

# Kathy Wu

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Dear Anji Play educators,

I first heard about Anji's new approach to learning through a friend, who described Anji teachers as "Ethnographers." It inspired me how Anji educators study play processes with such respect, observing instead of imposing ways young people create knowledge and become socialized.

I'm writing you to request a research fellowship position, where I can learn from and assist with educators on-site in Dipu. I'm a Masters Candidate at NYU Tisch School of Arts, and in my thesis next year I plan to create projects about "learning to learn," and teaching as an art form. Onsite, I would like to help with research, as well as help staff with written, filmed, and/or published documentation.

At NYU Tisch, I study Interactive Telecommunications— a program which lets students explore topics in art, technology, and society. These days, I'm interested in education not as a transference of knowledge, but rather a way of learning to create knowledge for oneself. You can believe science, but do you ever actually know it? How do you ever know something?

I'm a first generation Chinese-American who grew up in an unofficial Montessori school. I've spent years thinking about how moments of hands-on openness influenced my view of the world. Half of my family is from Zhejiang province; as a child I heard stories about traditional Chinese pedagogy as rote and metric-driven.

Anji is a refreshing example that counters traditional pedagogies, but also makes space for a new Chinese education— in a world where Western educators define new models. Much of the popularized "innovation" in education is pioneered by white, often male educators. I feel like Anji is doing truly important, revolutionary work.

Thank you for your time. I hope to hear from you about an opportunity.

Kathy Wu

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