

# Where Do We Come From?

# Where Are We Going?

## Artist Statements

Curated by Finn Leong and Carley Nolan

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### Cindy Qiao

*Our Land* is a series of portraits of the fleeting layers of leaves, fruits, seeds, and twigs on the ground in the area between two steps. It's the soil that one walks upon without seeing it. The fallen foliage, flowers, and fruits turn the land into an ephemeral canvas that documents the ongoing negotiations and reconciliations between humans and forces of nature: gravity, wind, and rain. There are traces of activity and hints of the time of the year and places, a nibbled acorn from a squirrel, or a leaf blown from across the field.

Qiao moves through the land, and from tree to tree, the topology of the ground shifts in tonality, structure, density, and luminance. It mirrors the paradoxical feelings I have about land, feeling displaced geographically, culturally, and emotionally, and at the same time, feeling grounded, at awe, and uplifted by the nurturing power shared by all land. The images are captured on an iPhone X camera and are presented larger than life to invite viewers to immerse themselves in the complex dynamics of our living systems and of one's internal emotional ground.

Cindy Y. Qiao (b. China) is a visual artist who explores the cultural relations of nature and human through photography. Her works have been exhibited in Boston and New York. She has a BA in Philosophy and lives and works in Long Island City, New York.

<http://cindyqiao.com>

### Fiona Gorman

Capturing the details of everyday life and allowing natural light to control the frame, her work tends to hold an air of nostalgia. The featured collection of photos was built with the urge to pause on those fleeting moments of our existence that otherwise may not remain.

Fiona Gorman (b. New York) is a filmmaker and photographer based in New York City. Fiona earned her BFA in film Film and Television at The Savannah College of Art and Design. This is the first group exhibition showcasing her analog photography. As a member of IATSE United Scenic Artists, Local 829, Fiona works behind the scenes for many of New York and New Jersey's Film and Television Productions. Stay updated with new photos on her Instagram: @tahnifini.

### Frank Wang Yefeng

My experiences away from my home country of China have provided profound reflection in my art. My work is concerned with finding meaning in life through borders, traveling overseas, and between fact and fiction. The concepts of permanent relocation, adventure and seeking the significance of home and truth is always a crucial component in my research.

My projects incorporate media including 3D animation, 3D prints, digital prints, VR and sculpture, resulting in installations full of poetic visuals. As a digital native, my current work grapples with obscure borders between the real physical world and artificial virtual spaces. My most recent works are an amalgamation of the various landscapes I encounter - drawing inspiration from contemporary iconographies, mythologies, and inspiring proverbs found in old books.

Frank WANG Yefeng (b. China, 1984) is an interdisciplinary artist based in Providence Rhode Island and Shanghai, China. He received his MFA in Art and Technology Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2011 and currently serves in the Digital Media Art program as an Associate Professor at Rhode Island College. Yefeng works critically across media including Experimental 3D animation, virtual reality, 3D printing, and a mixed-media installation.

<https://www.wangyefeng.com>

## **Graciela Cassel**

Graciela Cassel works with sculpture and video, combining them into mixed media works. As a teenager, Cassel lived in the Delta del Rio de la Plata in Buenos Aires, an essential and iconic waterway. This river continues to be a source of energy and ideas for her. Her river mesmerized her: its movement rushes, the lush vegetation, and the human structures in and along the river. While communities use streams that as energy, migration, and means of transportation, many of our rivers also give us personal stories.

Cassel's practice is developed through her adventure as an artist, thinking about utopias and realities. "My practice allows me to access both the logical and the irrational outside and within a structure." Cassel would like to continue her research on labyrinths, as a metaphor to her ideas and to expand on this theme. Cassel's interest in literature, science, and astronomy integrates into her art. The topics are cultural resources that help her build and question labyrinths as metaphors. Deep in her roots, literature continues to inspire her, particularly that of Jorge Luis Borges, because his work offers Cassel alternative ways of thinking and living.

Graciela Cassel (b. Argentina) is a visual artist who explores the poetic and scientific relationships humans have with nature. She has been a working artist in both Buenos Aires and New York City.

<http://gracielacassel.com>

## **Han Qin**

My work adapts a traditional approach to our digital era but formally grounded in painting, drawing, and printmaking. With a background in fine arts, I use analog and digital tools to create images and tell stories. I inquired into the different feelings about leaving and relocating one's home and how it accomplishes the task of creating a harmonic mix between the antithetical notions of presence and absence, inducing the audience to rethink about this subtle and ever-recurrent dichotomy in our globalized age.

This group of work is depicting the pattern of human being's movement, especially when we think about immigrating, moving, living, or studying at another place. It questions the relationship between memory and experience, related to my transition and relocation, as well as curiosity about migrants' lives.

Han Qin (b. China) is a visual artist based in Long Island, NY, and Hangzhou, China. She has had two solo shows in the past few years at Fou Gallery, and The Long Island Museum Visitor Center, Stony Brook NY.  
<http://hanqin.myportfolio.com>

## **Jake Nolan**

My work inspects feelings of ennui, loneliness, disconnect, and anxiety, and is interested in how we perceive ourselves and others. These paintings explore seemingly average moments, instances of boredom, thoughtfulness, or self-reflection, in an attempt to reveal the inherent beauty in the fatigue of everyday life.

The figures in the paintings sit in solitude, in a private location cut off from others, but the natural light coming in through a bedroom window reminds us that these individual moments aren't truly in isolation, but are a piece of a larger picture, connected to a larger world- they are only one instant in a timeline that continues incessantly onward.

On one level, these works draw on personal and individual moments, but Nolan also attempts to create something more universal, to invite the viewer to project their own experience into the artwork. The isolation of the figures, the bedroom setting, and the motif of the window at the edge of the image, all add to the voyeuristic element of the work. The scene asks the viewer to consider the lone figure, in its resting state, and to consider their perceptions of themselves when they are briefly disconnected from the rest of their life, alone and lost in private thought.

Jake Nolan graduated from the College of Holy Cross with a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts, and Italian Language. He has shown work at the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery there. Since graduation, he has worked at Nova Constellation Gallery in Greenport NY, HG Contemporary Gallery in Chelsea, and now at J.McLaughlin as an art coordinator.  
<https://Jake-Nolan-art.squarespace.com>

## **Randy Gibson**

My work explores the perception of time through balanced relationships. I create installations, paintings, and performance situations that focus awareness toward seemingly subtle change. For the last ten years, my creative catalyst has been the expressive potential of a single set of numerical relationships I call The Four Pillars - exponential multiples of the number 2, 3, 7, and 11. My art exists as a closely related eco-system of works investigating these relationships across mediums. My visual approach relies on the same compositional principles that guide my choices as a composer, and I examine all of my work through the singular aesthetic question: how can I highlight or alter our perception of time?

Randy Gibson (b. Colorado) is a Brooklyn based artist composing with sound, time, light, and space. Gibson's performances, installations, and objects aim to shift and refocus the perception of passing time.  
<https://www.randy-gibson.com/biography>

## **Sholeh Asgary**

Sholeh Asgary's work reaches across time and distance, separating goddesses from the past to the empty spaces between two rooms. Whether received by sound or water, you are asked to participate in a logic that is outside of our normal realm. Where each piece is a clock unto its own unique time and place.

My personal experience of crossing borders began at six months old when my family fled our country to seek political refugee status. These early years of seeking asylum in various countries have had profound effects on my understanding of time, movement and space. Referencing lens-based media, I ask, what happens when we quantify for that which we have no name for?

Asgary is an Iranian born multidisciplinary sound artist, educator, and organizer whose works address the way objects can create disambiguation and break down representation by utilizing painting, photography, light, sculpture, and sound to develop liminal environments. Asgary was Director of Public Programs and Education at Incline Gallery (2014-2015), during which time received an Alternative Exposure Grant from the Andy Warhol Foundation. She was an artist in residence at Krowswork in Oakland, CA, Flux Factory in Long Island City, NY and The Wassaic Project in NY, with forthcoming residencies at the Platform Residency in Vassa, Finland, and Aros Art Museum in Aarhus, Denmark.

Sholeh (b. Iran) She has been a workshop participant of Guillermo Gómez-Peña La Pocha Nostra, and her sound performances include venues such as Minnesota Street Project, Stanford University, and Mills College.

<http://sholehasgary.com>.

## **Yaw Owusu**

My work negotiates the complexities of materiality, shifting otherwise-worthless materials into encounters of value and other realities. Owusu uses steel, gold, silver, copper and found objects in foils; sheets and coins – which preexist and function through time and spaces, on levels of the political, economic, domestic, structural and social standards. The works contain elements which are precious materials and valuable objects both in aesthetics and meaning. Through my activities of change and transformation; removal and attachment; de-materializing and exposing these objects to reactions, time and conditions. An approach rooted in a deep sense of playful alchemy that reflects an unknown reality. The process and outcome embrace the complexities of each meaning, initiating a metamorphic process which invites a meditation on the question of how "value" in itself is made and unmade under different conditions, times and places.

Yaw Owusu (b. 1992) is working toward his MFA at Pratt Institute.

[www.yawowusu.net](http://www.yawowusu.net)

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