



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0P1Ld9u9LVw>

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Coexistence of Beliefs

Tibetan Culture Interactive Installation Immersive Experience
Mixed Media Art Religious Art

This is an installation art project about **Tibetan culture and religion**. I attempt to reflect on **the coexistence of faith and humanity** by recreating **the process of spiritual practice**.

Humans are beings who seek a deeper understanding of the meaning of life, while faith is the interpretation of the transcendent world by ancient sages.

Both aim to comprehend the essence and value of life.

How can we coexist with faith?



Arduino IDE



Rhino 8



TouchDesigner



Keyshot



AutoCAD

Individual Design Four months

Inspiration

From my immersive experience in the Tibetan region of Laging.

In July 2023, I entered the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau for the first time as a volunteer teacher, rather than as a tourist.

■ Faith is everywhere.



Mani Stone Pile



Prayer Flags

■ In these scenes, processions of pilgrims and worshippers can be seen every day



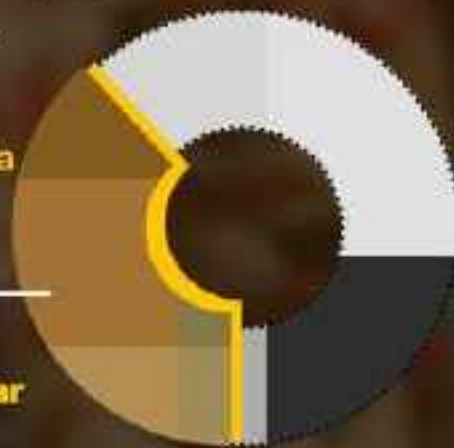
Doly Attendant



Pilgrim Child

■ Each year, nearly 140 days in the Tibetan calendar are devoted to religious festivals like **Losar**, the **Washing Festival**, and **Saka Dawa**

140 religious festival days per year



Observing local beliefs and customs from an outsider's perspective led me to contemplate the relationship between religion and the human mind and body.

Research

01 About Tibetan Beliefs



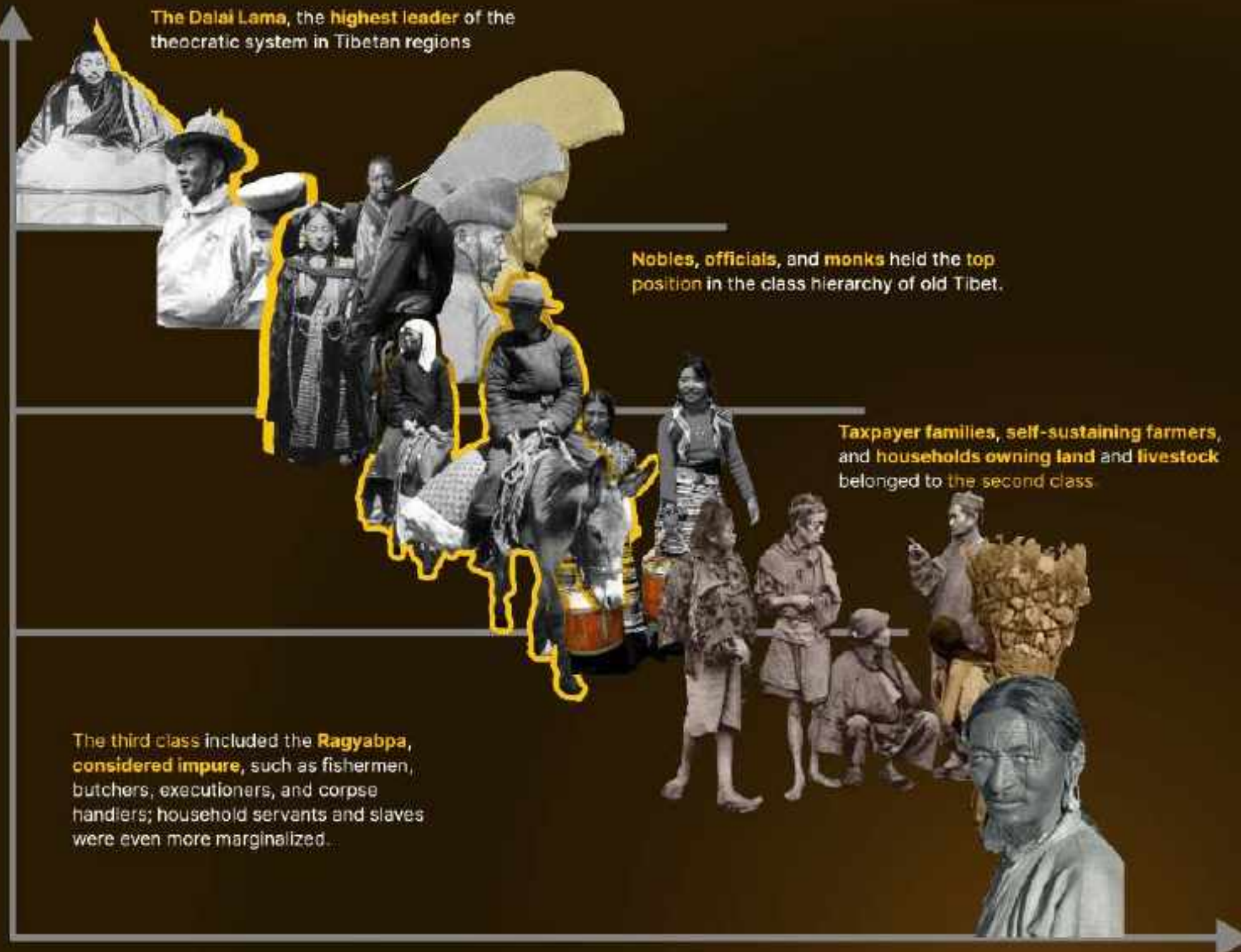
Survey data on the religious beliefs of minors in Tibetan areas



Overall religious affiliation data of Tibetan adults

In Tibetan society, some individuals adopt religious beliefs in adulthood due to various social influences. This shift in faith is not merely a personal choice but is deeply shaped by the unique class structure and cultural atmosphere of old Tibetan society.

02 Class Structure of Old Tibetan Society



In old Tibet, below the Dalai Lama, society was **divided into three classes**.

Among the first class, **only monks were non-hereditary**, serving as the **sole connection for commoners of the second class to access the first class**.

03 Tibetan Religious Practices

As faith evolves in Tibetan society, many believers deepen their beliefs through religious practices. With **pilgrimage** being a **key practice** that reflects personal devotion and the pursuit of physical, mental, and spiritual fulfillment.



Insight

- Tibetan society is primarily based on **Tibetan Buddhism**, with many people transitioning from non-believers to practitioners due to **societal influence**.
- The characteristics of this belief are deeply influenced by **the class structure** of old Tibet.
- Many practices in religious devotion are rooted in **harm**.

In the process of harm being internalized, I attempt to reflect on the boundaries where the body and faith coexist.

Ideation



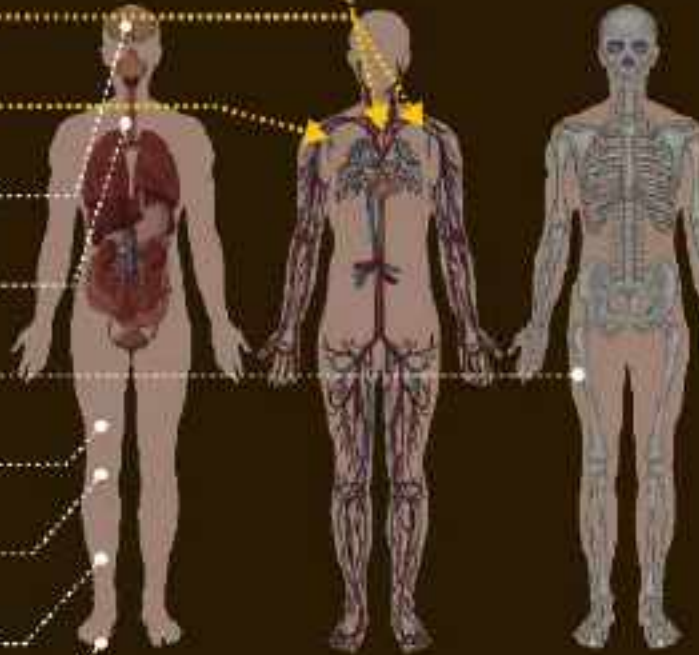
Concept

Design an **interactive installation** centered around 'spiritual practice,' where the act of 'worship' serves as the interaction, allowing participants to experience and reflect on the process of spiritual practice. The installation **visualizes different stages and depths of the practice**, guiding participants to contemplate its essence and meaning.

Deep Research

01 Symbol: The Ten Stages of Freedom

"The Ten Stages of Freedom" is a key concept in Tibetan Buddhism, referring to a practitioner's journey of continuous cultivation and awakening, leading to complete freedom and liberation from all attachments and afflictions.

	Sanskrit Letters	Latin Translation	Ten States	Represented Objects	Corresponding Body Parts	Body Correspondence Diagram
		Pattern		Void	Central Channel	
		Pattern		Body	Left Channel	
		Pattern		Wisdom	Right Channel	
	ham	ham		Formless Realm	Crown of the Head	
	ksa	ksa		Form Realm	Forehead to Throat	
	ma	ma		Desire Realm	Skeleton	
	la	la		Solid Earth	Thigh	
	va	va		Water	Knee	
	ra	ra		Fire	Lower Leg	
	ya	ya		Wind	Sole of the Foot	

I have extracted and created the symbolic text of 'The Ten Stages of Freedom,' using this religious element to symbolize the faith in people's hearts.

02 Sketch /Design Process



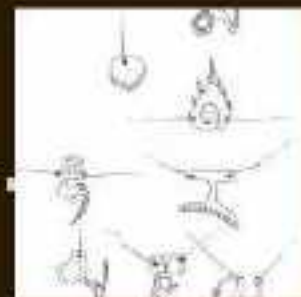
Evolved Symbol



CAD Engineering Drawing



Film Blanking Product



Punch, Cutting Sketch



Final Product

Installation & Interaction



The installation design, inspired by the butter lamps in Tibetan temples, features a lamp base and spherical light, symbolizing the earth and heavens.



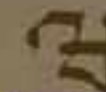
Incense

The Tibetan backflow incense symbolizes the internalization of spiritual consciousness through its reversed smoke flow.



Apple

The apple represents the human body, and as consciousness deepens, the symbols turn into blades that cause harm.



Symbolic blades

Blades represent different body parts, suspended in the sphere. According to the Bhagavad Gita, these symbols do not belong to the earth.



Lamp base structure

Mortise and tenon joint design.

Interaction

I divided the observed motions of prostration into four levels of interaction.

Anjali Mudra

The system does not activate when people are naturally performing the worship.

Bowing in worship

When the participant bends slightly and their head is lower than some symbols, the system activates at 5-10 RPM.

Kneeling on both knees

When the participant kneels with their head lower than the entire spherical part, the system speed is 20-35 RPM.

Prostration

When the participant prostrates, the system speed reaches 35-50 RPM.

Coding

01 Use **Mediapipe** to measure and capture the various nodes of the human body.

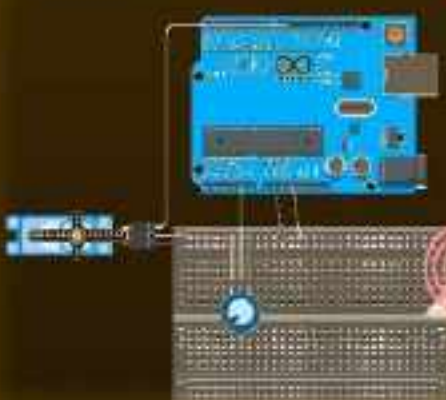


02 Establish a three-axis coordinate system at the **Nose, Shoulder, Hip, Knee, and Ankle** of the human body.

03 Use the **Math** algorithm in **TouchDesigner** to calculate the distance between key points.



05 The signals exported by the **Firmata protocol** are sent to **Arduino** to activate the **servo**.

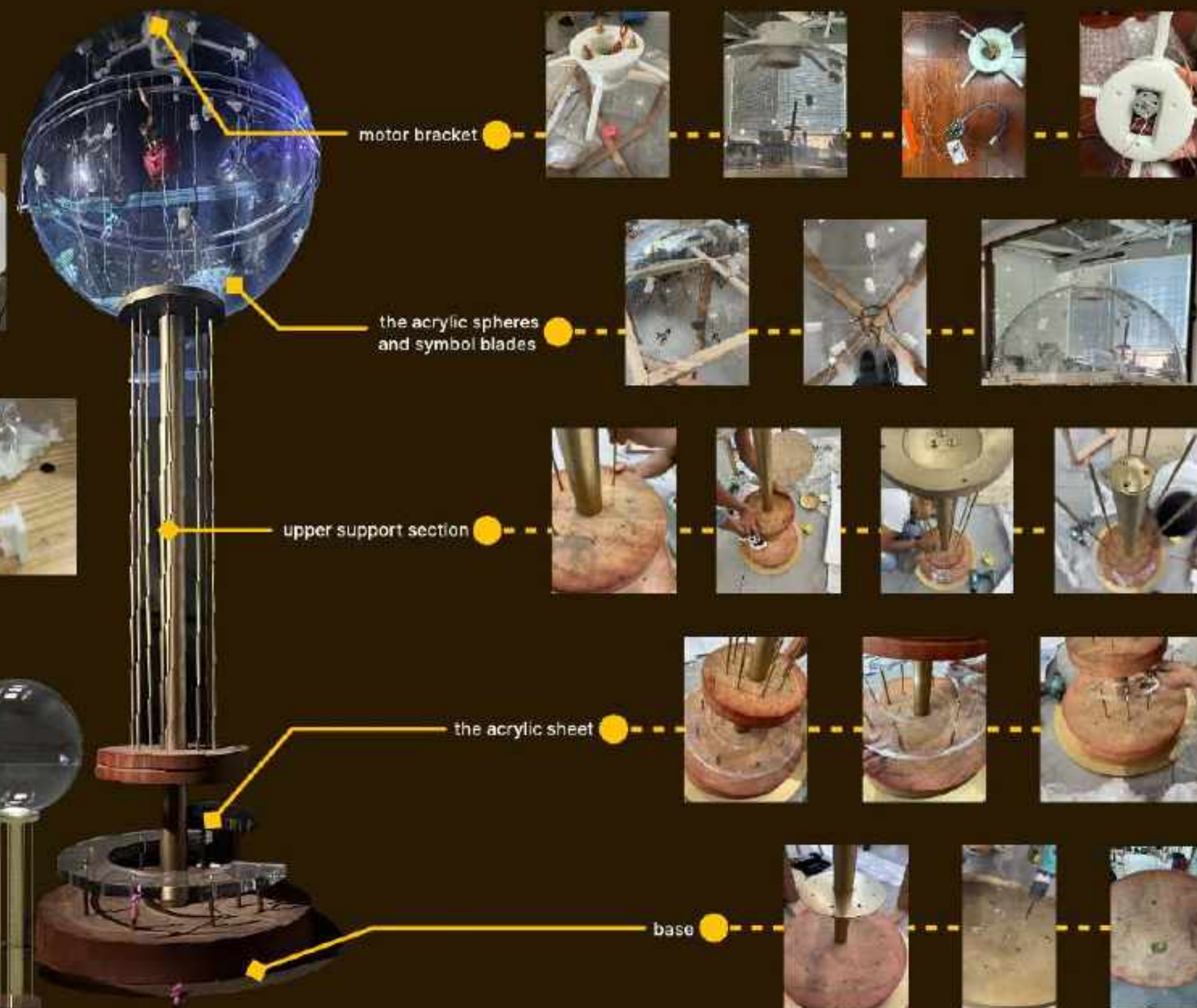
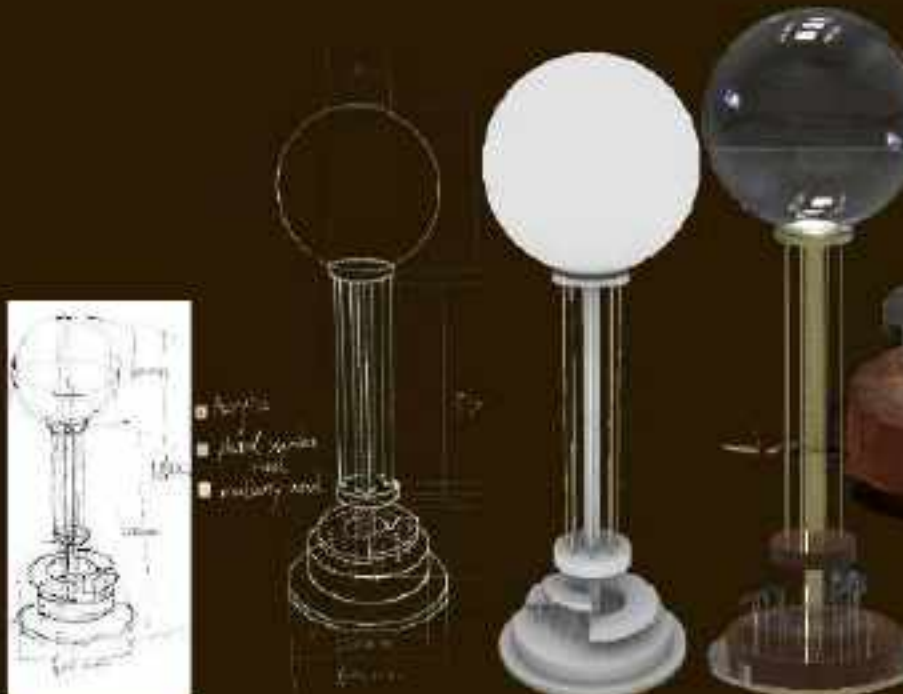
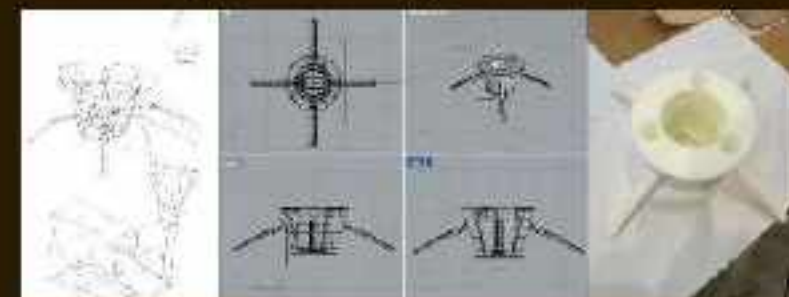


04 Use **Firmata** for **Arduino-TouchDesigner** communication.

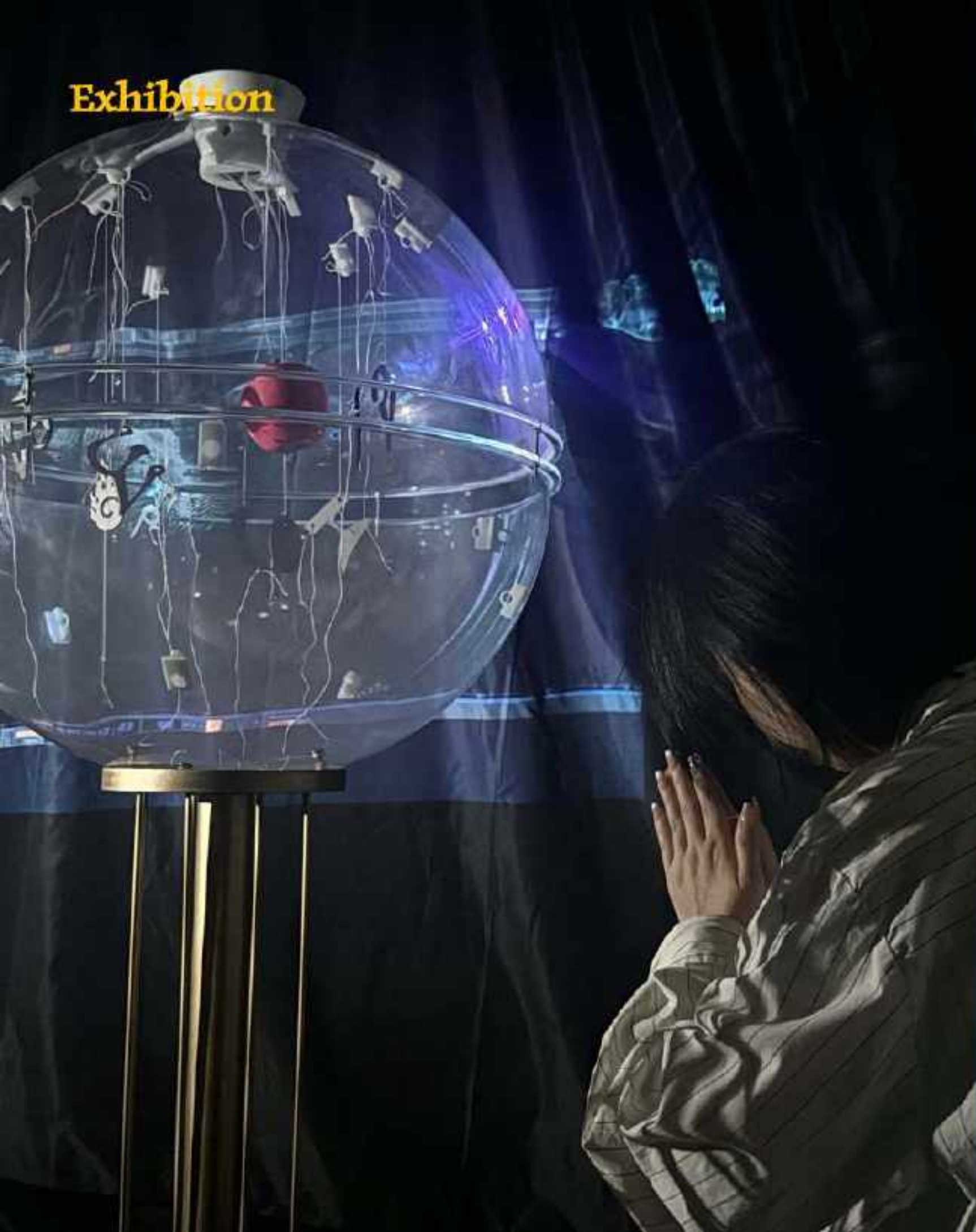


Design Details

Modeling & Drawing



Exhibition



Feedback



VIDEO EXPERIENCE

- 1 I imagine myself as a devout practitioner, using my perspective to reflect their sights and sounds.



- 2 The grasslands, snow-capped mountains, and sheep were the first scene I saw here.



- 3 I combine these elements with visual imagery in TouchDesigner.