on open design and reusability of material, see documentation: <https://l-lu-u.github.io/projects/2025-a-lantern-for-wishes/>

Nov 2023–Oct 2025, Espoo, Finland

AYY RepCo

Council Member for ProArte

Vice chair for ProArte from Nov 2023 until Dec 2024, focusing on international student rights and participation of arts association in student culture.

June–Aug 2023, Helsinki, Finland

Startup Refugees x Flow Festival

Space & Visual Design

Designed and constructed the "Urban Oasis" tent for migrant entrepreneurs to test out business ideas at the music festival

May–Jul 2013, Kyiv, Ukraine

AIESEC "World without Borders"

Volunteer Summer School Teacher

Designed and conducted 8 learning sessions about cross-cultural communication for primary and upper secondary level students