

3. AI Young: Our Future is Built Together

Our Future is Built Together is a small paper zine. It was created by AI Young in 2026. Several copies of the zine are placed on a small wood shelf mounted to the wall. Visitors are invited to read the zine in the gallery or take one home. A screen reader friendly PDF of the zine can be found on this webpage.

The zine is a bit bigger than a large postcard, approximately 8 by 5 inches. Its front and back cover feature a photograph of AI's blue leather sketchbook, its corners worn and with pieces of paper sticking out. An image of a yellow sticky note taped to the sketchbook's cover reads, "Sketching Collaboration" and "Lessons from Smartwear."

Inside the zine, drawings of people and technologies collide with sketches, photos of AI's artworks, and both handwritten and printed text. Sections are emphasized by colour blocks, many in shades of yellows and blues. AI uses the visual language of collage to layer images and sections of text as if they were torn or cut out of magazines and then glued or taped together.

The zine's text reflects on AI's experiences as a caregiver, artist, and summer 2026 practicum student with Smartwear. Some of the zine sections include, "a peek inside the labs," "how I drew a battery system," "who's taking care of the caregivers?" and "how can we encourage more collaboration going forward?"

About the artwork and artist:

Our Future is Built Together considers some of the key questions that emerged for the artist during their practicum. What innovations are possible when more people with lived experience actively participate in constructing assistive technology? How do we build solidarity beyond research? As both a caregiver and a disabled person, these questions hold a deep personal resonance for AI. By creating this zine, they hope to extend some potential answers through the sharing of their experiences and reflections.

AI Young is a multimedia artist. Their work is informed by their experiences with queerness, disability, and community organizing. Their practice encourages audiences to question social conventions of the body and imagine new ways of caring for each other.

The next artwork in the exhibition is on the wall adjacent to this one, to your right.