

Artist Biographies

Shihen (Aster) Lin is a Taiwan-born artist currently based in Melbourne. Her practice explores migration, space, and belonging through drawing, installation, and photography, informed by her own experiences of relocation. Aster completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Taiwan (National Changhua University of Education) and is undertaking a Master of Fine Arts in Melbourne (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology). Her work has been exhibited in both Taiwan and Australia, often engaging with the community, such as *The Other Side of the Mountain* (2022); Miaoli Art Festival (2021); Land Art Workshop Kyutaro(2021); Changhua International Arts Festival - Art Tour Nanguo(2021). Alongside her studio practice, Aster has worked as an art and calligraphy instructor at Shan Yan Dog Dog Studio in Taiwan, gaining experience in leading creative workshops. This background informs her interest in participatory projects such as *Swallows of Belonging*, which extend personal narratives into community contexts.

Artist Statement

My practice explores the themes of migration, space, and belonging, shaped by my own experience of moving from Taiwan to Australia. I am interested in how personal memory and cultural background influence the way we perceive and reconstruct our living environments. Through my work, I reflect on the disorientation and adaptation that migration brings, and how these shifts reshape our understanding of home.

I work across mixed media, including drawing, installation, and photography. Recurring motifs such as maps, architectural outlines, and the swallow appear in my practice as metaphors for displacement and return. The swallow, in particular, resonates with me as both a migratory bird and a cultural symbol in Taiwan, where it represents family, continuity, and home. By incorporating these elements, I translate personal narratives into visual forms that also invite broader conversations about identity and belonging.

I view my art as a means to foster dialogue between personal and collective experiences. Whether through intimate drawings or participatory workshops, my aim is to create spaces where others can reflect on their own journeys and connections to place. Ultimately, my practice asks how we carry, transform, and share the idea of home across different geographies and cultures.