

Or Gallery//

*Gives-on-and-with:
Decolonial Moves of the
Transcultural*

January 15 - March 20, 2021

*Ayman Alazraq, Luanda Carneiro Jacoel, GLAM Collective,
Mariana Muñoz Gomez, Zinnia Naqvi*

Guest curated by Noor Bhangu

Three decades ago, Édouard Glissant proposed in *Poetics of Relation* that our responsibility to remember is greater than our own history. In our decolonial times and globalizing art locales, this potentializing responsibility remains clumsy and out of reach. This project asks, “How can we make the work of transcultural relation central in the production of global art (or artwork that travels) in ways that both value and deconstruct historical knowledge in the same order?”

This two-part exhibition is durational, polylogical, and writerly. As part of the first iteration at Or Gallery, artists will lead weekly sessions where they will apply selected readings to discussions of their research, works-in-progress, or ‘dreaming’ projects. The aim of this discursive format is to use desire, contradiction, and process to give knowledge on, and with, others.

Over the course of the exhibition, Or Gallery will present works of art by featured artists in an accumulative fashion. This process will unfold alongside the weekly sessions and be completed by the end of the exhibition run on March 20, 2021.

Or Gallery// 236 East Pender Street, Vancouver, BC
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BIOGRAPHIES

Ayman Alazraq makes films, photos, and mixed media artworks. His short film *The Passport* was screened at the National Museum of Cinema in Turin (Italy) and the Cologne International Video Art Festival (Germany) among other places. His video and photography installation *You From Now On Are Not Yourself* was screened in venues in Spain, Norway, Denmark, and the Gaza Strip. In 2015, Alazraq's short film *Oslo Syndrome* was presented in the autumn exhibition in Oslo, Dubai International Film Festival, and London Palestinian film festival. His collaborative work with Emanuel Svedin was shown at Galleri Podium in Oslo and Theaterhaus Jena in Germany in 2017. Alazraq and Svedin were awarded a permanent public art installation at Høgskolen på Vestlandet, which was inaugurated in 2019.

Luanda Carneiro Jacoel is a dancer-performer seeking to update questions about body-memory, the archive, identity and cultural background. Her work crosses boundaries between avant-garde performance, ritual, installation, and site-specific approaches. Currently, she is completing a Masters in Performance at the Norwegian Theater Academy and has a Bachelors Degree in Communication of Performing Arts from Pontificia Universidade Católica de São Paulo, Brazil. She is co-founder of the platform ACTS laboratory for performance practices in Oslo, fomenting development among transnational artists, producing and promoting art-related events and performances.

GLAM Collective (Dr. Carla Taunton, Dr. Julie Nagam, Dr. Heather Igloliorte) is a collective of scholars who work on and through Indigenous theory and methodologies, public art, performance art, digital technologies, and curatorial and artistic practices that engage with space and place. GLAM Collective was founded 2018, but its members have

more than a decade of prior experience of collaboration through publications, exhibitions, research-creation projects, presentations, symposia, workshops and other initiatives. Notably, in 2016 GLAM co-edited the special issue PUBLIC 54: Indigenous Art: New Media and the Digital, and throughout 2018 and 2019 they co-curated the three-part, nation-wide artist incubator and public art exhibition series, Memory Keepers, in the cities of Montreal, Charlottetown, and Halifax, as well as Gathering Across Moana (2019) in Toronto. GLAM Collective's project, The Space Between Us, explores how digital and new media art created through innovative incubator labs, workshops, makerspaces and symposia might create new paradigms for community engagement extending to remote and rural communities both nationally and abroad.

Zinnia Naqvi is an interdisciplinary artist based in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal and Tkaronto/Toronto. Her work examines issues of colonialism, cultural translation, language, and gender through the use of photography, video, writing, and archival material. Recent works have included archival and re-staged images, experimental documentary films, video installations, graphic design, and elaborate still-lives. Her works often invite the viewer to question her process and working methods.

Naqvi's work has been shown across Canada and internationally. She received an honorable mention at the 2017 Karachi Biennale in Pakistan and was an Artist in Residence at the Art Gallery of Ontario as part of EMILIA-AMALIA Working Group. She is a recipient of the 2019 New Generation Photography Award organized by the Canadian Photography Institute of the National Gallery of Canada in partnership with Scotiabank. She earned a BFA in Photography Studies from Ryerson University and an MFA in Studio Arts from Concordia University.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Mariana Muñoz Gomez is a Latinx artist, writer, curator, and settler of colour based on Treaty 1 Territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her work is concerned with language, place, identity, diaspora, and displacement within post- and settler colonial contexts. Her lens-based practice involves a variety of media including text works, screen-prints, and photography. Mariana works collaboratively with a number of collectives including *Carnation Zine* and *window winnipeg*. She recently completed a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies: Curatorial Practices at the University of Winnipeg.

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Noor Bhangu is a curator and scholar whose practice employs cross-cultural encounters to interrogate issues of diaspora and indigeneity in post- and settler-colonial contexts. Her curatorial practice includes the projects: *Overlapping Violent Histories: A Curatorial Investigation into Difficult Knowledge* (2018), *womenofcolour@soagallery* (2018), *Not the Camera, But the Filing Cabinet: Performative Body Archives in Contemporary Art* (2018), and *Digitalia* (2019). In 2018, she began her PhD in Communication and Culture at Ryerson and York University in Toronto.

READING GROUP AND PUBLIC EVENT SCHEDULE

*All events will take place online and are free to attend.
Please visit our website to sign up and receive meeting links
and readings. All times are in Pacific Standard Time.*

Opening Reception

Friday January 15, 10.00am

Reading group led by Zinnia Naqvi

Thursday January 21, 12.00pm

Reading group led by Ayman Alazraq

Thursday January 28, 12.00pm

Curatorial Talk by Noor Bhangu

Thursday February 4, 12.00pm

Reading group led by Luanda Carneiro Jacoel

Thursday February 11, 12.00pm

Performance by Luanda Carneiro Jacoel Vancouver Art Gallery Art Connects | with Noor Bhangu and Or Gallery

Thursday February 18, 1:00pm

Reading group led by GLAM Collective

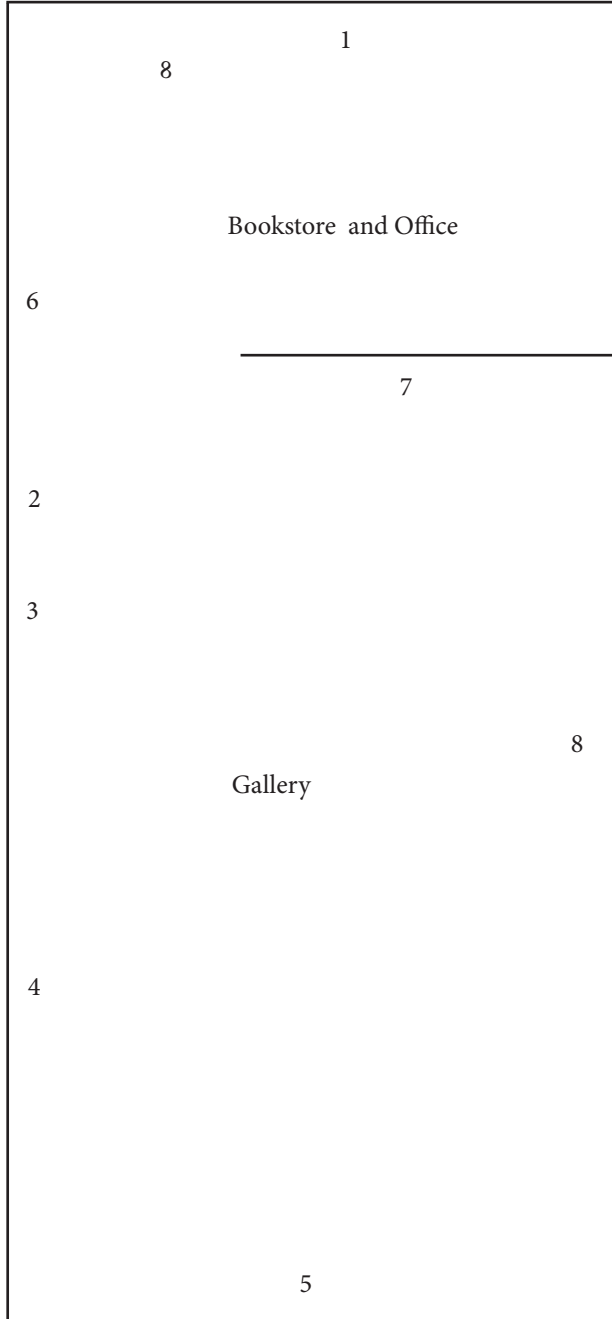
Thursday March 4, 10.00am

Reading group led by Mariana Muñoz Gomez

Thursday March 11, 12.00pm

GALLERY MAP

Front Window



LIST OF WORKS

1. Mariana Munoz Gomez

Pared

2020

Digital print on washi paper

2. Zinnia Naqvi

Performative Citation

2019

Digital print on vinyl

3. Zinni Naqvi

Farzana

2021

Script for in-progress artwork

4. Ayman Al Azraq

Materials from The Palestine Archive and in-progress script

Ongoing

5. Luanda Carneiro Jacoel

Kalunga Unspoken - Sopro

Video with sound, 5 mins 9 sec

2020

6. Mariana Muñoz Gomez

Navegando,

Video with sound, 33 mins 7 sec

2021

7. Reading group recordings

New recordings added with each reading group

8. Readings wall

New readings added with each reading group

9. *Poetics of Relation* by Édouard Glissant

Book and sound recording, read by Noor Bhangu

Or Gallery Staff//

Denise Ryner, *Director/ Curator*

Laurie White, *Program Coordinator*

Kitt Peacock, *Curator-in-Residence*

Olumoroti Soji-George, *SFU Student Intern*

Katrina Goetjen, *Volunteer*

Kevin Romaniuk and Jordan Milner, Installation Technicians

Or Gallery Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council, the BC Arts Council, the City of Vancouver, our members, donors, and volunteers. Or Gallery is a member of the Pacific Association of Artist Run Centres (PAARC).

Or Gallery acknowledges its presence on the unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səl'ílwəta7/Selilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.