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**THE DELANEY
FAMILY**



**ONSITE
GALLERY**



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

I am pleased to share with you Onsite Gallery’s report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This past year has been one of vibrant artistic exploration, meaningful engagement, and growing impact—made possible by your generous support.

Throughout the year, we presented a compelling series of exhibitions and projects, each accompanied by free and accessible public programs, workshops, and lectures. These initiatives engaged both the OCAD University community and a broader public audience, advancing our mission to foster inclusive, thought-provoking cultural experiences.

We continued to extend our presence in the public realm through our successful collaboration with the Inuit Art Foundation on *Up Front: Inuit Public Art @ Onsite Gallery*. Since its launch in April 2022, this exterior digital mural series has featured nine exceptional Inuit artists. This fiscal year marked the final phase of the series, with works by Maureen Gruben and Coco Lynge. At the main campus, Jordan Bennett’s striking mural, *pi’tawita’iek: we go up river*, remained on view in its third year, and still commands attention from its prominent location overlooking Butterfield Park.

In Fall 2024, Onsite Gallery presented *The Metispo Portal* for the City of Toronto’s Nuit Blanche, drawing an overwhelming number of visitors and further affirming our relevance in the city’s public cultural landscape. Our work this year was also recognized with nominations from Galleries Ontario Galleries (GOG Awards), earning awards for Partnership (*Up Front*) and Short Essay (*On Americanity and Other Belongings*).

The exhibition year began with the OCAD University faculty and staff exhibition *other tongues part I communication*, running through the fall semester alongside Jean Marshall’s solo presentation in the Special Projects Gallery, part of guest curator Linda Grussani’s *Mawadishiwewin* series. In January 2025, we opened *Fortitude / Fragile*, a compelling group exhibition curated by Magda González-Mora. We also proudly launched the inaugural *The Delaney Family Curator’s Prize* in the Special Projects Gallery with *Presence in a past or an undetermined future*, curated by Avalon Mott and featuring artists Nabil Azab and Shannon Garden Smith.

In the winter, Onsite Gallery hosted its second annual Curatorial Lecture in celebration of Black History Month and continued stewarding the OCAD University Art Collection with care and commitment.

Through all of our exhibitions and programs, Onsite Gallery remains dedicated to presenting contemporary, Indigenous, and public art and design practices that foster knowledge creation and provoke vital conversations on the pressing issues of our time.

None of this would be possible without the support from The Delaney Family’s visionary decade-long gift, along with generous individual and corporate contributions including Tim Gilbert, Nexus and others. These generous gifts allow us to continue nurturing diverse artistic voices, producing thoughtful and timely exhibitions, and building Onsite Gallery’s reputation as a site of knowledge and a vital cultural institution for all.

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for your continued belief in our mission. I hope you enjoy this year’s report, and I look forward to welcoming you to Onsite Gallery soon.

Warmly,

Ryan Rice
Executive Director + Curator, Indigenous Art
Onsite Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

_OTHER TONGUES PART I COMMUNICATION

JUNE 19 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2024

Organized by Ryan Rice

Artists: 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 and Amy Wong.

The exhibition's curatorial theme drew its inspiration from the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022 to 2032), designated by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. By raising awareness of the wide-ranging fragility of global languages, at a time when we are also experiencing environmental and social crises, the creative field plays a vital role in elevating the recognition, protection and revitalization efforts of cultural heritage of languages circulating in the GTA and beyond through art, media and design.



_other tongues part I communication, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Photo by Polina Teif.



_other tongues part I communication, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Photo by Polina Teif.



_other tongues part I communication, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Julius Poncelet Manapul, *Kamayon na!* (*Let's eat with our hands now!*), (detail), 2020-2024, porcelain plates, linen, Babybayin text paper cutouts, crystal glasses/vases, silverware, basmati rice, Philippine souvenirs & whitewashing products, 72" x 30". Photo by Polina Teif.



_other tongues part I communication, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Tommy Truong, *My Name is 張麟發 Tommy Lan Phat Truong*, (video still) 2022, digital animation, running time: 11 minutes 2 seconds. Photo by Polina Teif.



_other tongues part I communication, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Julia Rose Sutherland, *Gina' matim*, 2021-ongoing, porcupine quills, 74" x 12". Photo by Polina Teif.

**JEAN MARSHALL:
ANIKOOBIJIKWIN.**

JUNE 19 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2024

(Part 2 of the *Mawadishiwewin (Visits)* series)
Guest Curated by Linda Grussani.

Featuring new work by Jean Marshall, the *Mawadishiwewin (Visits)* exhibition series addressed the challenges for various forms of communities to gather and locate a significant sense of community amidst a post-global pandemic.

Mawadishiwewin was supported by a successful Ontario Art Council for Curatorial Projects: Indigenous and Culturally Diverse grant.



Jean Marshall: Anikoobijikewin, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Jean Marshall, *Untitled (Reciprocity)*, 2024, hide, fur, cloth, glass beads, metal, silkscreened drum, birchbark, porcupine quills, dimensions variable. Jean Marshall, *Don't Forget to Love Yourself*, 2024, (centre of installation) glass beads on wool cloth, 18" x 18". Photo by Polina Teif.



Jean Marshall: Anikoobijikewin, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Jean Marshall, *Gitigaan, Garden*, (detail) 2024, wool felt, embroidery thread, 4x 23" diameter each. Photo by Polina Teif.



Jean Marshall: Anikoobijikewin, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Jean Marshall, *Zaaga'igan, Lake*, 2024, porcupine quills, glass beads, home tanned hide, thread, metal beads, 13" diameter. Photo by Polina Teif.



Jean Marshall: Anikoobijikewin, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Jean Marshall, *Ring of Fire II*, (detail), 2018, commercial tanned elk hide, beaver fur, wool stroud, thread, beads, dimensions variable. Collection of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Purchased with the support of the Elizabeth L. Gordon Art Program, a program of the Gordon Foundation and administered by the Ontario Arts Foundation 2019. Accession number: 2019.02.001 a-h. Photo by Polina Teif.

DOKTOR KARAYOM: NO ONE'S AT HOME (WALANG TAO SA BAHAY)

AUGUST 14 – NOVEMBER 28, 2024

Organized by Ryan Rice.

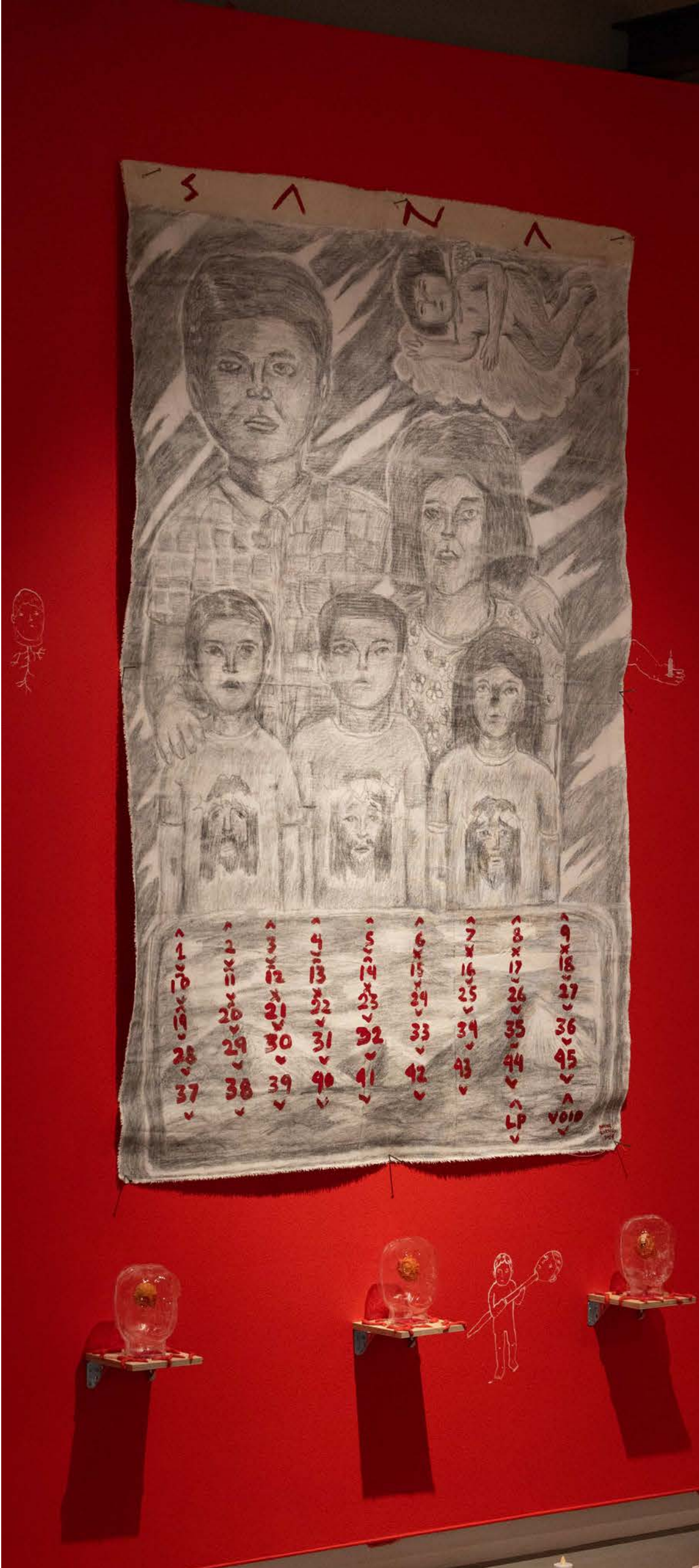
The in-situ commissioned exhibition was developed over an artist residency period between July 24 to August 14, 2024, during which time the gallery became Doktor Karatom's headquarters and studio space. Through lively and imagined personas, Doktor addressed the dynamic energies within a home that require maintenance, embodying aspects of tradition, prosperity, responsibility, pandemonium, and balance.



Doktor Karayom, *No One's At Home (Walang Tao Sa Bahay)*, 2024. Doktor Karayom, *Nabahalaang Bahala (The Worried Guide)*, 2024, resin, polymer clay, acrylic paint, modeling clay, dimensions variable. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Photo by Polina Teif.



Doktor Karayom, *No One's At Home (Walang Tao Sa Bahay)*, 2024. Below: Doktor Karayom, *Salabay (Jellyfish)*, 2024, resin, polymer clay, acrylic paint, modeling clay, various dimensions. Above: Doktor Karayom, *Ang Pagtatapos NG Hindi Pa Tapos (The Ending That is Not Over Yet), (Calendar of Those Kneeling in Mud)*, 2024,



Doktor Karayom, *No One's At Home (Walang Tao Sa Bahay)*, 2024. Below: Doktor Karayom, *Salabay (Jellyfish)*, 2024, resin, polymer clay, acrylic paint, modeling clay, various dimensions. Above: Doktor Karayom, *Kalendaryo Ng Mga Nakaluhod Sa Putik, (Calendar of Those Kneeling in Mud)*, 2024, acrylic paint, graphite on canvas, 48 x 72 inches. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Photo by Polina Teif.



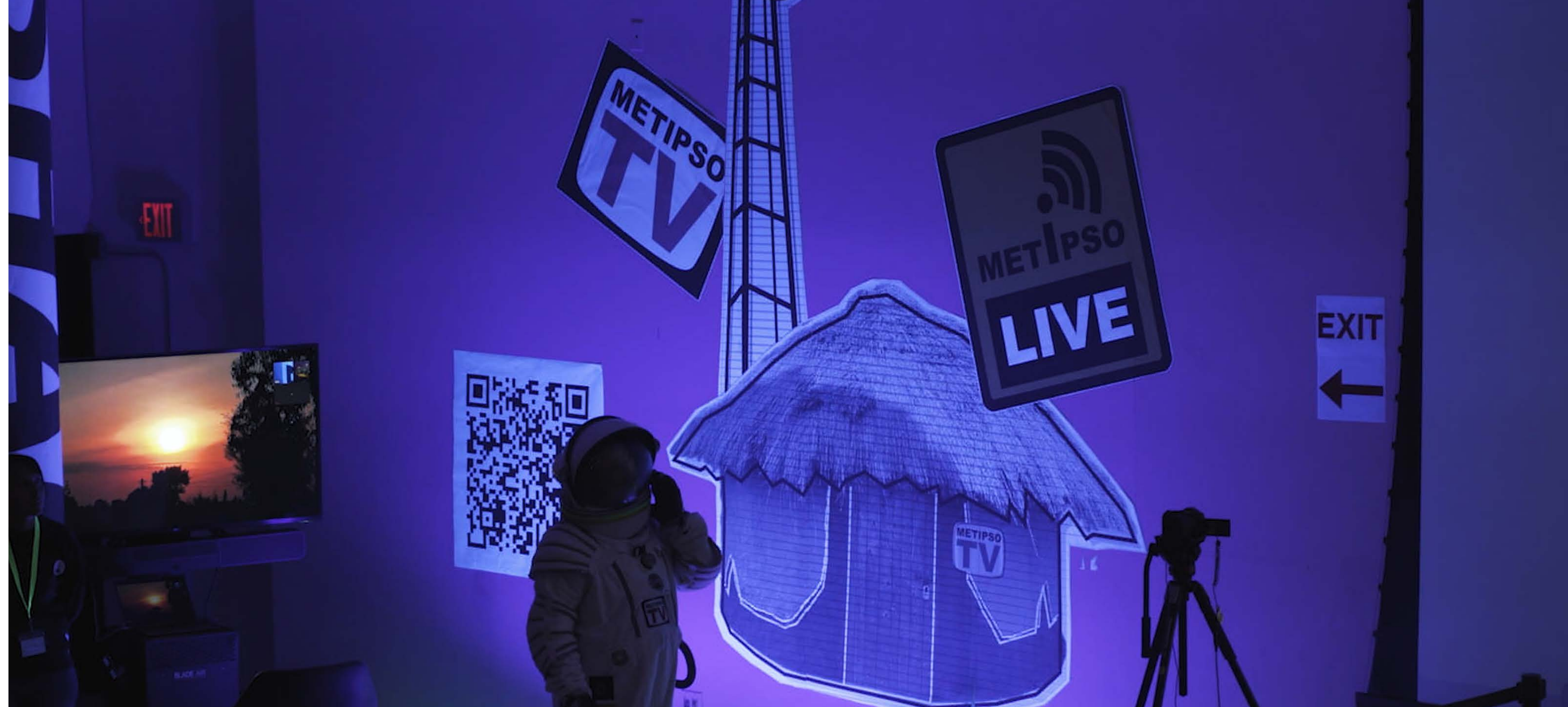
Doktor Karayom, *No One's At Home (Walang Tao Sa Bahay)*, 2024. Doktor Karayom, *Nabahalaang Bahala (The Worried Guide)*, 2024, resin, polymer clay, acrylic paint, modeling clay, dimensions variable. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Photo by Polina Teif.

NUIT BLANCHE: THE METIPSO PORTAL

OCTOBER 5, 2024

Curated by Lisa Deanne Smith

Onsite Gallery participated as a major partner for Nuit Blanche 2024. *The Metipso Portal* was curated by Lisa Deanne Smith and framed as an active exchange with the only media lab worldwide in an African mud hut.



Metipso Portal, Nuit Blanche, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Lion Sher.



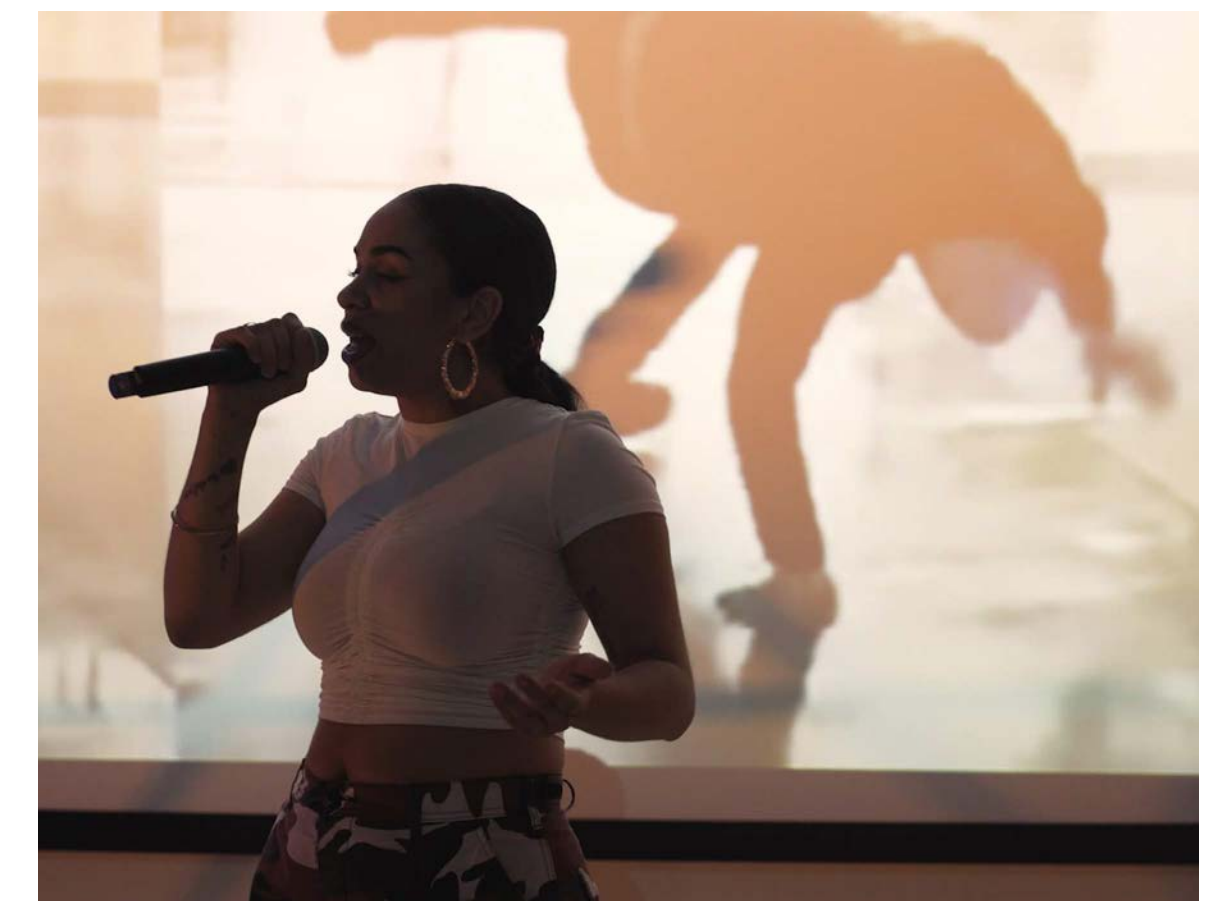
Metipso Portal, Nuit Blanche, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Lion Sher.



Metipso Portal, Nuit Blanche, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Lion Sher.



Metipso Portal, Nuit Blanche, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Lion Sher.



Metipso Portal, Nuit Blanche, 2024, Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Lion Sher.

FORTITUDE / FRAGILE.

JANUARY TO MAY 2025

Guest Curator: Magda Gonzalez-Mora

Fortitude / Fragile embraced the concept of resilience. The artists presented works exploring the idea of a thread bearing the weight of strength needed to endure differing forms of oppression.

Artists: Sandra Brewster, Shabnam K. Ghazi, Francisco-Fernando Granados, Coco Guzman, Caroline Monnet, Vessna Perunovich, Anila Rubiku, and Regina Jose Galindo



Fortitude/Fragile, 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Anila Rubiku, *Hope is the Thing with Feathers*, (detail), 2022, installation, 101 drawings collage on vintage Pantone paper, metal wires, magnets, dimensions variable. Photo by Polina Teif.



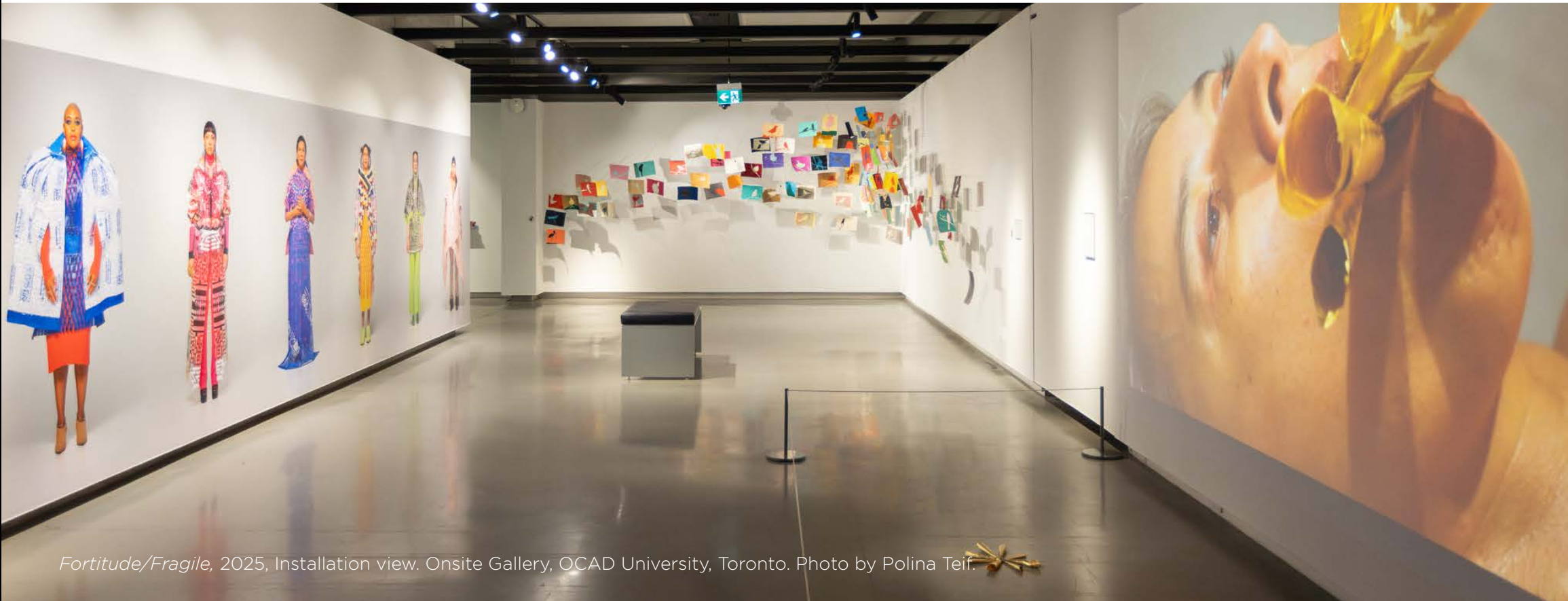
Fortitude/Fragile, 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Sandra Brewster, *Guyana Girls*, 2024, photographs, acrylic, and photo-based gel transfer, on wood, three panels, 84 x 48 x 2 inches each. Photo by Polina Teif.



Fortitude/Fragile, 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Francisco-Fernando Granados, *studies in minor abstraction*, 2024, performance, handmade artist books, dimensions variable. Photo by Polina Teif.



Fortitude/Fragile, 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Left: Coco Guzmán, *La Niña de Fuego/The Girl of Fire* (detail), 2024, installation of printed posters, spray paint, markers, dimensions variable. Right: Shabnam K. Ghazi, *Under the Same "Blue" Sky, Wherever I Go the Sky is Mine*, 2024, video installation with Persian mirror works (Āina-kāri), 3 minute loop. Photo by Polina Teif.



Fortitude/Fragile, 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Polina Teif.



Fortitude/Fragile, 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Vessna Perunovich, *Cradle*, 2004–2023, video and sculptural installation featuring a white wooden cradle, slow rotating motor, light bulb, two large ostrich feathers, white balloons, video projection: 4 minutes 3 seconds video loop, sound. Photo by Polina Teif.

**PRESENCE IN A PAST
OR AN UNDETERMINED
FUTURE.**

JANUARY TO MAY 2025

Guest Curated by Avalon Mott

Artists: Nabil Azab and Shannon Garden-Smith

This two-person exhibition endeavoured to hold a moment of presence by calling on what came before it and giving space to think of what will come after it. Through the immersive work of these artists, viewers are encouraged to engage in an act of prolonged looking and move towards a space of affect. It is in this space and the coalescing of history and future, that the present moment emerges.



Presence in a past or an undetermined future., 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Polina Teif.



Presence in a past or an undetermined future., 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Polina Teif.



Presence in a past or an undetermined future., 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Polina Teif.



Presence in a past or an undetermined future., 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Shannon Garden-Smith, *Blinds II* (diptych for University College) (detail), 2023, gelatin, image transfer, jewellery, dyed nylon strings, approx. 73.25 x 212.5 in (each). Photo by Polina Teif.



Presence in a past or an undetermined future., 2025, Installation view. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Nabil Azab, *Untitled (1-3)*, 2023, archival inkjet prints mounted on Dibond, 51 x 40 in (framed), courtesy of Franz Kaka and the Artist. Photo by Polina Teif.

UP FRONT: INUIT PUBLIC ART @ ONSITE GALLERY

SEPTEMBER 2023 TO DECEMBER 2024

Curated by Ryan Rice

Artist: Maureen Gruben

In Dance me through the herd, caribou hooves sit on candle ice. These scaled up forms have been printed using 3D scans of hooves harvested in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, which Gruben cleaned and scraped by hand. Candle ice forms towards the end of spring as the sea ice melts into columns; the pieces chime as they continuously break off and drift against one another.

Caribou hooves hold scent glands through which herds leave messages for one another as they migrate across the tundra and beaches of the Western Arctic. The arrangements here are reminiscent of shelters, spaces for meeting to share stories and knowledge. They speak to ancient patterns of gathering as we move through our environment while it shifts around us.



Maureen Gruben, *Dance me through the herd*, 2024. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation view. Photo by Polina Teif



Maureen Gruben, *Dance me through the herd*, 2024. Annual OCAD Artcrawl Tour. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Brian Medina

UP FRONT: INUIT PUBLIC ART @ ONSITE GALLERY

JANUARY TO APRIL 2025

Curated by Ryan Rice

Artist: Coco Lynge

The mural *Maliina* (2024) beautifully weaves together different, yet impactful versions of the Inuit circumpolar origin story of the sun and the moon. All versions share the same pivotal moment whereby Maliina rubs soot on her hands, and in the morning light, discovers the shocking truth / evidence—that the one she had shared the night with was her brother, the moon. This revelation sparks an eternal chase across the sky, with sun and moon pursuing each other endlessly, shaping day and night.



Coco Apunnguaq Lynge, *Maliina*, 2024, Up Front: Inuit Public Art @ Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Installation View. Photo by Polina Teif, 2025.

**ROSALIE FAVELL -
FACING THE CAMERA: TSÍ
TKARÒN:TO.**

MAY – NOVEMBER 2025

Curated by Ryan Rice

Presented as a unique, large-scale, outdoor installation on the façade of Onsite Gallery, Rosalie Favell's *TSÍ TKARÒN:TO* comprises a suite of photographs selected from the Ottawa-based Red River Metis artist's renowned portrait series *Facing the Camera*, a monumental national and international visual archive documenting the broad diversity of Indigenous arts and cultural communities.

Facing the Camera: TSÍ TKARÒN:TO is presented in conjunction with Onsite Gallery's touring exhibition *Rosalie Favell | Belonging* (1982–2024) and is a 2025 Core Program with the CONTACT Photography Festival.



Rosalie Favell, *Facing the Camera: TSÍ TKARÒN:TO*, 2025. Installation view, exterior mural. Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto. Photo by Polina Teif.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Each exhibition was complemented by a fulsome schedule of free public programming designed to activate the exhibition's curatorial premise, related topics and advance diversity priorities. Our achievements respond to systemic deficits in the sector, and we welcomed greater representation and diversity in our approach with all activities.

A project grant received from Canada Council for the Arts produced the exhibition *Fortitude / Fragile*.

The Delaney Family Curator's Prize supported the exhibition *Presence in a past or an undetermined future*.

An Ontario Arts Council grant supported *Mawadishiwewin* series (Jean Marshall and Linda Grussani). *Up Front: Inuit Public Art @ Onsite Gallery* was supported by an Inuit Art Foundation partnership and grants from the City of Toronto and Toronto Friends of the Visual Arts.

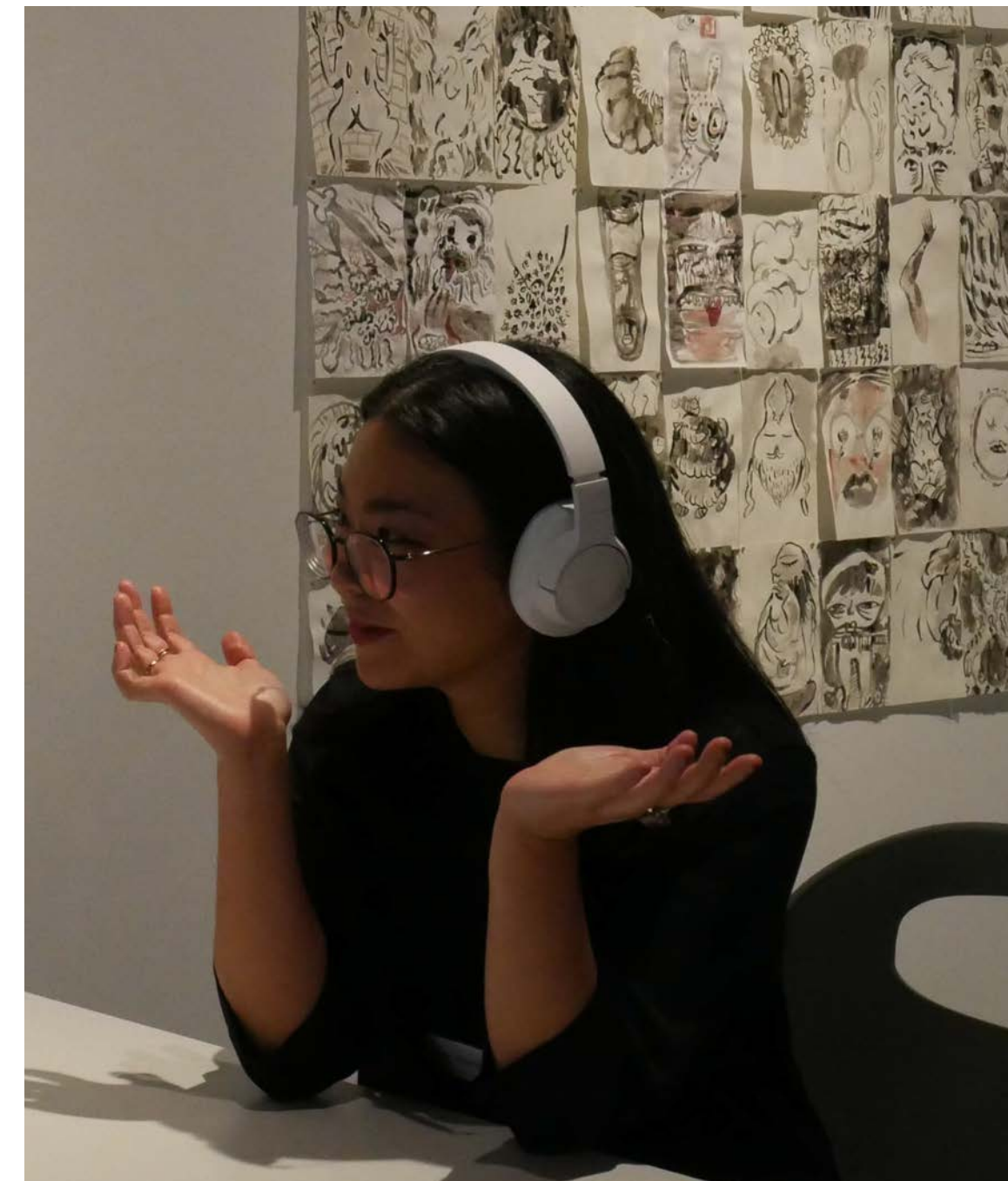
We continue to receive operating grants from the Toronto Arts Council and Ontario Arts Council.

We also partnered with Native Women in the Arts who generously sponsored a program for the *Mawadishiwewin* series.

JUNE 19TH, 2024

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION
_other tongues part I communication + Jean Marshall: Anikoobijikewin

(Photography by Falaq Khan)



JUNE 26TH, 2024

FELT WORKSHOP WITH JEAN MARSHALL AND LINDA GRUSSANI
Jean Marshall: Anikoobijikewin

OCAD University's Nigig Summer Art Residency with Onsite Gallery delivered a felt workshop with Jean Marshall and Linda Grussani. In the maker workshop, artist and curator discussed the dynamic exhibition *Anikoobijikewin* and illuminated the profound connections between community, visiting, creating, and sharing what it represents.

JULY 24TH

CURATORIAL TOUR WITH RYAN RICE
_other tongues part I communication + Jean Marshall: Anikoobijikewin

(Photography by Falaq Khan)



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

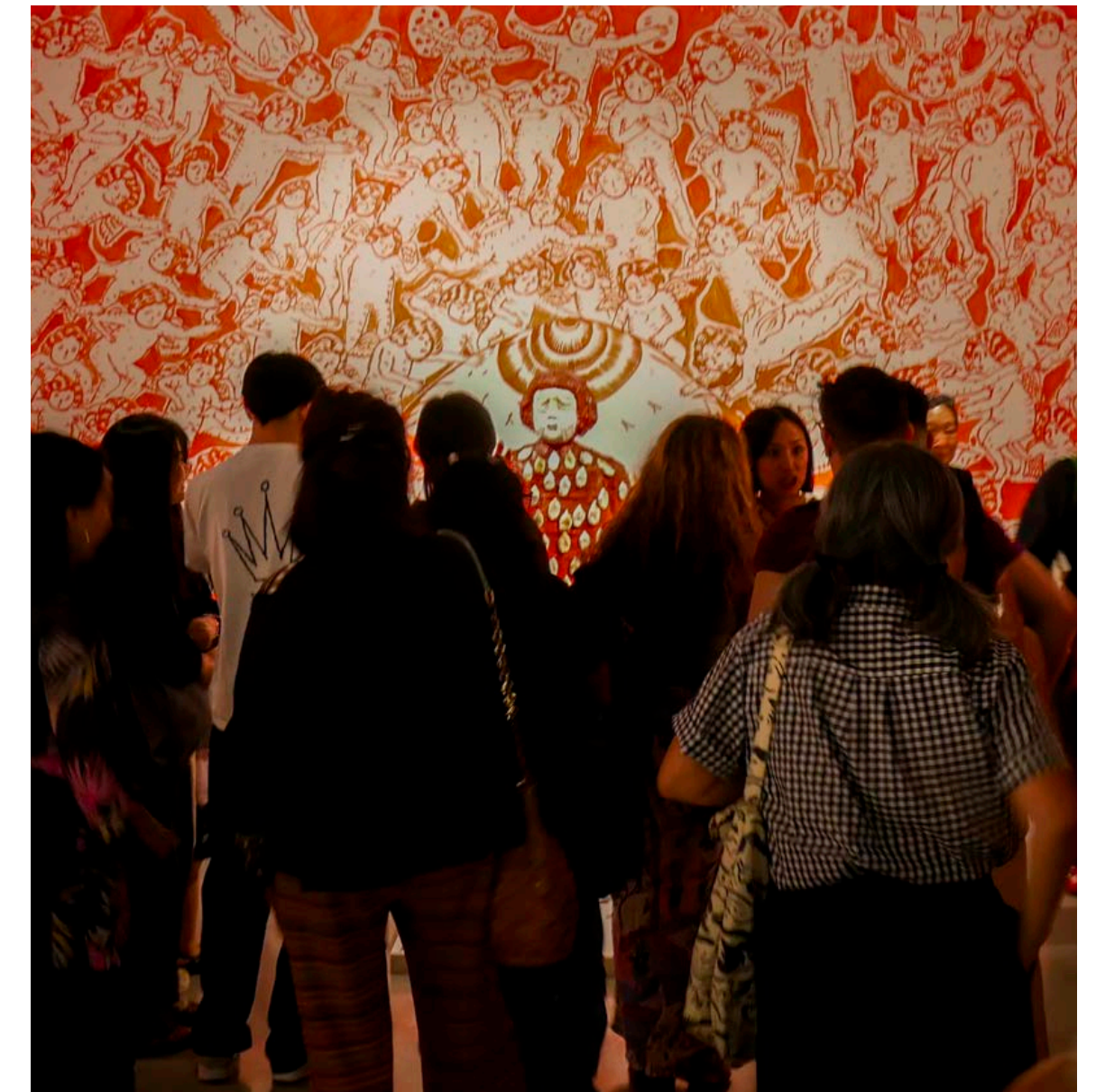
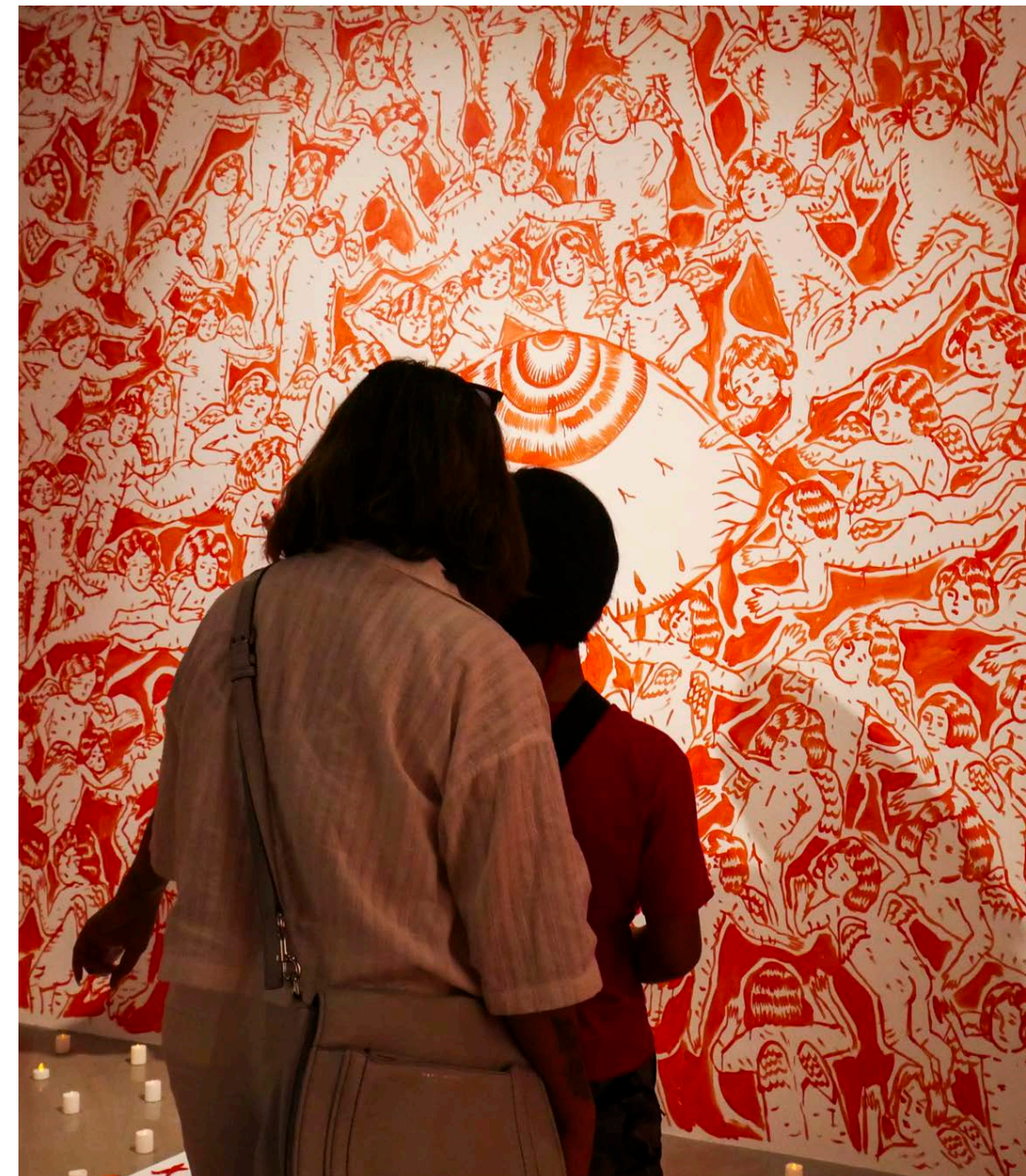
AUGUST 14TH, 2024

IN CONVERSATION: DOKTOR KARAYOM
WITH ANA SERRANO + EXHIBITION
OPENING RECEPTION

***Doktor Karayom: No One's At Home (Walang
Tao Sa Bahay)***

(Photography by Víctor R. Medina Vázquez)

Audiences experienced an enlightening conversation between the Philippines Ateneo Award recipient artist, Doktor Karayom and the President + Vice Chancellor of OCAD University, Ana Serrano as they introduced the fascinating exhibition *No One's At Home (Walang Tao Sa Bahay)*. Visitors learned how Doktor Karayom brought to life the dynamic energies within a home through lively and imagined personas, embodying tradition, prosperity, responsibility, pandemonium, and balance.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2024

DURATIONAL PERFORMANCE WITH
NATALIE WALDBURGER

***_other tongues part I communication + Jean
Marshall: Anikoobijikewin***

(Photography by Víctor R. Medina Vázquez)

The event showcased the mesmerizing world of tessellated origami, where geometry and art collided in a dance of precision and beauty during a 4-hour durational performance with Natalie Waldburger. Tessellation, the seamless coverage of an infinite plane with a repeatable pattern without gaps or overlaps, formed the foundation of her work.

Natalie transformed single sheets of paper into stunning arrays of repeated folds, creating large-scale origami tessellation sculptures that documented the intricate and physically demanding folding process.

Each piece emphasized the tension between the paper's structural rigidity and its ephemeral nature. The performance, featuring a larger-than-life image of the artist, highlighted the collision between abstract geometric forms and the tangible reality of the material, capturing the ever-present potential for failure.

Audiences experienced the captivating artistry and deep narratives embedded in Waldburger's sculptures, immersing themselves in their beauty and thought-provoking themes.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2024

WHAT IS THE LANGUAGE MUSEUM? WITH
ELAINE GOLD

_other tongues part I communication

(Photography by Víctor R. Medina Vázquez)

Attendees enjoyed an informative and enlightening evening with Dr. Elaine Gold, Executive Director of the Canadian Language Museum. Dr. Gold provided a lecture on the rich tapestry of languages spoken in Canada, including Indigenous, Diasporic, and Sign languages.



OCTOBER 4TH, 2024

ARTIST/CURATOR TALK: JEAN MARSHALL IN
CONVERSATION WITH LINDA GRUSSANI

Jean Marshall: Anikoobijikewin

(Photography by Lion (Ismail) Sher)

Onsite Gallery welcomed 24 guests to an exclusive Artist/Curator Talk with Jean Marshall and Linda Grussani, where they engaged in an in-depth discussion about the dynamic exhibition *Anikoobijikewin*. Together, they illuminated the profound connections between community, visiting, creating, and sharing that the exhibition represented.

Anikoobijikewin marked the second solo exhibition in the *Mawadishiwewin (visits)* series, offering audiences a rich exploration of cultural narratives and creative practices rooted in community engagement. Presented in the Special Projects Gallery, the exhibition invited visitors to experience the works firsthand and remained on view through November 30, 2024.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

OCTOBER 5TH TO 6TH, 2024

NUIT BLANCHE

Nuit Blanche 2024: The Metipso Portal

(Photography by Lion (Ismail) Sher)

Co-presented *The Metipso Portal International*, this 12-hour live and interactive Nuit Blanche 2024 – *Bridging Distance* event was a collaboration between OCAD U's Onsite Gallery and The Metipso Portal International. The multi-faceted exhibition linked Toronto to The Metipso Portal International Mud Hut Media Lab for the *Live Broadcast Experiment: #NB-OCAD-10-05-24*. The Metipso Portal International, the world's only experimental media lab operating in a traditional mud hut in a village on the edge of a protected forest in the highlands of Central Kenya, delivered its most ambitious presentation to date. Artwork presented throughout the night included a compilation of archival footage, played on the central screen, showcasing past connections between the Metipso Portal and people worldwide.

To the side of the screen, through a live Zoom call, over 4,000 Toronto participants met and interacted with a member from Metipso village (Kenya). This intimate call ran for the full 12 hours.

Hosted by an array of the ActionCan Films who, including Benjamin Blais, John Fleming and newcomer Arleigh Curran from Toronto along with Metipso TV team in Kenya, including Teddy Purity, KAIDA, Javan Batenga and renowned international presenter Topi Lyambila.

Visitors experienced live interactions between the bi-continental hosts, audience members, fun games as well as talented performances from both sides including Cellist Margaret Maria, Traditional Village Singers and Cocanina.

This unique exhibit has been orchestrated by lead Canadian artists Joel Richardson and Susan de Freitas and Kenyan Olympic Gold medallist Matthew Birir.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

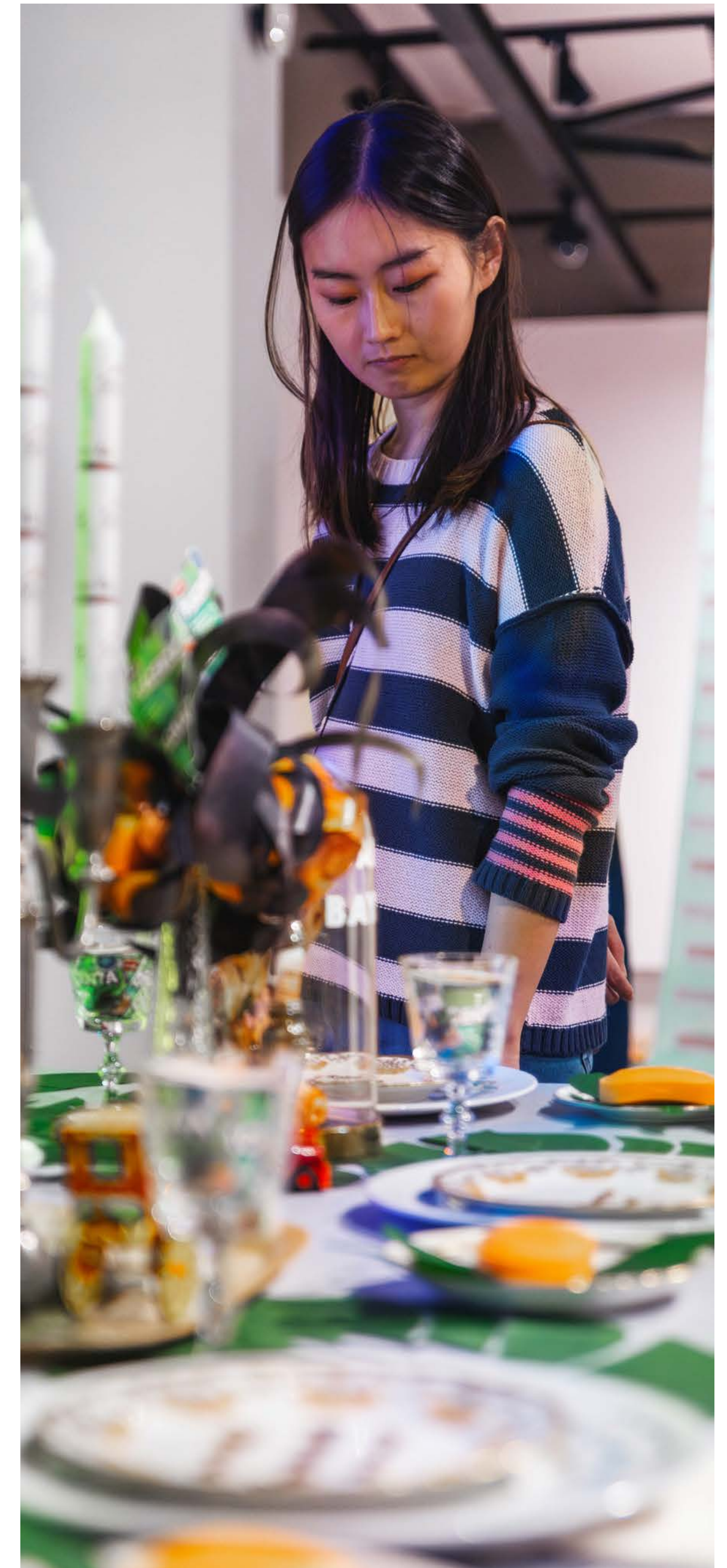
OCTOBER 19TH, 2024

OCAD U GALLERY CRAWL

(Photography by Brian Medina)

Onsite Gallery participated in the OCAD U Gallery Crawl. As part of the crawl, 90 attendees heard artists and curators share the stories behind their creative processes, offering insight into the inspirations, challenges, and ideas that shaped their work. Exhibited works were: *_other tongues part I communication*, Jean Marshall: *Anikoobijikewin* and Doktor Karayom: *No One's At Home (Walang Tao Sa Bahay)*.

The OCAD U Gallery Crawl featured over 50 artists, both student and professional, whose works were showcased in venues across campus. Guests also explored OCAD U's vibrant arts community through free guided tours of five exhibition venues, gaining a deeper appreciation for the diversity of creative expression within the university's multiple galleries.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

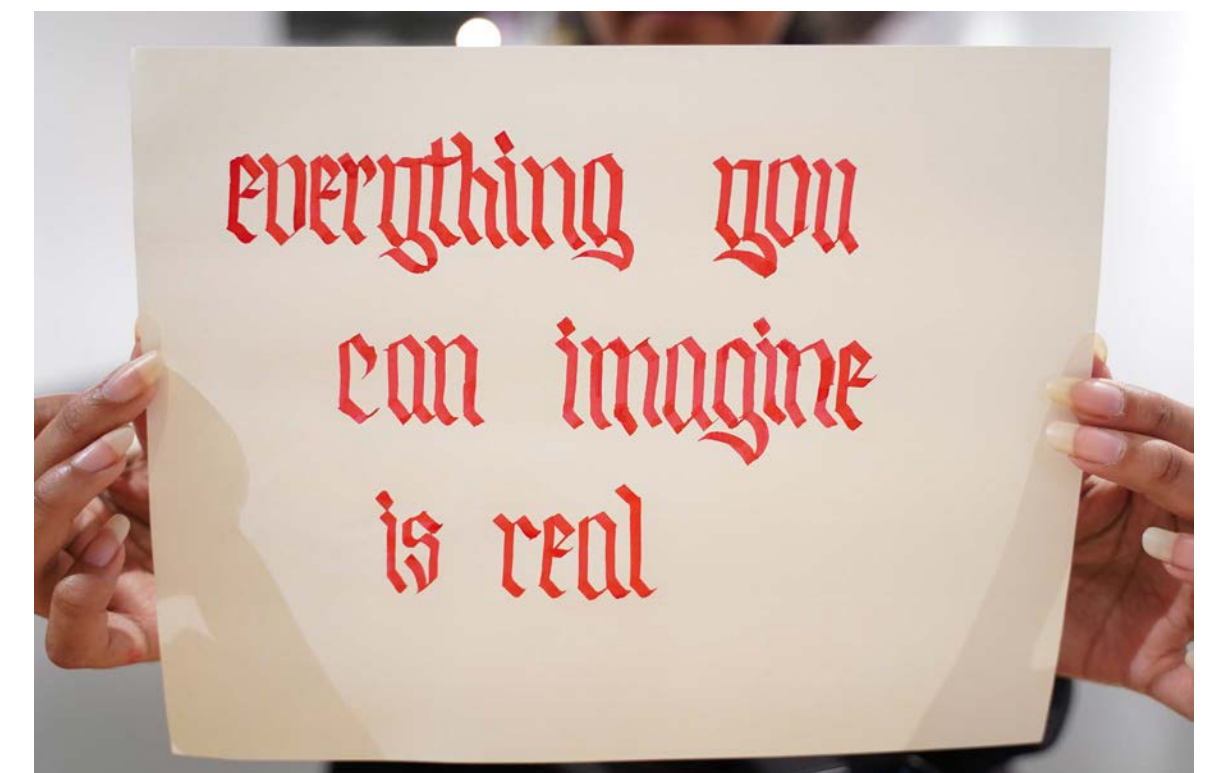
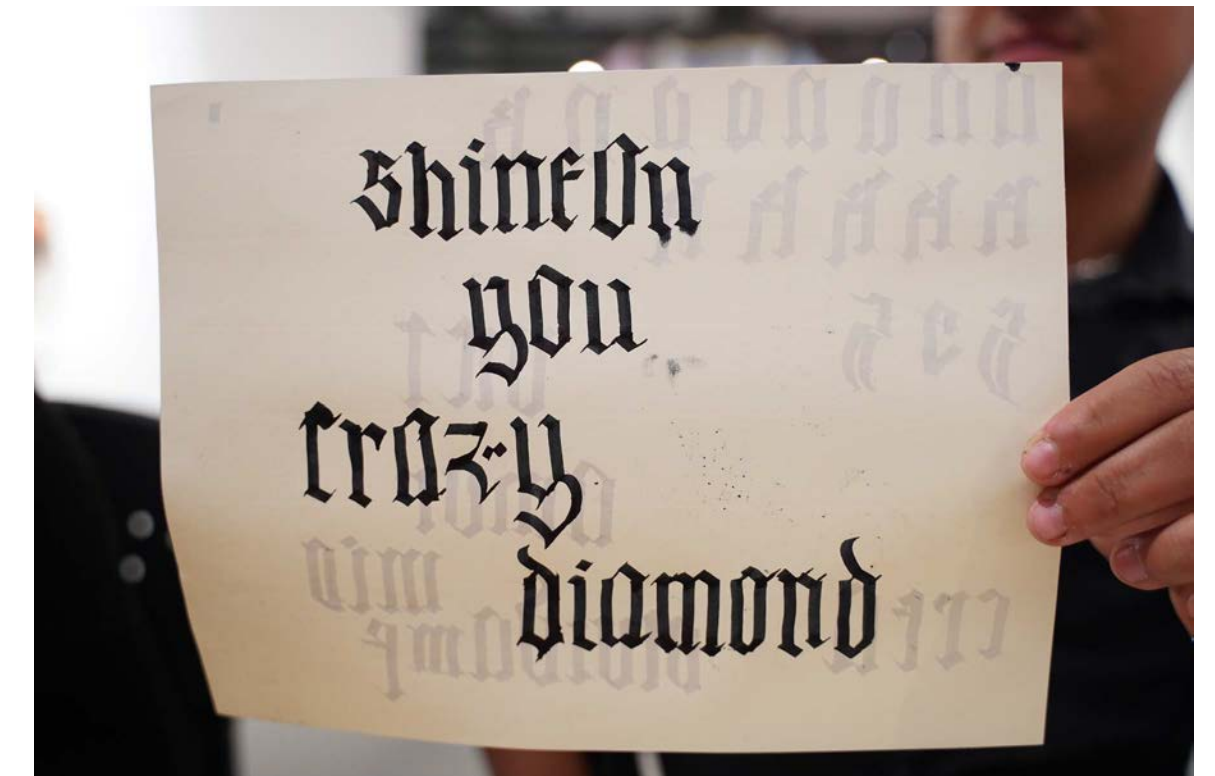
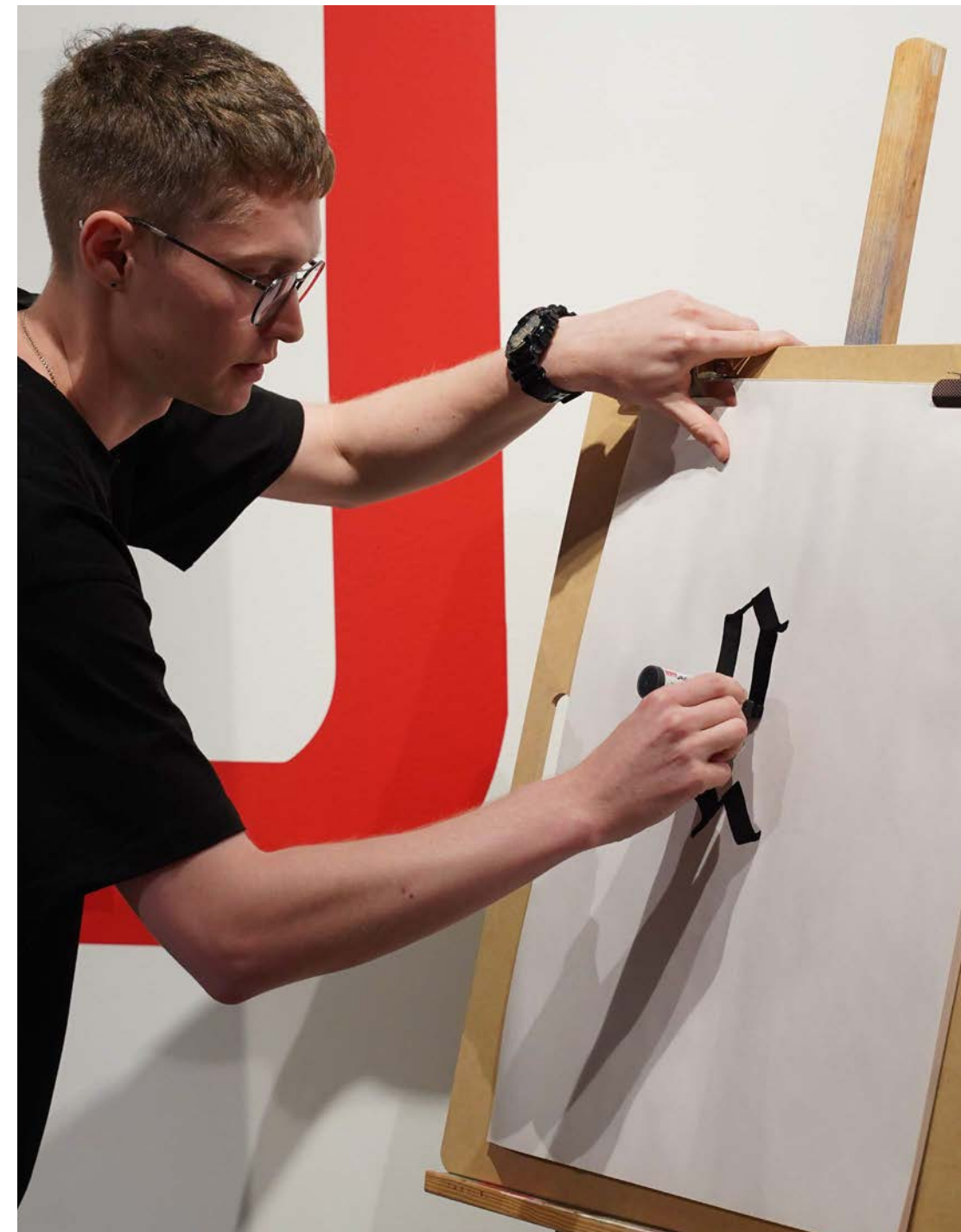
OCTOBER 23RD, 2024

LANGUAGE CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP
WITH NESTOR

_other tongues part I communication

(Photography by Lion (Ismail) Sher)

Co-presented with the OCAD U Writing & Learning Centre, participants explored the art of calligraphy in a 3-hour workshop with Nestor. The session guided attendees through essential techniques, from mastering brush strokes to creating elegant letterforms, while encouraging personal expression and artistic experimentation. By the end of the workshop, participants had not only refined their skills but also produced unique, handcrafted pieces that reflected their own creative style.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER 6TH, 2024

EXPLORING LANGUAGES IN DIFFERENT
FORMS

_other tongues part I communication

(Photography by Víctor R. Medina Vázquez)

Moderated by Onsite Gallery's Programs & Community Coordinator, Susan Jama, invited panelists, Nabeela Yasmeen Malik, Ehiko Odeh, Diane Mikhael and Par Nair, delved into the captivating realms of language, cultural identity, and materials expressed through their stories and artworks. Through the panelists' creative practices and artistic works, they spoke about the transformative power inherent in these narratives. This was a remarkable opportunity to witness and learn firsthand how these narratives transcend boundaries, empower agency, and carve out essential spaces for cultural empowerment.



NOVEMBER 20TH, 2024

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION: CREATIVE
WRITING X ONSITE GALLERY

_other tongues part I communication

(Photography by Lion (Ismail) Sher)

The event showcased OCAD U's Creative Writing program community's creative response to works in Onsite Gallery's exhibitions *other tongues part I communication*, *Doktor Karayom: No One's At Home*, and *Jean Marshall: Anikoobijikewin* through an expressive public reading and recital of poetry, spoken word, and experimental interpretations.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

JANUARY 22ND, 2025

OPENING RECEPTION

**Coco Apunnguaq Lynge / Up Front: Inuit
Public Art at Onsite Gallery, Fortitude/
Fragile and The Delaney Family Emerging
Curator's Prize: Presence in a past or an
undetermined past.**

(Photography by Lion (Ismail) Sher)



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2025

CURATORIAL TOUR WITH MAGDA
GONZÁLEZ-MORA
Fortitude/Fragile

(Photography by Lion (Ismail) Sher)

Participants took part in an insightful
curatorial tour of the exhibition *Fortitude/
Fragile* with guest curator Magda González-
Mora.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY 13TH, 2025

ONSITE GALLERY'S ANNUAL CURATORIAL
LECTURE

***eunice bélidor: Handle with Care - Curatorial
Practices After the Pandemic***

(Photography by Zenab Kazmi)

Onsite Gallery presented its annual Black History Month guest lecture featuring esteemed curator eunice bélidor. Co-presented with the Centre for the Study of Black Canadian Diaspora and Black Artists' Networks in Dialogue Gallery (BAND Gallery), the event highlighted the vital role of fostering dialogues on Black history, art, and culture within and beyond our communities.

Titled *Handle with Care: Curatorial Practices After the Pandemic*, the lecture explored critical questions: What did it mean to curate with care in a world facing conflicts, wars, and genocide? Who and what did curatorial practices care for?

In her talk, eunice bélidor shared strategies employed by curators, including herself, such as archiving and radical hospitality, to create meaningful and relevant exhibitions that nurtured all participants—curators, artists, and audiences alike. Following the lecture, Joséphine Denis joined eunice for a conversation and moderated a Q&A with the audience.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY 28TH, 2025

CONNECTING SHARED EXPERIENCE
THROUGH TIME & MEMORY (VIRTUAL)
Fortitude/Fragile

Moderated by Onsite Gallery's Programs & Community Coordinator, Susan Jama, panelists Sandra Brewster, Shabnam K. Ghazi, Siham Salah, and Esery Mondesir explored the dynamic role of time in shaping cultural, socio-geographic, and familial histories in their artistic research.

Through an engaging discussion, the panelists shared insights into their creative practices, revealing how layered narratives carry the power to connect, transform, and reveal deeper truths about both shared and individual experiences.

MARCH 19TH, 2025

FROM COMMUNITY TO GALLERY:
EXPLORING CONTEXTS OF SOCIALLY
ENGAGED ART
Fortitude/Fragile

(Photography by Lion (Ismail) Sher)

In Spring 2024, a group of emerging racialized artists came together in a creative research process to explore relationships to identities, both personal and collective. Learnings from their resulting exhibition, *Trajectories of Now*, placed in dialogue with the Onsite Gallery exhibit *Fortitude/Fragile*, in a panel discussion alongside other perspectives from the Toronto art community.

A screening of the *Trajectories of Now* short documentary film also stimulated discussion with panel participants and audience members on contexts of socially engaged arts.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

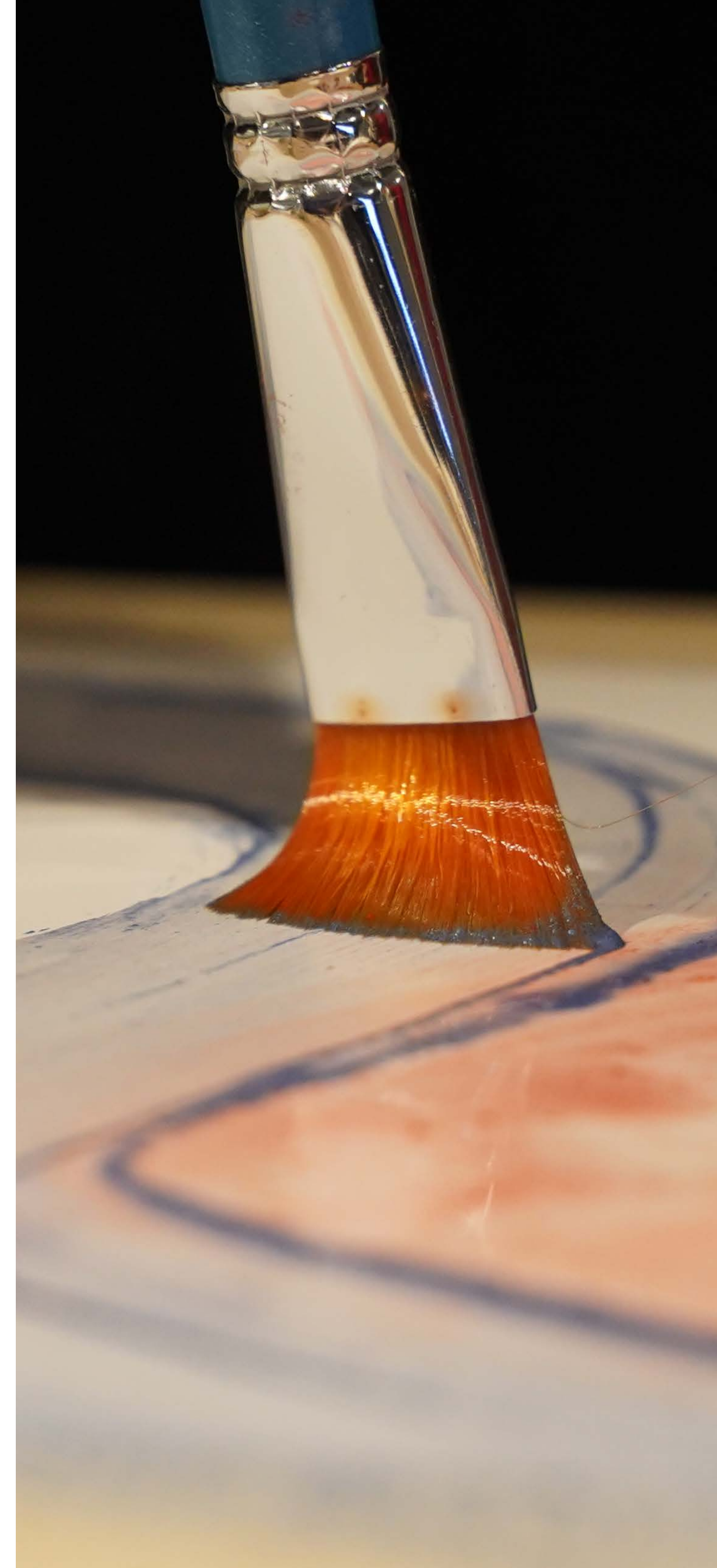
MARCH 29TH, 2025

NATURE'S PALETTE: PAINTING WITH
NATURAL MATERIALS WITH ZISHUO LI
Fortitude/Fragile

(Photography by Víctor R. Medina Vázquez)

In this 3.5-hour workshop, participants explored the intersection of art and nature, learning to use natural materials to create artworks that celebrate the beauty of the natural world. Emphasizing sustainable practices, the workshop encouraged responsible material sourcing and eco-friendly processes.

Through engaging, hands-on activities, participants learned essential techniques for painting with natural materials, including crafting botanical inks and dyes, preparing solvent-free oil paint from mineral pigments, creating textural effects, and understanding the science behind these processes to achieve captivating, long-lasting results.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

APRIL 10TH, 2025

ONSITE GALLERY TOUR WITH LISA DEANNE SMITH
Fortitude/Fragile

(Photography by Alessandra Camille Perreras)

Onsite Gallery Senior Curator Lisa Deanne Smith conducted an in-depth public tour of *Fortitude/Fragile*

APRIL 23RD, 2025

CURATOR / ARTIST TALK: AVALON MOTT IN CONVERSATION WITH NABIL AZAB & SHANNON GARDEN SMITH (VIRTUAL)
Presence in a past or an undetermined future.

Guest curator Avalon Mott and the exhibiting artists of *Presence in a past or an undetermined future.*, Nabil Azab & Shannon Garden-Smith, participated in a conversation where they shared insights into their creative and curatorial processes.



MAY 9TH, 2025

OCAD U GRADEX: CREATIVE WRITING X
ONSITE GALLERY

(Photography by Zenab Kazmi)

During OCAD U's Annual Graduate Exhibition, guests attended an evening celebrating the 2025 Creative Writing graduating cohort. The event featured a diverse showcase of poetry, music, theatre, and more, as students shared selections from their thesis projects. Attendees enjoyed and supported an inspiring night of words, storytelling, and performance.



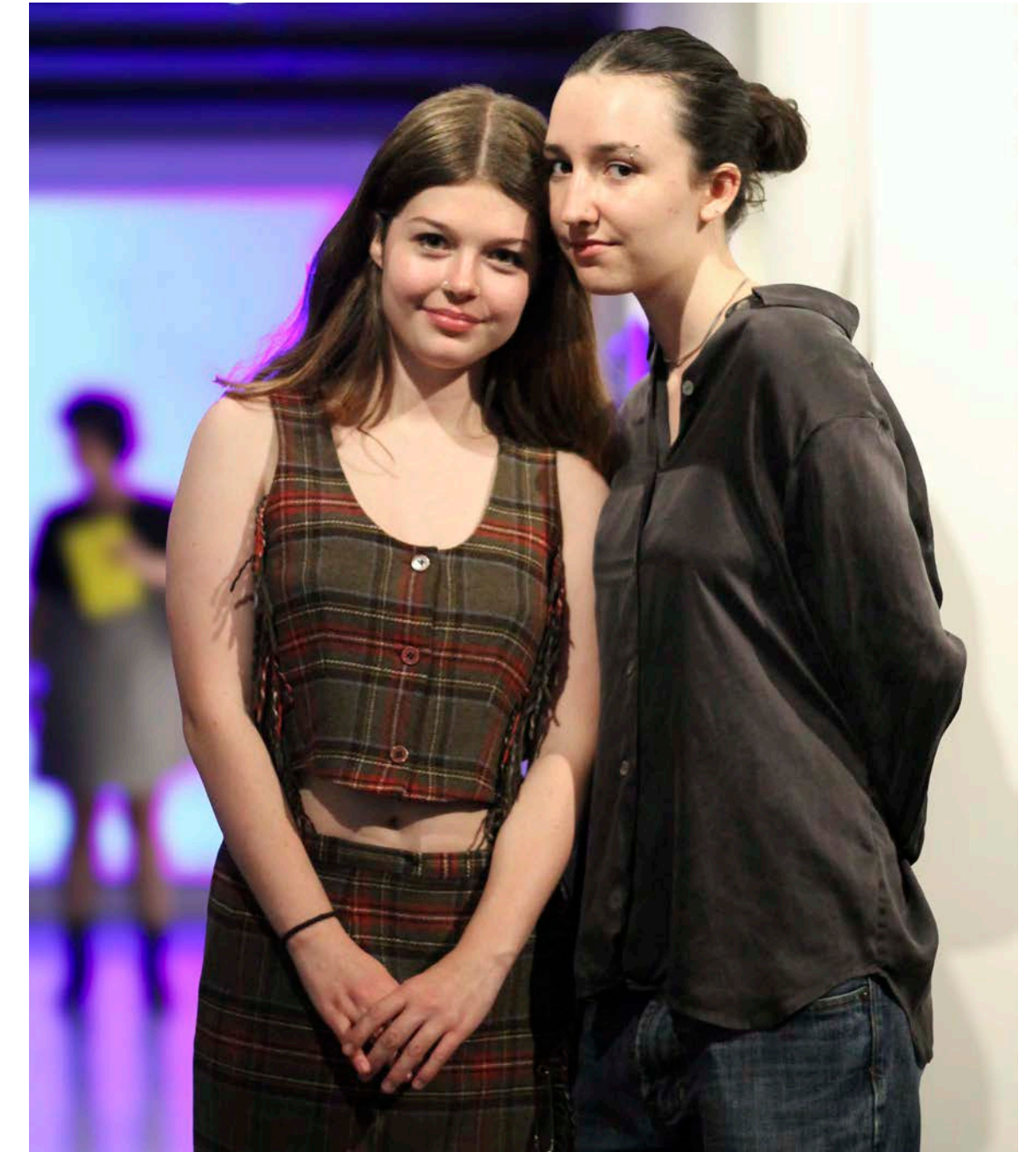
PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

MAY 16TH 2025

DYKE NIGHT
Fortitude/Fragile

(Photography by Zenab Kazmi)

The *Fortitude/Fragile* exhibition was explored through a dyke lens with a democratize-the-docent polyvocal tour for the 2SLGBTQ+ community at Onsite Gallery. The evening continued from 8 PM until late at Sweaty Betty's with an afterparty featuring DJs, readers, and special guests.



PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

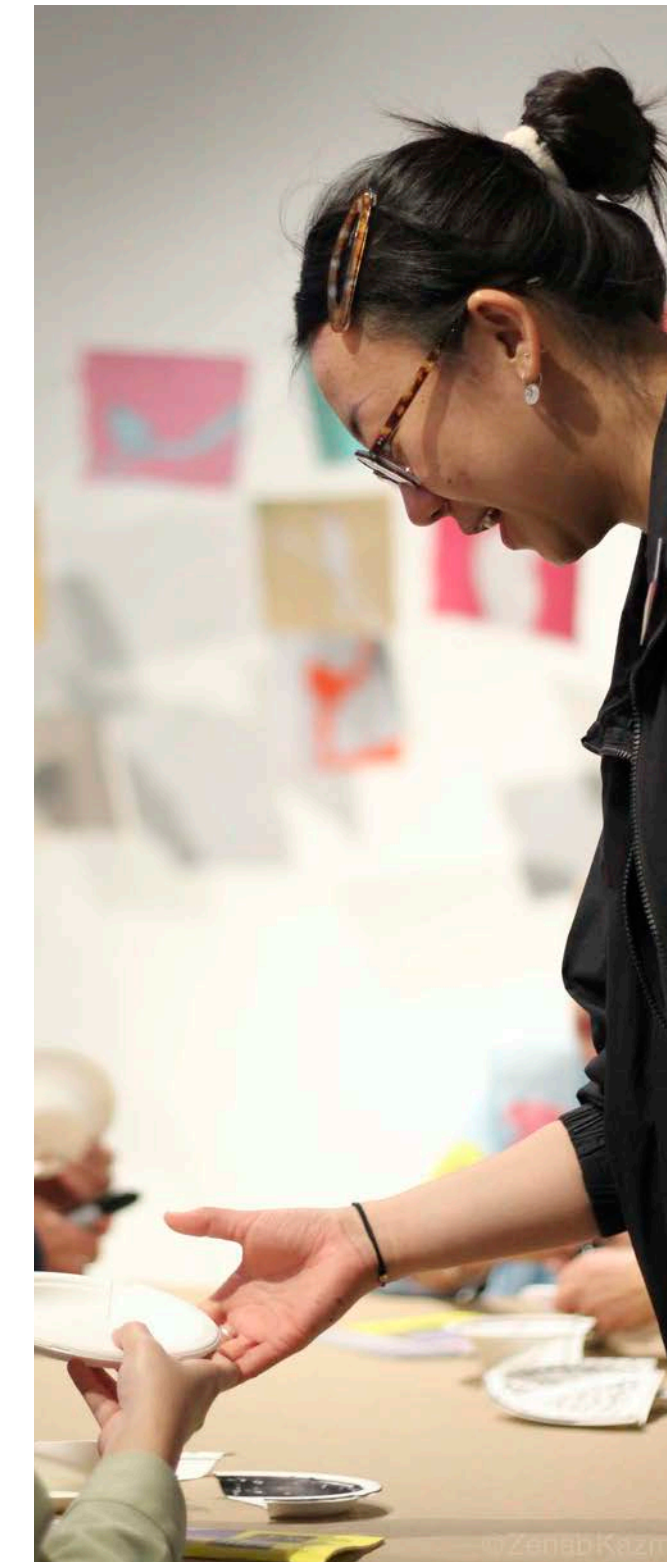
MAY 17TH, 2025

BEYOND THE LINE WITH FRANCISCO-
FERNANDO GRANADOS & VESSNA
PERUNOVICH
Fortitude/Fragile

(Photography by Zenab Kazmi)

Through the art of performative storytelling, *Fortitude/Fragile* exhibiting artists Francisco-Fernando Granados and Vessna Perunovich delved into the complexities of lived and diasporic experiences.

Granados and Perunovich used their artistic practices to shed light on narratives often marginalized or constrained by dominant systems of power, creating space for critical reflection and dialogue. By intertwining personal and collective histories, they evoked a nuanced understanding of resilience and vulnerability, offering audiences an intimate exploration of identity, displacement, and belonging.



THANK YOU

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

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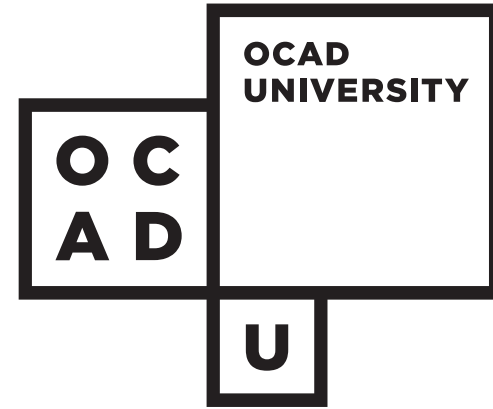
Ankesh Chandaria (Acting Chair), Logan MacDonald, Aylan Couchie, Glodeane Brown, Debashis Sinha, Randi Apple, Xintong Zuo, Schem Rogers Bader, K.J. McCusker, Ana Serrano

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