Biography:

Jie Guan is a dynamic and motivated artist in Digital Painting and Expanded Animation at OCAD University. His educational background and proven work ethic to guide and support projects related to drawing and painting, animation, visual effect, and more. Out-of-the-box thinker who champions innovative solutions to integrate best practices and drive continuous improvement, with experimenting in Mixed Reality and Internet-of-Things tools, Robot Operating System, Telepresence, and Teleoperation research, etc. His research in Adaptive Context Environment (ACE) Lab had presented in the IEEE VR conference (2020) as video proceeding. He attempts to embody the theory of posthuman, cyberspace in his future artworks. Currently, he is making his Capstone project and as Research Assistance to explore the hybrid virtual and physical object with networking technologies. He attempts to pursue an MFA degree in Digital Art in the next two years, as well as continuing researching posthuman and cyberspace theory and embody them as artworks in his future career.

Artist Statement:

“The Last Cyborgian Plant” is an interactive installation of a “cyborg plant” (the combination of organism and robot) running on the space. It attempts to explore the potential of hybrid physical and virtual object, the interconnection between human and machine and an innovational interaction method for Extended Reality elements. The title of this work attempt to immerse the audiences’ imagination in a futurist scene, telling them this is an adventure to explore the possibility of what our society will be in the future. The “cyborg plant” is the embodiment of Donna Haraway’s “﻿A Cyborg Manifesto”, addressing “﻿A cyborg is a cybernetic organism, a hybrid of machine and organism, a creature of social reality as well as a creature of fiction”. As I mention above, “cyborg plant” is the combination of robot body and organic plant, and this can be extended into human body in future project. Moreover, the presenting of “millions of brightly colored plastic wholesale items sold in Chinese superstores” in Mika Rottenberg’s “Cosmic Generator”, is the inspiration of the texture I applying to the “holder” and the body of the “cyborg plant”. As my understanding, the “millions of brightly colored” in my project presented the inclusive future of human society, and accessibility for Children, Disability, Elder, etc.