

# Jas Brooks [Arts & Culture]

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⚠️ For Jas's **Scientific Research CV (doctorate)**, please [click here](#). ⚠️

Outside of their doctoral research, **Jas Brooks** (they/them) is an independent media archeology researcher and designer. **Their independent research focuses on historical scent technologies and associated media from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present.** Jas conserves and analyzes cinematic scent technologies such as AromaRama and Smell-O-Vision (1960s), investigates oral histories from pioneering dot-com era scent tech companies like DigiScents and TriSenx, and documents scented film exhibitions spanning 1900–59. Their work encompasses archival research, practical conservation techniques, and interactive media design, aiming to bridge historical technologies with contemporary artistic practices. Jas's work has been featured in media publications like *Perfumer & Flavorist*, *Ça Fleure Bon*, and the *Chicago Reader*. They are a recipient of the University of Chicago's **Media Arts, Data & Design Fellowship**, and their work with scent has been with a **Sadakichi Award for Experimental Work with Scent** (Art & Olfaction Awards) as well as a finalist for the award.

## Education

- Exp. 2025 **Ph.D.**, Computer Science, University of Chicago, Chicago, US  
*Advisor:* Pedro Lopes (UChicago)  
*Committee:* Pattie Maes (MIT), Tanzeem Choudhury (Cornell Tech), Ben Zhao (UChicago)
- 2023 **M.Sc.**, Computer Science, University of Chicago, Chicago, US
- 2023 **Research Internship**, Microsoft Research New England, Cambridge, US
- 2016 **B.Sc.**, Computer Science, University of Chicago, Chicago, US

## Publications

### Journal Papers (Fully Refereed)

- [J.2] **Brooks, J.**, “The Breath of Drama: Scented Cinema in Early Film.” (Under Review)
- [J.1] Spence, C., Kucirkova, N., Campbell, J., Gao, Y., **Brooks, J.** “Narrative historical review of scratch-and-sniff books and their key storytelling features.” *i-Perception*, 2024.  
[doi:10.1177/20416695241257566](https://doi.org/10.1177/20416695241257566)

### Book Chapters (Fully Refereed)

- [C.1] **Brooks, J.** “To Believe, Breathe AromaRama: Cinema’s Aerosol Age.” (Under review)

## Experience

- 2023–Present **Director & Experience Designer**, Snivure LLC, Taos, US
- 2020 **Guest Artist Guide**, Wrightwood 659, Chicago, US  
*Responsibilities:* Co-led tour (with Elenora Edreva) for Wrightwood 659’s “Allure of Matter” exhibition, focusing on engaging visitors with the exhibition through olfaction, sniffing, and discussion of materials.
- 2017–20 **Researcher**, STAGE Lab, University of Chicago, Chicago, US  
*Principal Investigator:* Prof. Nancy Kawalek
- 2018 **Lecturer**, Arts & Technology Studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, US

*Teaching Assistant:* Zhong Ren

*Responsibilities:* Designed and taught Master's art course (ATS 4135) on VR (14 students; 6 hours per week) integrating both theory and practice. Additionally offered optional, weekly introduction to programming concepts.

## Awards, Grants, & Fellowships

- 2024 **Sadakichi Award** (for Scent-based Art), "Smell & Paste," Art & Olfaction Awards.
- 2022–23 **Graduate Fellow**, Media Arts, Data, and Design Center, UChicago.
- 2022 **Scientific Award**, Digital Olfaction Society for "Scent Tech at the Turn of the Century" talk with Prof. Simon Niedenthal (Malmö University).
- 2022 **Finalist for the Sadakichi Award** (for Scent-based Art), "Scent in Cinema" and "Twitch & Sniff Along" series, 8th Art and Olfaction Awards.
- 2021 **Penny for your Thoughts**, Mediamatic.
- 2021 **Laboratory Residency**, Spokane Interactive Arts.
- 2021 **Art & Olfaction Accelerator Program**, Institute for Art and Olfaction.
- 2020 **Graduate Council Academic & Professional Funds**, UChicago Graduate Council.
- 2020 **UChicago Arts Grant**, UChicago Arts.
- 2019–20 **ASCI Graduate Collaboration Grant**, UChicago Arts, Science, & Culture Initiative.
- 2019 **Chicago Awesome Foundation Grant**, Chicago Awesome Foundation.
- 2018 **Graduate Council Academic & Professional Funds**, UChicago Graduate Council.

## Selected Talks

- 2025 Smell & AR Symposium (keynote) at GLUON (BE)
- 2023 Odeuropa Smell Culture Fair (NL), hosted by Prof. Inger Leemans (KNAW)
- 2023 Odeuropa (EU/Virtual), hosted by Prof. William Tullett (University of York)
- 2023 MO.CA Centro per le Nuove Culture (IT), hosted by curator Elena Giulia Abbiatici
- 2022 Digital Olfaction Society (JP), with Prof. Simon Niedenthal
- 2022 Anglia Ruskin University & University of Cambridge (UK), hosted by Prof. William Tullett (ARU) and Ally Louks (University of Cambridge)
- 2021 School of the Art Institute of Chicago (US), hosted by Prof. Tedd Neenan

## Service

- 2022 Committee member, Humanities UX Program, University of Chicago.

## Exhibitions

- 2022 Conserving the Scent of Mystery (solo exhibition), Jas Brooks & Tammy Burnstock (Snivure), Olfactory Art Keller (US).

## Selected Press & Interviews

- 2025 “Spotlight on the 2025 Midsumma Movie Program.” *Out Takes* (radio episode from Joy Media).
- 2024 “The return of Smell-O-Vision: How cinemas are stimulating the five senses.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*.
- 2024 On Screen with Melinda O’Connor, *3CR Radical Radio*.
- 2024 “The Institute for Art and Olfaction Announces 10th Art and Olfaction Awards Finalists.” *Perfumer & Flavorist*.
- 2024 “Scent in Cinema with Tammy Burnstock and Jas Brooks.” *An Aromatic Life* (podcast).
- 2024 “The Art and Olfaction Awards 2024 Finalists.” *Ça Fleure Bon*.
- 2022 “VR Still Stinks Because It Doesn’t Smell.” *WIRED*.
- 2022 “The Art and Olfaction Awards Announce Finalists.” *Perfumer & Flavorist*.
- 2022 “Art and Olfaction Awards Finalists 2022.” *Ça Fleure Bon*.
- 2021 “Meet a Nose: Jas Brooks.” *Meet a Nose* (from the Institute for Art and Olfaction).
- 2020 “IAO Announces Accelerator Awardees.” *Perfumer & Flavorist*.
- 2020 “Join the virtual quest for the perfect melon.” *Chicago Reader*.

## Projects

### Curation

#### 2021–22 **Twitch and Sniff Along series**

Produced and curated the “[Twitch and Sniff Along](#)” series for the Weston Game Lab at the University of Chicago, featuring playthroughs (with scratch and sniff) and discussions of smell-based video games such as *Leather Goddesses of Phobos* (1986) and *Leisure Suit Larry: Love for Sail!* (1996). Recognized as a Finalist for the Sadakichi Award (for Experimental Work with Scent) at the 8th Art and Olfaction Awards.

#### 2020–22 **Scent in Cinema series**

Produced and co-curated the “[Scent in Cinema](#)” series with [Tammy Burnstock](#), featuring screenings (with scratch and sniff) and discussions of scented cinema such as [A Tale of Old Whiff](#) (1960). Recognized as a Finalist for the Sadakichi Award (for Experimental Work with Scent) at the 8th Art and Olfaction Awards.

#### 2020 **Commiserate Chicago**

Organized media arts festival, which took place at the University of Chicago.

### Ongoing Historical/Archival Work

#### 2021–Present **Scent Tech Histories**

*Collaboration with:* Prof. Simon Niedenthal (Malmö University).

Conduct oral history research and media archaeology on scent technologies and their companies from the turn of the 21st century. Presentation at Digital Olfaction Society 2022 received “Scientific Award”.

#### 2020–Present **Smell-O-Vision Restoration**

*Collaboration with:* Tammy Burnstock, Olivia Jezler.

Lead conservation of the last existing Smell-O-Vision system from the 1960s as well as the titular *Scent of Mystery* fragrance worn by Elizabeth Taylor.

2021–Present **Timeless Smell Archive**

Manage the [Timeless Smell Archive](#), a digital archive of scratch-and-sniff cards and scent-media related documents.

**Last Update:** Jan 2025