

*a
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a thousand words

OCAD University, Toronto, Canada.



An open call exhibition of the
2019 Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival.

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Visions of Home

A Thousand Words presents artists from seven countries, working collaboratively to create work on themes related to the complexities of language and communication in today's global community. As participants in the International Art Collaborations Network, the more than 80 artists are students and professors in seven universities located in Canada, China, Finland, Germany, India, Mexico, South Korea and the United States. They have worked together for 8 months to define concepts and collaborate on the production of more than 20 clusters of photographic images, video, audio and more.

The work is attributed collectively to each project group and represents their interaction in articulating ideas, exchanging images online and forming a cogent visual statement. Issues related to language and communication, and attempts to work with the range of spoken and written languages which INTAC members use, form an umbrella theme for the INTAC 2018-19 exhibitions. A major goal is to enable greater active participation of those not as familiar with English while also challenging native English speakers to push beyond the limits of one language. Working with images presents opportunities to explore outside of written language, but many of the projects also address the miscommunication which occurs as a result of cultural and social differences, mistranslations and our inherently limited understanding of other contexts. Communicating cross-cultural identities and unraveling as-sumptions based on a person's visual appearance also form thematic threads.

To challenge language in the global community is also to recognize the difficulties presented by histories of power combined with today's apparent efficiencies of digital communication. What will be the basis of world cooperation when cultures bend to fit to the English language, losing centuries of nuance? Does language simply mimic the corporate hegemony? As artists, we can strive to collaborate and communicate in ways open to culturally specific perspectives, creating a blended language and challenging barriers to sharing and understanding. The rhetorics of diversity and inclusion can be embodied in our art practices.

OCAD University

Toronto, Canada
www.ocadu.ca

Prof. Peter Sramek, Photography, Faculty of Art, OCADU

Meera Margaret Singh, Associate Professor, Photography, Faculty of Art, OCADU

OCAD University is one of Canada's leading Art and Design universities and offers studies in the fields of visual arts, design, digital media and related liberal studies. The International Art Collaboration Studio was initiated in the Photography program in 2010, but is now open to students from all disciplines. Cross-disciplinary practices are key to OCAD's environment and INTAC embodies this philosophy, attracting students interested in inter-national and collaborative experiences, in cultural exchange and online communication.

TAMK University of Applied Sciences

Tampere, Finland
www.tamk.fi

Dr. Juha Suonpää, Principal Lecturer, TAMK

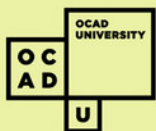
Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK) is located in the second largest city in Finland and is ranked as one of the most popular universities in Finland. The Faculty of Art, Music and Media offers a variety of BA programs such as Music, Film and Television, Interactive Media and Fine Art. Fine Art is part of the international English-speaking Media and Arts program that is open to applicants from all over the world. Photography, video, performance and media art in general are among the interdisciplinary tools that students from TAMK are using in INTAC. To develop an environmentally, socially and ethically sustainable learning platform is the key aim and motivates the participating students joining INTAC since 2010.



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Charisse Fung

INTERNATIONAL
ART COLLABORATION
EXHIBITION 2019



Chung-Ang University

Seoul, South Korea

www.cau.ac.kr

Prof. Yong-Hwan Lee, Photography, CAU

Prof. Gustav Hellberg, Photography, CAU

Prof. Silas Fong, Photography, CAU

Prof. Sascha Pohle, Photography, CAU

Chung-Ang University, Established in 1918, is a private institution with 30,000 students and 982 faculty members. It operates two campuses, in Seoul and Anseong, offering a wide range of bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs. Students in the Fine Arts Photography Program participate annually in the INTAC projects and have twice hosted participants for exhibitions: in Seoul in 2013 and in Anseong and Samtan in 2018.



The frame of INTAC is allowing UE to open its curriculum to shareable, interdisciplinary art practices. At UE, modern design is combined with the traditional aspects of applied art and innovative possibilities of new media. Students explore the interface between analogue and digital means of visual expression.

National Institute of Design

Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

www.nid.edu

Prof. Rishi Singhal, Head of Photography Design,
Sathyanand Mohan, Associate Senior Faculty,
Amarnath Praful, Graduate Assistant, NID

The Photography Design program at the National Institute of Design in Gandhinagar relies on a thorough understanding of historic processes, contemporary practice, emerging technologies, sociology, politics, literature, philosophy, and visual culture. It emphasizes contextual understanding of subject matter, and a balance of rational and intuitive creative processes, aspiring to unravel, articulate, and consolidate historic and contemporary visual trajectories inherent to the Indian subcontinent.



University of Applied Sciences Europe

Berlin, Germany

www.btk-fh.de

Prof. Walter Bergmoser,
Department of Art And Design

Since 2013, UE (as BTK) has participated in INTAC, cooperating with the other schools, organizing exhibitions, collaborative research possibilities and guest lectures.

UAEMex

Toluca, Mexico

web.uaemex.mx/fartes

Prof. Sofía Sienra, Faculty of Media, UAEMexico

The Autonomous University of the State of Mexico was founded in 1956, and has become one of the main institutions for university studies in the Mexican Republic. The Art Faculty was established in Toluca de Lerdo in 1996, and currently offers 4 bachelor's degrees in Fine Arts, Digital Art, Film Studies and Music, including a Master Degree in Visual Studies. It provides a space of formation, research and cultural diffusion of great relevance and impact in the state and national context. The Art Faculty joined the INTAC network in 2016 with the students in the Digital Art program and it continues to encourage the international exchange of ideas, the learning of languages and sharing of experiences, as well as the possibilities to generate knowledge through art practice.



Wuhan Textile University

Wuhan, China

www.wtu.edu.cn

Dr. Liu Fan, School of Art and Design, WTU

WTU, located in the middle of China, has more than one million university students. WTU is known for providing a high quality, student-oriented education in a multi-disciplinary

environment that integrates engineering, science, arts, economics and management. INTAC allows the Graduate students in Photography to develop communication and cooperation with students around the world. It gives them a totally new experience to create their works through online communication channels.

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Chicago, USA

www.artic.edu

Giselle Mira Diaz, Graduate student in Art Education and INTAC Coordinator

For more than 150 years, SAIC has been a leader in educating the world's most influential artists, designers and scholars. Located in downtown Chicago, SAIC provides an interdisciplinary approach to art and design as well as world-class resources, including the Art Institute of Chicago museum, on-campus galleries and state-of-the-art facilities. SAIC's students have the freedom to take risks and create the bold ideas that transform Chicago and the world—as seen through notable alumni and faculty such as Michelle Grabner, David Sedaris, Elizabeth Murray, Richard Hunt, Georgia O'Keeffe, Cynthia Rowley, Nick Cave, Jeff Koons and LeRoy Neiman





Ricardo Esteban

PARALLEL SPACES

Members: Auset Luxor, Jaein Lee, Ricardo Esteban, Janina Joutsen

In this project we have documented designated locations in our cities and neighbourhoods through photography, expressing our connection to these spaces.

Each photograph depicts and translates these locations in the visual language of each individual artist. Our aim is to see how these various areas inform and communicate our understanding of our different cultures and visual languages.



Auset Luxor



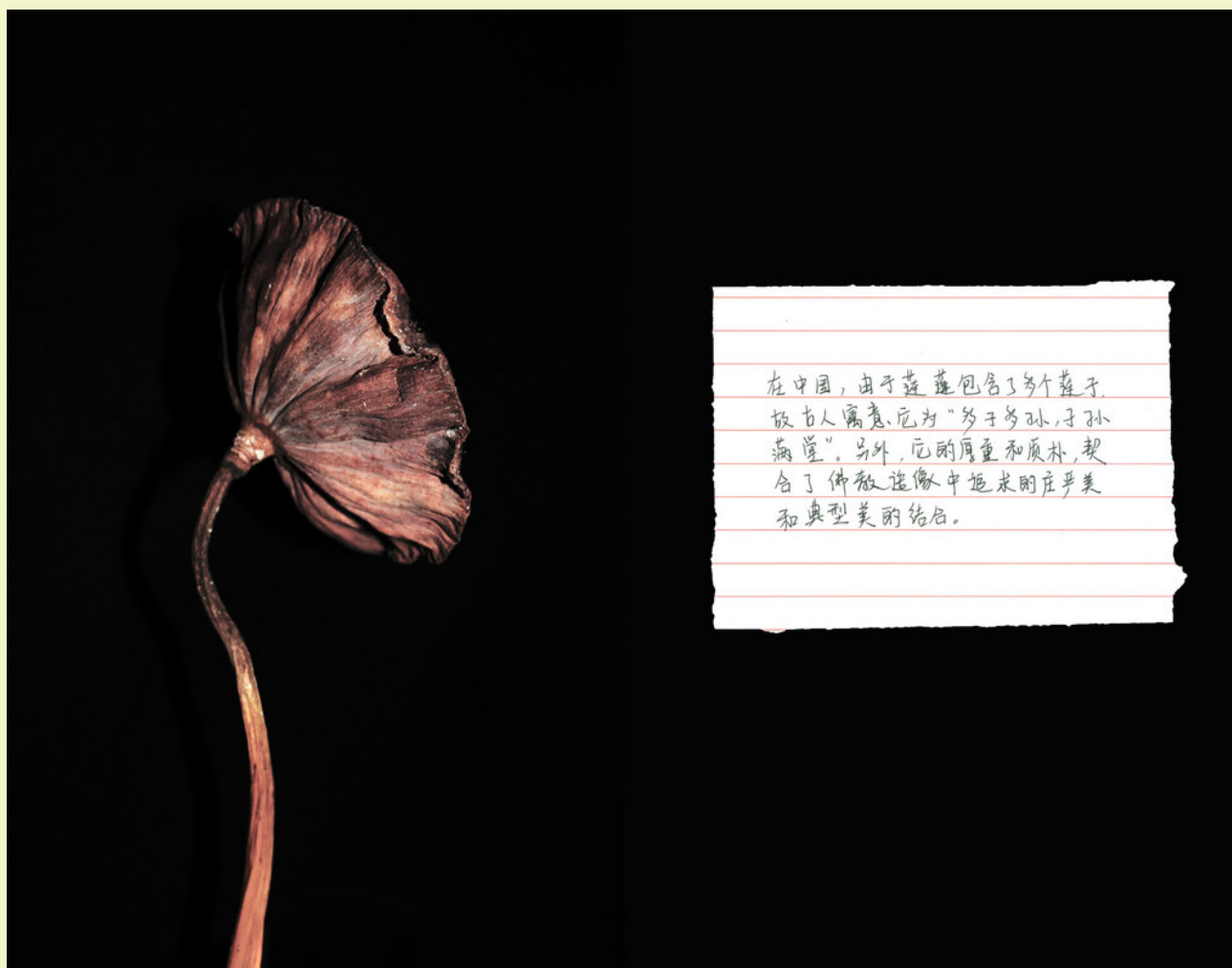
Jaein Lee

FLORA / 花 / FLOR / 翼

Leader: Haley Parker

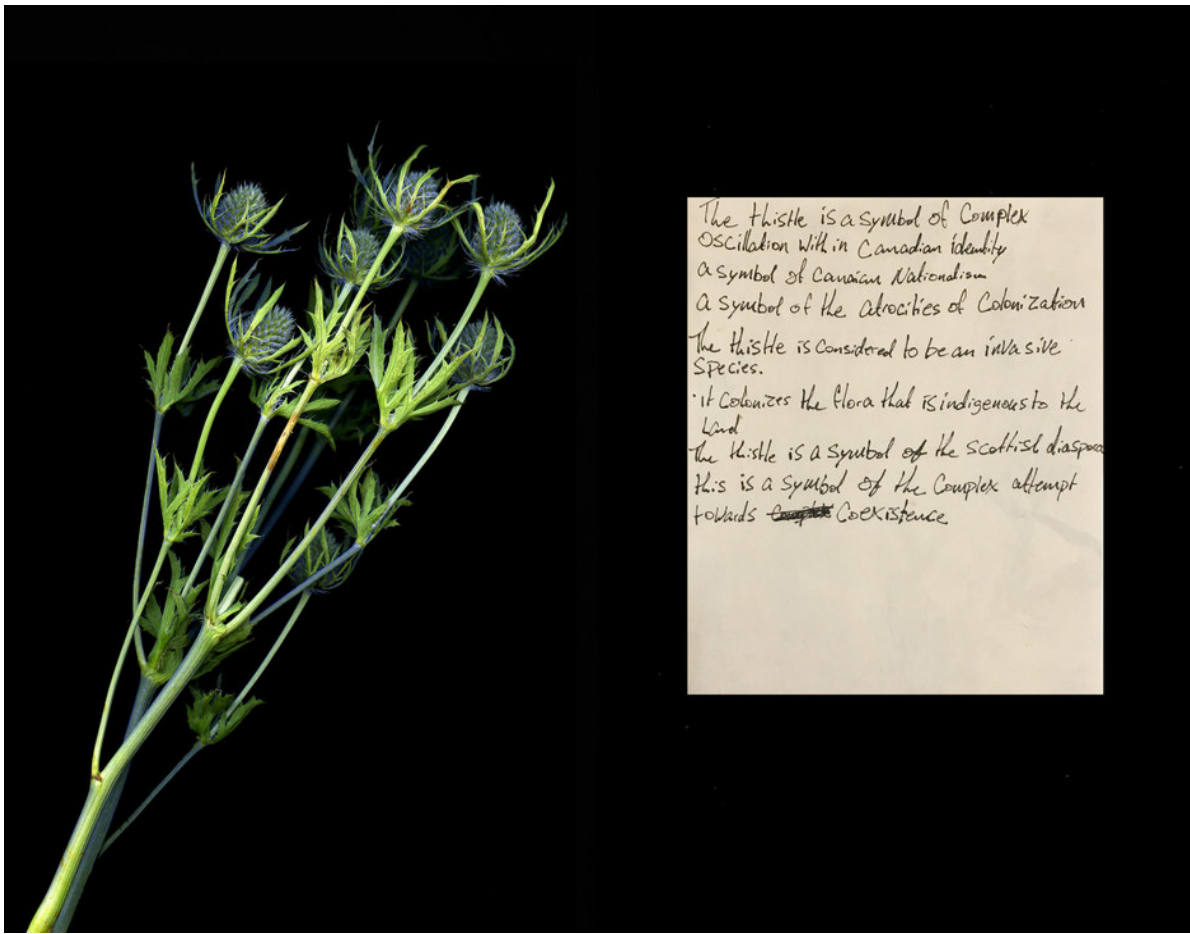
Members: Adrian Armenti, Ahlena Sultana-McGarry, Giselle Mira-Diaz, Ji-Hyun Oh, Pepe RoCa, Xin Liu

Flora Project aims to explore semiotics in a cross-cultural context, using floriography as a method of sharing and understanding societal symbolisms and how they vary (or sometimes, coincide) between cultures.



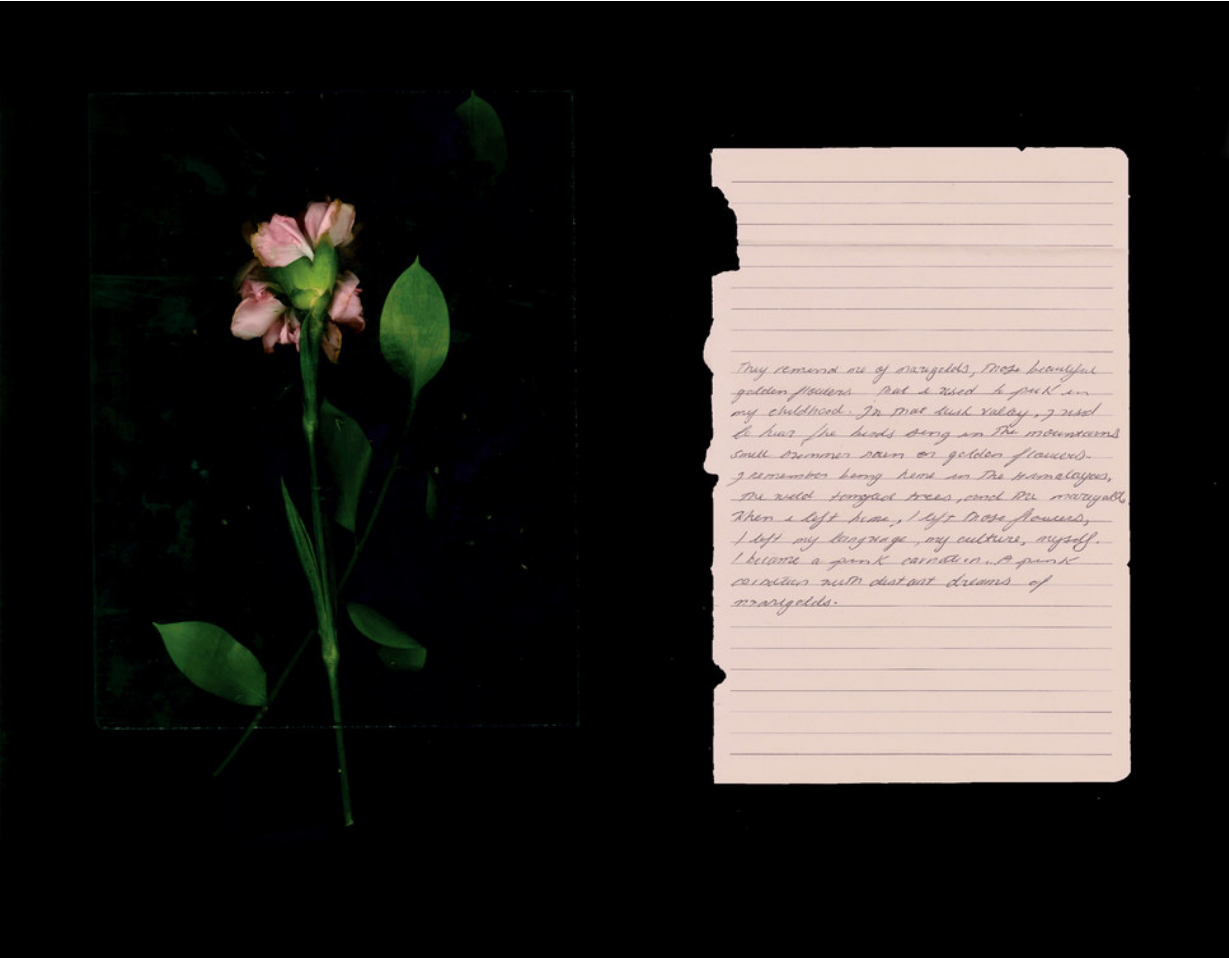
在中国，由于莲蓬包含了多个莲子，故古人寓意它为“多子多孙，子孙满堂”。另外，它的厚重和质朴，契合了佛教造像中追求的庄严美和典型美的结合。

Xin Liu



The thistle is a symbol of complex
oscillation within Canadian identity
a symbol of Canadian Nationalism
a symbol of the atrocities of colonization
The thistle is considered to be an invasive
species.
• it colonizes the flora that is indigenous to the
land
The thistle is a symbol of the Scottish diaspora
This is a symbol of the complex attempt
towards ~~coexistence~~ coexistence

Adrian Armenti



They remind me of orange fields, those beautiful
golden flowers that I used to pick in
my childhood. In that dust valley, I used
to hear the birds sing on the mountains
with summer rain on golden flowers.
I remember honey bees on the Himalayas,
the wild orange trees, and the orange fields.
When I left home, I left those flowers,
I left my language, my culture, myself.
I became a pink carnation. A pink
carnation with distant dreams of
orange fields.

Ahlena Sultana-McGarry

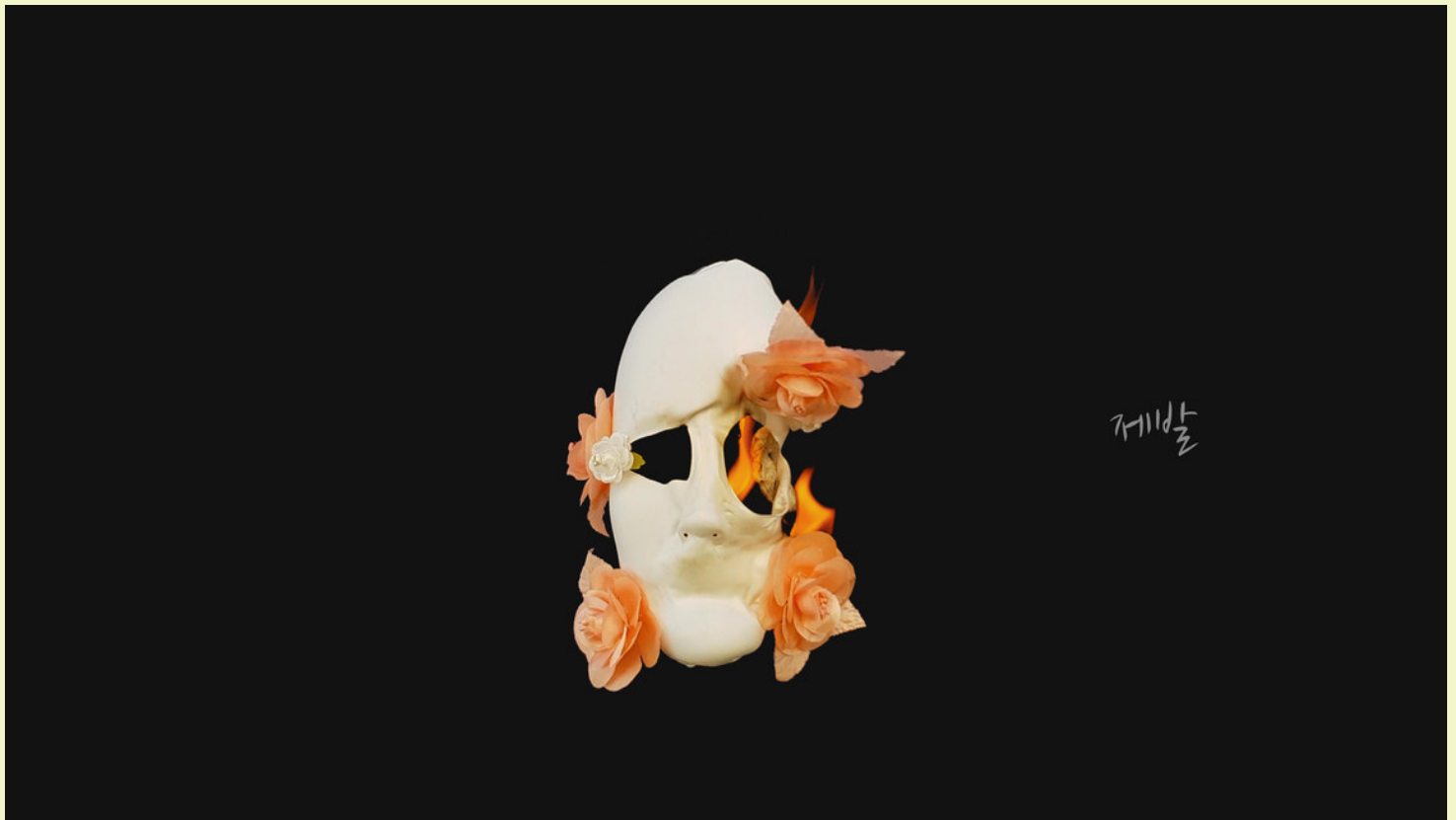
RECONEXILE

Leader: Charisse Fung

Members: Ahlena Sultana-McGarry, Natascha C Peterson, Pepe RoCa, Turru Kim

“RECONEXILE” is a play on the words Reconcile and Exile. Focusing on the idea of Cultural Dysphoria: the conflict between the social expectations for an individual’s cultural performance or identity and their desired embodi-

ment of that culture, or, uncertainty about where they fit into cultural categories. Simply put: not being able to fit into your own cultural context. We have created performance and documentation based work in which we re-encounter and retell specific experiences where we’ve felt cultural dysphoria; in hopes to reconcile with the feelings as well as to add to the growing discourse on the issue.



Kim Turru



Ahlena Sultana-McGarry



Charisse Fung



Ahlena Sultana-McGarry



Annie Zhao

Folktales

Leader: Alejandro Rizzo
Nervo

Members: Ahlena Sultana-McGarry, Annie Zhao, Ziqi Wei, Lada Suomenrinne

Many ideologies from various cultures are similar. Most of these similarities are invisible and are disguised underneath a distinctive surface.

We believe that these invisible connections between cultures are important to communicate

and to reveal.

The objective of this project is to create imagery inspired by myths, fairy-tales and folklore; including a famous urban ghost story from Venezuela, a Chinese Creation story, the story of King Shahryar in One Thousand and One Nights, and the Mexican Sami myths. Through this series of images, we observe how different cultures connect through storytelling.



Alejandro Rizzo



Lada Suomenrinne

Skin Marks

Leader: Xin Liu

Members: Ahlena Sultana-McGarry, Alex Velderman, Andrew JH, Barbara Ja-zbec, Charisse Fung, Ricardo Esteban, Sunwoo Ji

A skin mark can be a scar from an injury, a birthmark from the moment you are born, a line on your skin after weight loss, or a unique mole. These marks are specific to you and your memories. When seeing or thinking of these marks, they can touch your emotions and elicit a memory that only belongs to you.



Sunwoo Ji



Barbara Jazbec

Broken Telephone



Elise Seinenthaler



Amanda Cervantes



Mengyao Luo

Leader: Daniel Vega

Members: Adrian Armenti, Alex Velderman, Amanda Cervantes, Annie Zhao, Elise Seigenthaler, Leslie Colín, Mengyao Luo, Samuel Gratton

We are not the same. We do not think the same. We do not act the same. Like a child who has never lost their curiosity, BROKEN PHONE describes

a process similar to when you erase a word in pencil to write it again. Here remains the disconnection of our context, just like the language we speak, we also think and create art in different ways; the only thing in common: the desire to 'play artist'.



Eduardo Solache



Millie Mac



Phuong Hoang

The Banana Challenge

Leader: Phuong Hoang

Members: Alexander Tselmin, Charisse Fung, Charmaine de Heij, Lalo Solache, Leslie Colín, Mike Ioannidis, Millie Mac

First cultivated in Southeast Asia and New Guinea, the banana is one of the most popular fruits worldwide. Packed with vitamins and minerals, bananas improve heart health, digestion, and help fight anemia, among many other health benefits. In the symbolic world, a banana's meaning varies from area to area; individual connotations reveal important insights into the culture from which they originate.

Through the observation of historic and contemporary myths of bananas as well as the analysis of existing visual strategies, we - a group of eight art and design students across the world - have developed an absurdly extraordinary collection of art work on the bananas. Using seductive and entertaining visual language as well as provocative, commonplace, and powerful cultural reflection we've added to an expansive 'banana discourse'.



Michail Ioannidis



Charmaine 'T Zand





Charisse Fung



Meera Rampalli

Leader: Andrea Soropia-Chang
Members: Ahlena Sultana, Charisse Fung, Meera Rampalli

What are you? Three simple words that force you to explain who you think you are. In a world that revolves around labels, physical characteristics play an important role in that labelling. However, are facial features the only way to interpret someone's personal or cultural background? With the exploration of self-identity through visual representations, our group displays a range of answers to the question "what are you?".

What Are You?

Shadowing

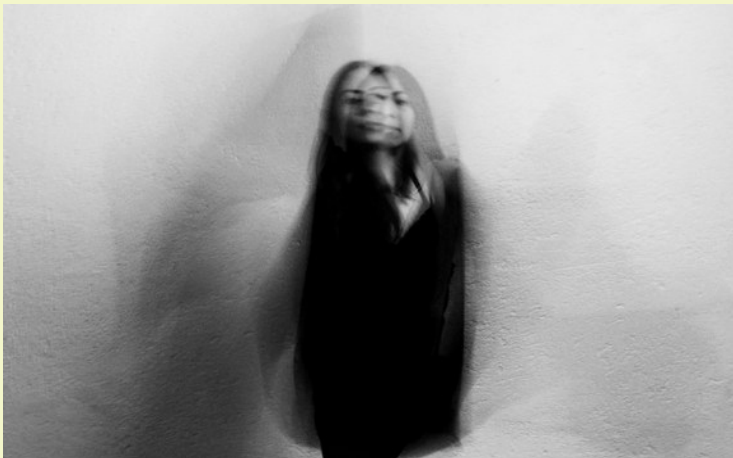
Members: Valeria Zepeda, Yozy Zhang Garvey

A collaboration crossing from Mexico to Germany, we explore the shadowy movements of our bodies. These photo experiments of shadowing are taken in a way that resonates within two different body dynamics - piercing through borders of time, countries, and

nationalities. In our process of creating, we did not tell each other in detail what we were going to project, instead, we have improvised in front of a camera. With this in mind, the results are both surprising and interesting. We will surely continue exploring this project further in the future.



Yozy Zhang Garvey



Valeria Zepeda



Millie Mac, Tell Me
You're Insecure



Daniel Vega



Leslie Colin

Translating Queer

Leader: Kat Cassar and Samuel Gratton
Members: Alejandro Rizzo, Daniel Vega, Lesli Colín

What does it mean to be “queer”? The word has changed throughout history and is now widely seen as an umbrella term for many people in the LGBTQ+ community. But how do people see this term and how do they use it? How does being queer differ across the different cultures of the world? In this project,

we explore the languages and meanings surrounding the term “queer” and how we each interpret and embody it. Through the use of photography and video, we have mixed interviews, research, and text to discuss what being queer means to each individual and our communities across different cultures as queer-identifying people.

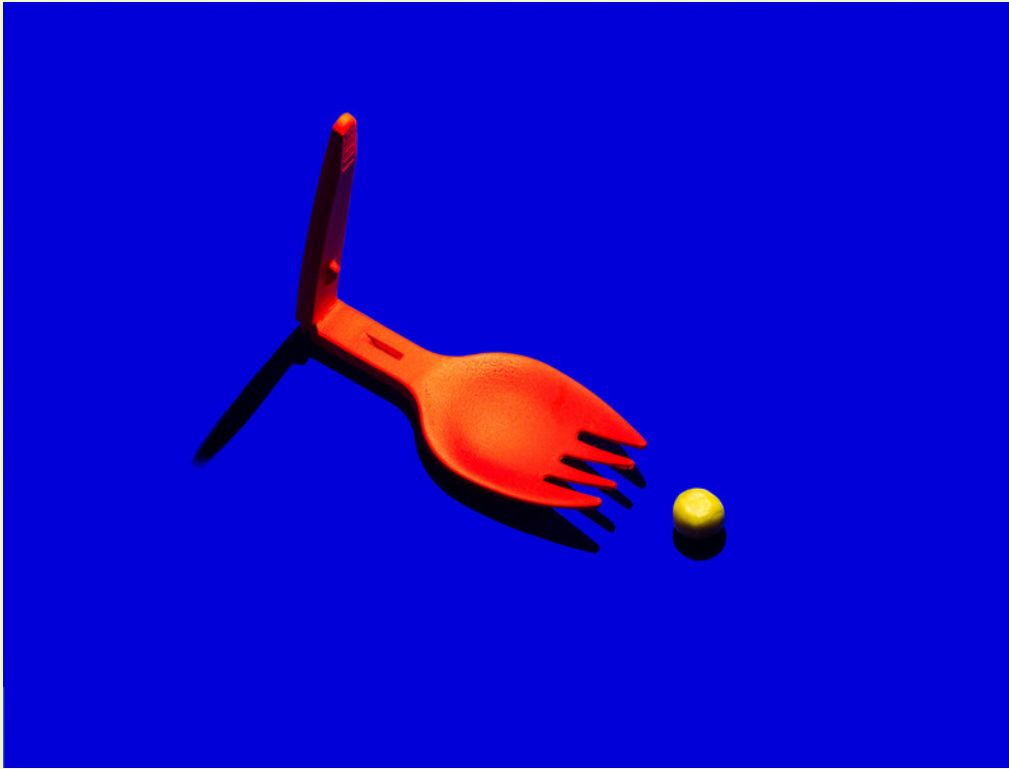


Kat Cassar and Samuel Gratton



Natascha Christina Peterson

Cognitive Transmission



Charmaine Deheij

Leader: Charmaine de Heij
Members: Andrea Soropia-Chang,
Natascha C Petersen, Lærke Lauesen,
Haley Parker

A state of mind is shelled from what we
can see with our eyes.
The invisible is not visible.
We communicate but hide the inside.
How can we show what is unseen?
With art, we can present what is con-
cealed. We will reveal cognitive trans-
missions.



Haley Parker

Jaein Lee



Dear,

Leader: Auset Luxor
Members: Amanda
Cervantes, Elina Knuutinen,
Jaein Lee, LiJuan Dong



Lijuan Dong



Auset Luxor

We currently live in a time where we can easily communicate and share information with each other around the world in a matter of seconds. But it was not always like this. There was a time before cell phones and the Internet when if someone wanted to wish a distant friend happy birthday or just simply tell them of something new that had happened in their life, they would write a letter. The project “Dear” is a 5-month long project in which four artists have

been communicating to one another through hand-written letters. Attached to every letter are snapshots that express where we are from, the insights of our personal lives, and our personal interests. Through this project we have patiently grown to learn about one another, creating meaningful friendships despite distance.



Emoji

Mengyao Luo



Leader: Mengyao Luo
Members: Annie
Zhao, Barbara
Jazbec

Annie Zhao

Nowadays, it's more and more common for people to chat with others on social networks using emoticons to express their thoughts and feelings. One simple emoticon can express a state of mind, a mood, an action. Emojis have changed language itself into a symbol: it takes the languages and expressions used in different circumstances and compresses, standardizes, and unifies.

When we use Emoji as a language, does this language really make communication more effective? Can these emoticons accurately express our true feelings to others? This project combines photography and Emojis to imagine a world where emoticons have completely replaced the normal language.



Michail Ioannidis

Leader: Mike Ioannidis
Members: Charmaine De Heij,
Natascha C Petersen, Valeria
Zepeda

Our flaws, our weaknesses, our bad habits and the things that we are embarrassed of are the things that make us unique and distinguish us in a world of 7 billion other people. Some of us feel uncomfortable or insecure expressing emotions or some of us keep the bad habits as a secret.

“Embrace Your Uniqueness” is a series of photographs depicting all the things that we are embarrassed of in order to reveal them, embrace them, and show that everyone is unique in their own way and that these aspects are beautiful! In the photographs, every participant is revealing intimate moments or situations that define their identity. The content of the photographs are up to each participant. Even if these moments are difficult to expose to other people, the goal is to share and reveal.

Natascha Christina Petersen



Embrace Your Uniqueness



Kat Cassar



Daniel Vega



Kat Cassar

Image Conversations

Members: Daniel Vega, Kat Cassar

We have constructed an image conversation, considering the nature of photographs as a form of speech and exploring what visual tools we can use to structure a conversation. Each person moves the conversation along as an echo of the image before it. This project has resulted in a collaboration crossing from Toronto to Mexico. In such, we converse over time and place, to reflect on the rawness of snapshot and each other's culture acting as a visual exercise in subjective interpretation and visual rhyme.

The Feast

Leader: Alex Velderman

Members: Auset Luxor, Mengyao Luo, Nanqiao Shi, Pepe RoCa, Samuel Gratton



José Manuel Castañeda

The taste and experience of making food can allow people from across cultures to bond and better understand each other. The goal of “The Feast” group, is to facilitate this process as a form of non-verbal, cross-cultural communication. Through-out the project’s tenure, members have shared and made each others’ recipes while writing a short reflection of their experience. The culmination of this process is part journal, part cook-book, documenting each individual’s unique experience.



Auset Luxor



Mengyao Luo

Time



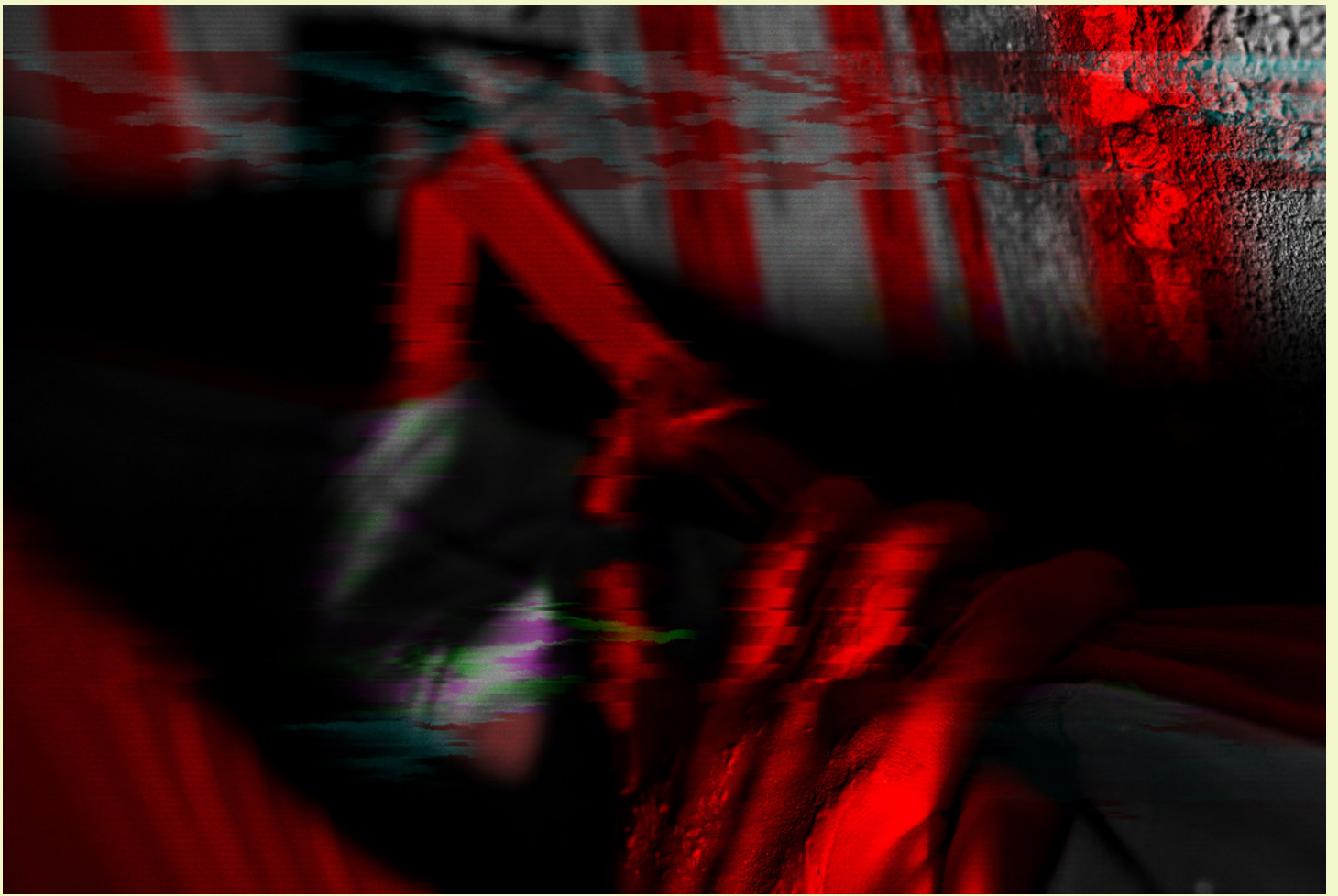
Leader: Natascha C Peterson
Members: Adrian Armenti, Ahlena Sultana, Auset Luxor

Life is time-consuming and time is life absorbing. We've created a concept to organize and understand, but it seems that the concept has taken over our perception of life. Time is money. Time is valued. Time is everything. We would be lost without it. So how do we portray this? How do we show time itself?

Ahlena Sultana-McGarry



Auset Luxor



Alexander Tselmin



Ricardo Esteban

Visualizing Concepts



Laerke Lauesen

Leader: Alexander Tselmin

Members: Lærke Lauesen, Ricardo Esteban

This project's aim is to visualize a virtually untranslatable term, a concept from a language the artist doesn't speak. Think *hygge*, *Schadenfreude*, *gezellig*; concepts and feelings, not physical objects in space. It is an exercise in multilingual communication that involves the explaining of a word to another person and letting them visualize it in a photograph in the way that they understand it.

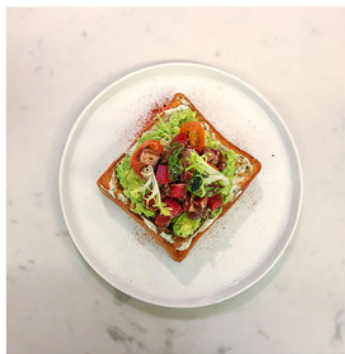
We Are What We Eat



Leader: Andrea Soropia-Chang
Leslie Colín, Ricardo Esteban,
Xiuwen Ye

Food is a tradition. It is a tradition that revolves around the bringing of people together. But in this day and age, food has evolved into something beyond family and cultural tradition. Food has become an expression of one's personal self. The products we place into our grocery baskets and

our plates reflects who we are as a person. This defines more than what we like to eat and presents a visual representation of our geographical location, personal and cultural traditions. As a group, we have created a series of photographs that captures our identity through the objects that frames our food. To show identity through what we eat, without the introduction of the human body.



Andrea Soropia-Chang

Body Language

Leader: Juliette Morisse

Members: Andrea Soropia-Chang

If we take away speech from mankind, we would still have our own bodies to express ourselves. The body is a communicative machine - always sending nonverbal messages: this can be considered a language in and of itself. Some messages are intentional, such as gestures and expressions,

and some are spontaneous, uncontrollable, like pain.

In our group, each of us is dealing with one of these aspects, to study and understand the complexity of body communication.



Juliette Morisse

there is a place for us



Pablo Oh



Farihah Shah

Members: Alexandra Hong, Farihah Shah, Giselle Mira Diaz, Pablo Oh, Raymond Salaber

“There is a place for us” is a collaborative project exploring the complexities of defining home and place through photography, sound and text. The final exhibition of the project is an edition of 10, hand-bound photobooks that are 5.875" x 8.75". The images within have been created in a variety of analog, digital, and historical photographic media, including 35mm black and white and colour film.

Moving past sweeping generalizations, the project takes a more intimate look at the relationship between physical space, identity and belonging in constructing narratives around “homeland”. Though the participating artists share a commonality in Canadian citizenship and English as a borrowed language, their personal narratives, familial journeys and understanding of home differ significantly.

Visions of Home

Leader: Haley Parker

Members: Alexander Tselmin, Barbara Jazbec, Elina Knuutinen, Janina Joutsen, Julia Räsänen, Lada Suomenrinne, Michail Ioanidis

Visions of Home aims to investigate comfortability and sense of place, exploring the potential of what 'home' could look like. By sharing a disposable camera with artists worldwide and sending it to each other in the mail, each of the

participants become a part of a sort of community building while sharing these intimate spaces with each other photographically. As a result, multiple versions of home end up being housed within the camera, creating a physical space that we all built together.





Edited by Charisse Fung



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