

Other tongues

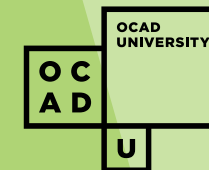
Organized by RYAN RICE



PART I COMMUNICATION

IYANU AJAGUNNA
SCHEM ROGERSON BADER
SUSAN BLIGHT
SIMON GLASS
URSULA HANDLEIGH
JULIUS PONCELET MANAPUL
DIANE MIKHAEL
DR. KATHY MOSCOU
PAR NAIR
JULIA ROSE SUTHERLAND
TOMMY TRUONG
NATALIE MAJABA WALDBURGER
AMY WONG

JUN 19 → NOV 30, 2024



ONSITE
GALLERY

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_other tongues **part I communication**

The exhibition *_other tongues part I communication* is centered around the theme of language, communication, and cultural heritage, particularly drawing its inspiration within the context of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022–2032) designated by the United Nations General Assembly. The exhibition aims to raise awareness and broaden the focus of the wide-ranging fragility of language —“*mother tongues*”— across many cultures and resonate in the face of global environmental and social crises.

importance of recognizing, protecting, and revitalizing cultural heritage through an array of visual language(s) to communicate, while also addressing issues of marginalization and inequity to foster engagement that reflects across immediate diverse communities both communally and individually.

_other tongues' intention is to magnify the tangible distinction of languages while decolonizing the nation-state's official linguistic sanctions by negotiating creative visualization and a societal critique of public and private cultural visibility. Thus, fostering an inadvertent dialogue around the significance of communication established within settled Indigenous territories

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Through the artworks of 13 selected artists juried from an OCAD U faculty and staff open call, the exhibition explores the vitality and diversity of languages in various forms, shaped and reinterpreted through the tangible creative disciplines of art, media, and design. Each artist approaches the concept of language and communication from their own perspective, offering a multiplicity of recitations that are inclusive of lived experience, identity, history, urbanization, and interdisciplinary expression.

The exhibition acknowledges both the rich and subtle linguistic landscape affected by factors such as geography, migration, culture, economy, and politics that are present within the collectivity formed in a university community and interconnected across Toronto's urban realm. The artworks emphasize the

by facilitating an opportunity for culturally adjacent languages to be welcomed.

Since language shapes our lives and relationships, considering the multifaceted role of language in a global and cosmopolitan context, *_other tongues* encompasses/embraces the rich distinction(s) visual culture and aesthetic literacy play. While public modes of communication will persistently shift beyond words by overlapping the verbal and visual, expressive genres and mediums continue to be influential interpretive translative tools to intersect, sustain and reconfigure the ways in which language is constantly evolving. ■

Organized by Ryan Rice, Onsite Gallery



Iyanu Ajagunna

Iyanu Ajagunna is an Irish born and Toronto based Nigerian designer. The work she creates is typically tied to her heritage and is her way of understanding and sharing her identity from both a cultural and personal point of view as a third culture individual.

Mo Gbo Yoruba:Eho, 2023
digital illustration
8" x 11"
Image courtesy of the artist



Schem Rogerson Bader

Schem Rogerson Bader is a scholar, curator and artist working with themes of materiality, archives, 2SLGBTQI+ themes and political economies. They are a Sessional Instructor in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Liberal Arts at OCAD University.

A Storm is Coming From Paradise, 2024
assemblage
dimensions variable
Image courtesy of
Onsite Gallery



Susan Blight

Susan Blight (Anishinaabe, Couchiching First Nation) is an interdisciplinary artist working with public art, site-specific intervention, photography, film and social practice. Her solo and collaborative work engages questions of personal and cultural identity and its relationship to space. Susan is Chair in Indigenous Visual Culture at OCAD University and an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Arts & Science, and most recently, joined The Capilano Review as Associate Editor of the publication's Indigenous Places and Names series.

***Aki/Aki/Aki/
Dibenindizowin***, 2024

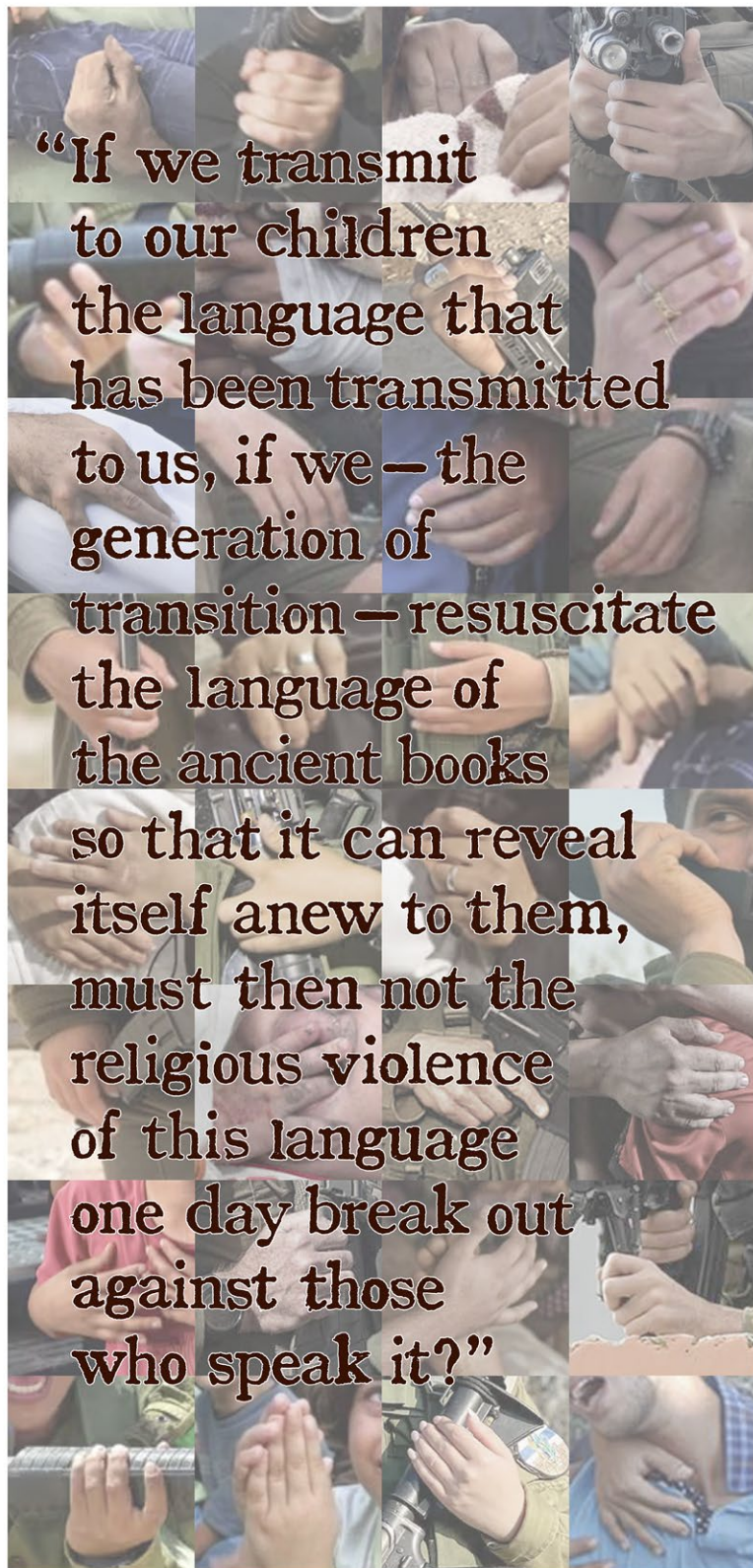
vinyl

36" x 96"

Image courtesy of
the artist

Also on view:

*Traces of the longing to
have you here*, 2024, vinyl,
business cards, dimensions
variable

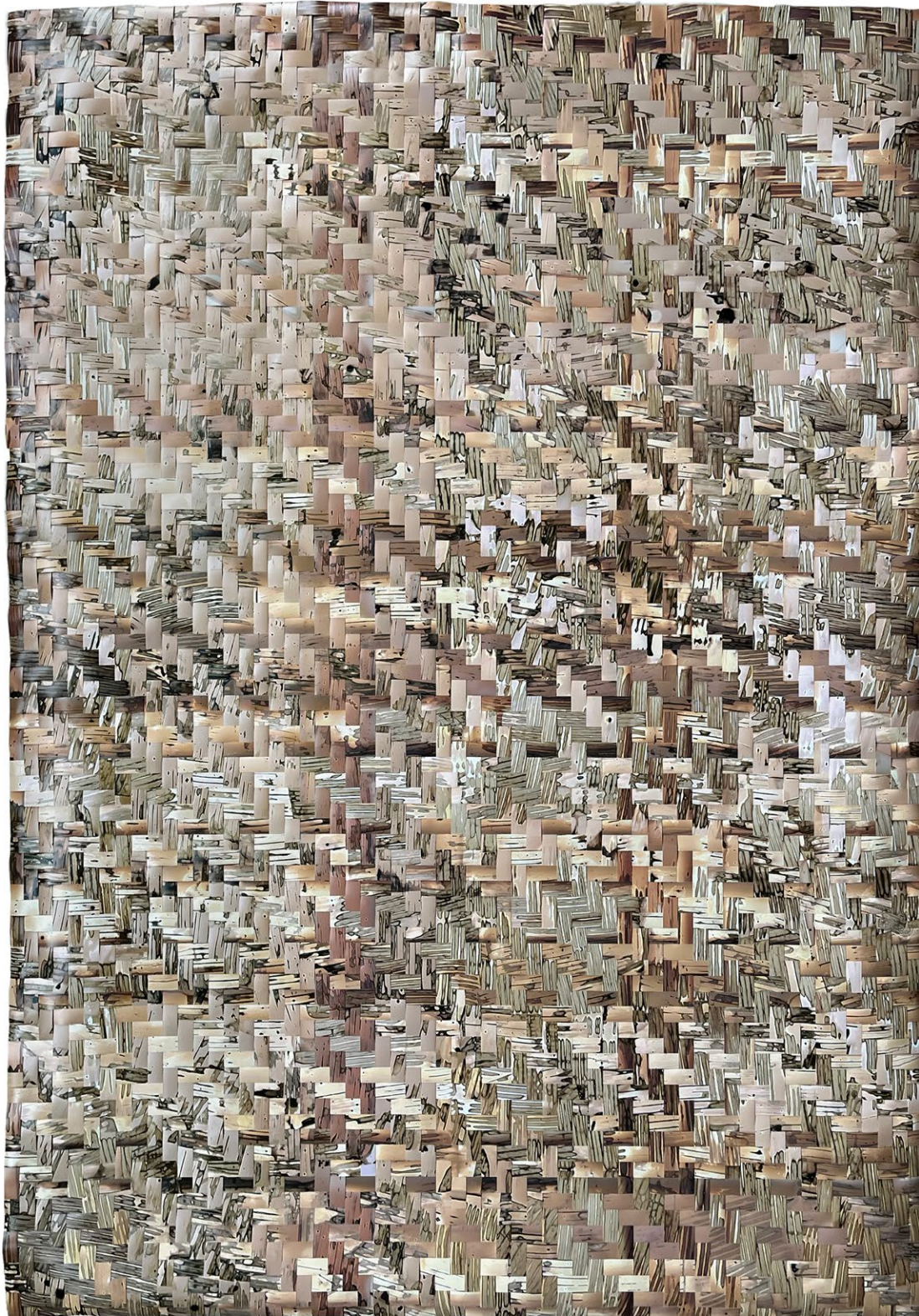


“If we transmit
to our children
the language that
has been transmitted
to us, if we – the
generation of
transition – resuscitate
the language of
the ancient books
so that it can reveal
itself anew to them,
must then not the
religious violence
of this language
one day break out
against those
who speak it?”

Simon Glass

Simon Glass is a Toronto-based visual artist. In his artistic practice, original, archival and found photography is combined with mystical, liturgical and biblical Hebrew text. His work has also traversed sculpture and installation. Glass is a Professor in the Faculty of Art at OCAD University and teaches photography and cross-disciplinary art.

If we..., 2024
giclee print
24" x 48"
Image courtesy
of the artist



Ursula Handleigh

Ursula Handleigh (she/her) is a Tkaronto Scarborough-born artist of Filipino/a/x mixed-ancestry working within expanded photography, moving image and alternative processes of image making. While challenging traditional methods of documentation, Handleigh's practice explores questions of identity and how the role of memory, ancestral knowledge and storytelling can be used to reconstruct archives and preserve histories. Handleigh is currently an Assistant Professor at OCAD University.

Banig, 2023
woven silver gelatin
print
60" x 84"
Image courtesy
of the artist

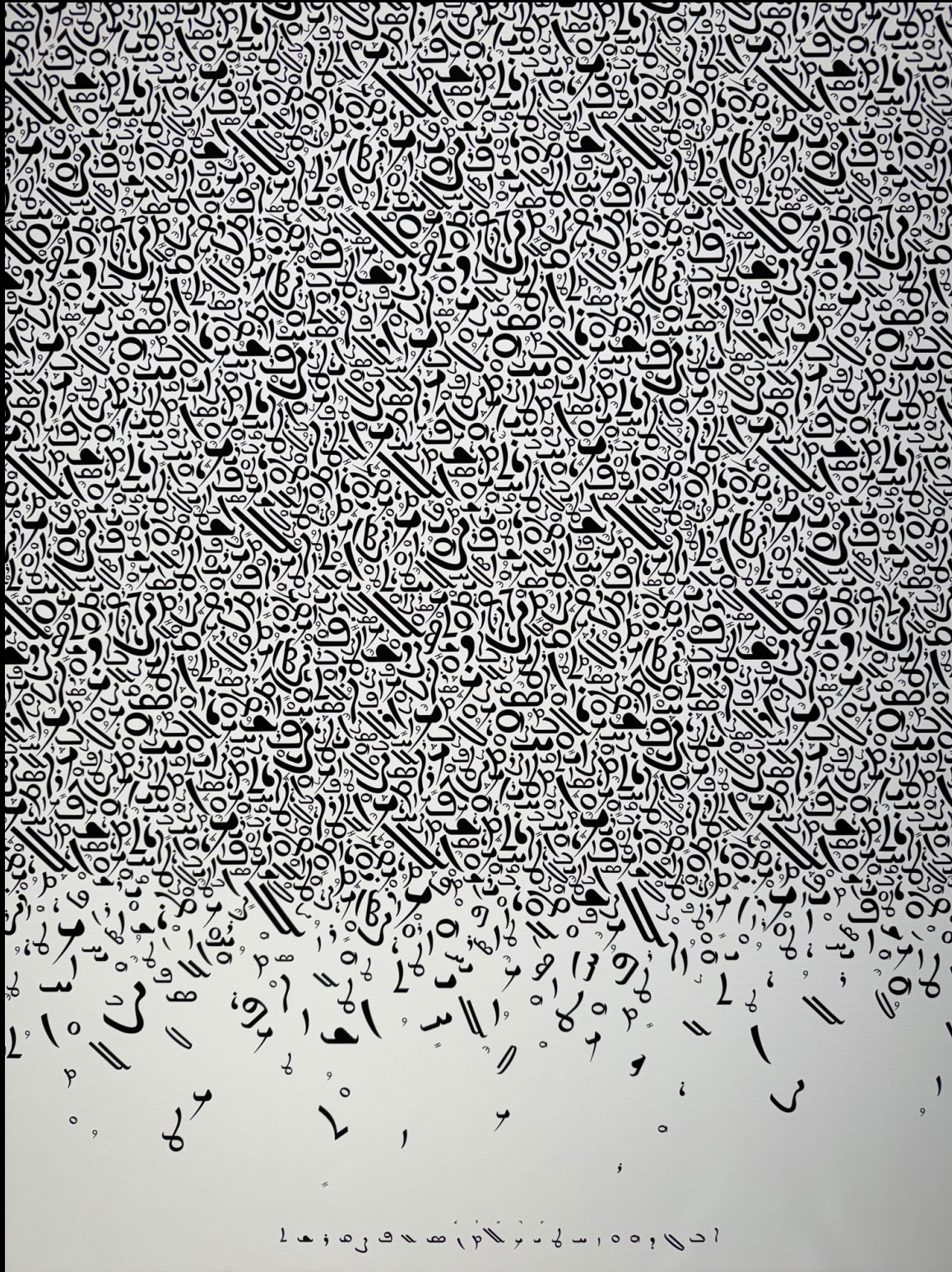
Kamayan na! (Let's eat with our hands now!), 2024

porcelain plates, linen, Babybayin text paper cutouts, crystal glasses/vases, silverware, basmati rice, Philippine souvenirs & whitewashing products, 72" x 30"
Image courtesy of Onsite Gallery



Julius Poncelet Manapul

Julius Poncelet Manapul (they/ them) (Manila, Philippines 1980) immigrated to Canada in 1990, identifying as a queer migrant Filipinx artist from Ilocano ancestry. Through research-based art practice, Poncelet Manapul examines eternal displacement, complicated by colonialism, sexual identity, diasporic bodies, global identity construction, and the Eurocentric Western hegemony. Focusing on the hybrid nature of Filipinx culture through post-colonial realities, as well as through the gaze of queer identities as taxonomy, they study narratives specific to diasporic queer bodies; the loss of motherlands, feelings of belonging as a consequence of the colonial pedagogy and imperial power. Currently a professor in the Faculty of Arts at OCAD University.



Diane Mikhael

Diane Mikhael is an Associate Professor (tenured) in the Graphic Design Department at OCAD University and is the co-founder and former President of the Middle East Design Educators Association (MEDEA). Her research interest revolves around multilingual typography, design and culture, design for social change, design activism, the politics of design, radical futures and the new narratives, and technology in design.

Serto: Un-mute, Imprint, Impress, 2024

(detail) print on canvas,
40" x 40"

Image courtesy of
Onsite Gallery

Kathy Moscou

Kathy Moscou is a mixed media artist whose lived experience informs her art, focus on Black cultural aesthetics, research and design for social justice. Her art is representational and uses visual storytelling to explore issues of identity, communicate empowerment, celebrate the Black family, and give homage to elders as knowledge keepers. She is a member of the Faculty of Design at OCAD University.



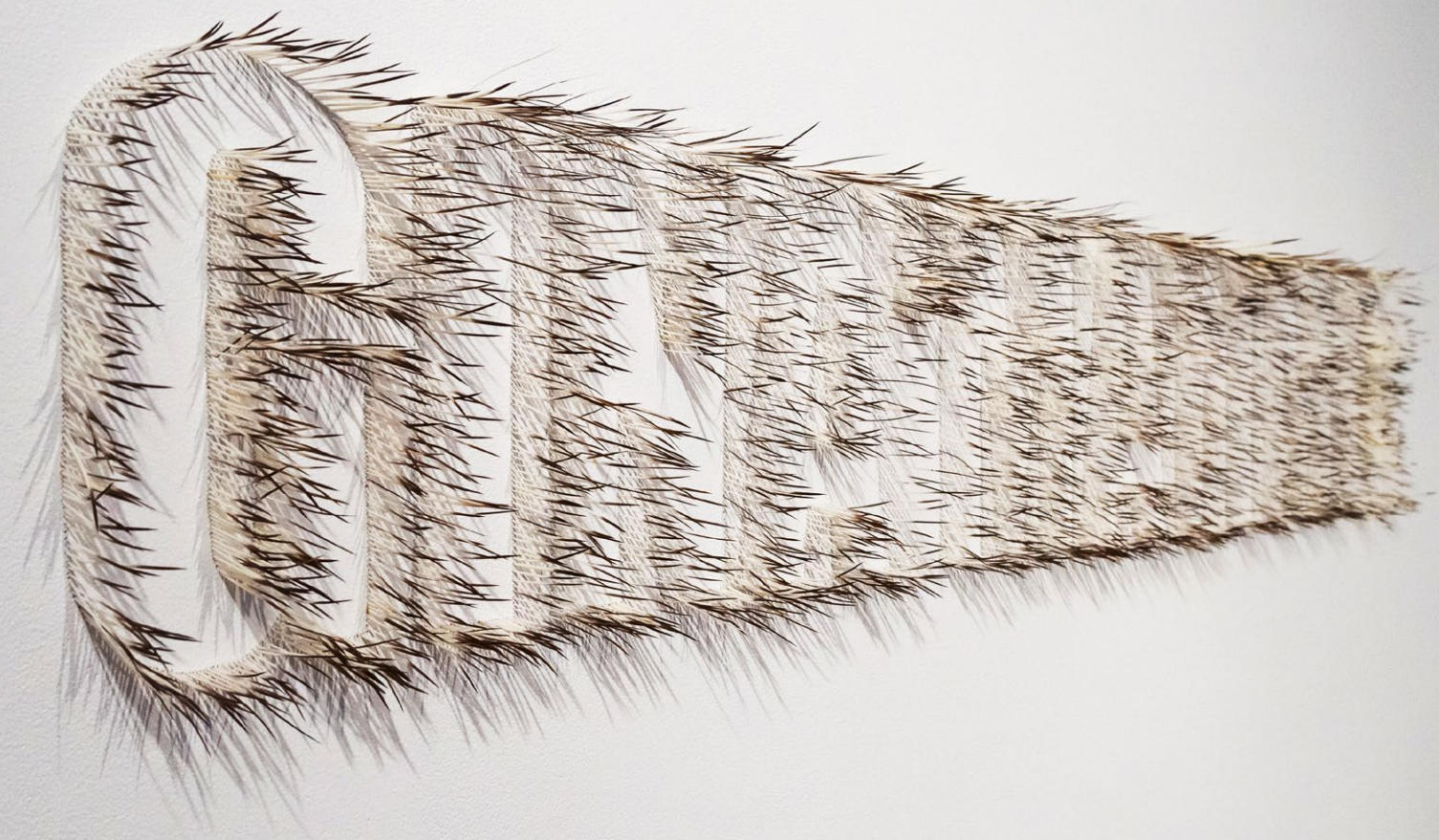
Erasure!, 2024
cotton, ink, wood
6 panels, 120" x 48" each
Image courtesy of
Onsite Gallery.



Par Nair

Par Nair (she/her) is an Indian born interdisciplinary artist, researcher and educator who lives and makes in the GTA. Her practice which centers hand embroidery, oil painting, installation, and creative writing explores lived experiences of diaspora using decolonial methods and a return to ancestral practices. Par currently teaches drawing at OCAD University.

Letters of Haunting, 2023
hand embroidery on
mother's silk saree
210" x 45"
Image courtesy of
Onsite Gallery



Julia Rose Sutherland

Julia Rose Sutherland (JR) is a storyteller, interdisciplinary artist, and educator of Mi'kmaq (Metepenagiag Nation) and half settler descent. Her art practice encompasses a wide range of mediums, including photography, sculpture, textiles and performance. She is an Assistant Professor at OCAD University.

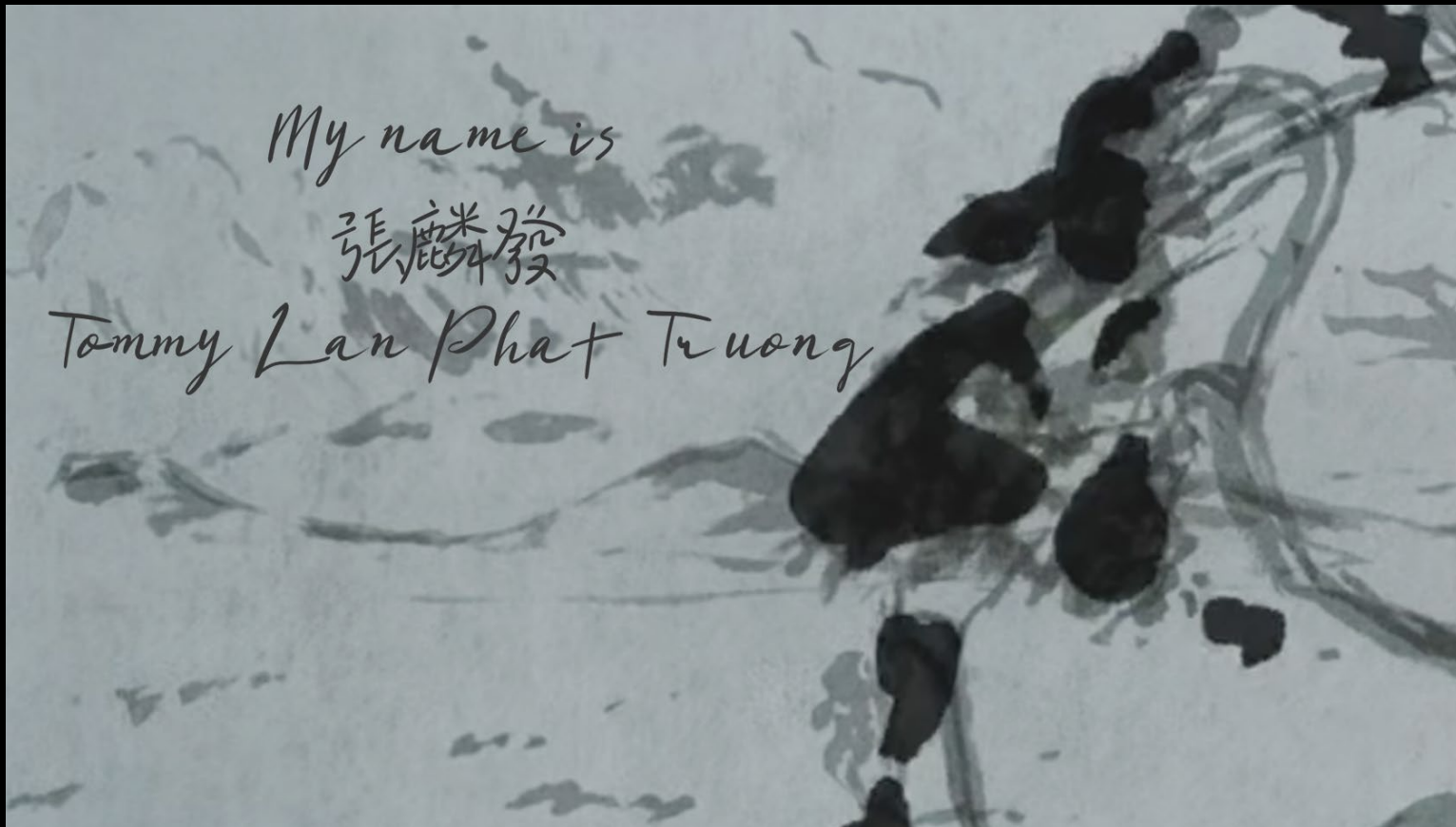
Gina' matimg, 2021-ongoing
porcupine quills
74" x 12"
Image by Chelsea Yang Smith

Also on view:

Sugulegag "Rotten",
2019-ongoing, refined sugar,
tongue compressors, glass
jars, 63" x 8"

Tommy Truong

Tommy Truong is a digital artist, emerging curator, and independent animator, whose work explores the ideas of cultural identity, technological obsession, and storytelling; specifically, how they coincide and complement one another. Truong currently works at OCAD University as a Technician for the INTM/EXAN Studios.



My Name is 張麟發 Tommy Lan Phat Truong, 2022
(still) digital animation
running time: 11 minutes
2 seconds
Image courtest of the artist



Natalie Majaba Waldburger

Natalie Majaba Waldburger's current art practice is open-disciplinary and seeks to understand the complexities of respectful collaboration and participatory work in the context of anti-colonial research positioned at the intersection of sustainability, social justice, and ecologically respectful art practices. As an Associate Professor at OCAD U, Natalie has served as Chair for several programs in the Faculty of Art.

Tesselation 06.06.23, 2023

Tessellated origami:
Physical documentation of
performance at the Banff
Centre for the Arts in
June 2023

Awagami Kozo paper, pins
dimensions variable
Image courtesy of
Onsite Gallery



Amy Wong

Amy Wing-Hann Wong (b. 1981, Toronto, she/they) is an Angry Asian feminist disguised as an oil painter. Her practice ranges from painting-based installation to collaborative projects that explore the politics of making noise and thinking through together while oscillating between varying systems of representation to evoke non-linear, personal narratives. They often work with what they consider a bad idea or a cliché to redefine them on their own terms. Current research explores mothering as methodology. Wong teaches in the Faculty of Art at OCAD University.

Shady Chinese Proverbs, 2023-2024

ink and watercolour on paper
54 x 5.5" x 8.5" each
Image courtesy of
the artist

Also on view:

Parable of the Frog, 2024,
acrylic on canvas, 16" x 20"

Amy 2 1/2 to 4 yrs, 2024,
cassette tape, 11.25" x 9.25",
framed

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS 2024

Glenn Gear / Up Front: Inuit Public Art @ Onsite Gallery

Through to August 2024

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Doktor Karayom: No One's At Home

The Ateneo Prize Artist In Residence

July 15 - November 30 2024

Maureen Gruben / Up Front: Inuit Public Art @ Onsite Gallery

September - December 2024

January - April 2025

Metipso Portal: Nuit Blanche

October 5 & 6 2024

Curator: Lisa Deanne Smith

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS 2025

Fortitude / Fragile

January 22 to May 17 2025

Guest Curator: Magda Gonzalez-Mora

Presence in a past or an undetermined future.

Delaney Family Emerging Curator's Prize

January 22 - May 17 2025

Guest Curator: Avalon Mott

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Onsite Gallery presents contemporary, Indigenous, and public art and design to advance knowledge creation and stimulate local and international conversations on the urgent issues of our time.

MAIN GALLERY
_other tongues
part I communication

SPECIAL PROJECTS GALLERY
Jean Marshall:
Anikoobijikewin

JUNE 19 → NOVEMBER 30, 2024

ONSITE GALLERY STAFF

Ryan Rice, Executive Director + Curator, Indigenous Art
Lisa Deanne Smith, Senior Curator
Susan Jama, Programs + Community Coordinator
Kesa Smith, Curatorial Assistant
Heather Pigat, Collections Steward
Falaq Khan, Marketing + Communications Assistant

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Special thanks to: Rose Bouthillier and Michelle McGeough (exhibition jurors), and Caroline Langjill.

COVER: Amy Wong, *AMY 2 ½ to 4 yrs.*, 2024 (detail), cassette tape audio recording. Image courtesy of the artist.
Jean Marshall, *untitled*, 2024, hide, glass beads, porcupine quills, sequin and thread. Image courtesy of the artist.



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Wednesday
noon to 7 p.m.

Thursday - Saturday
noon to 5 p.m.



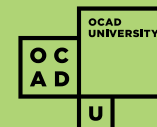
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