

# MAYNOR'S Festival 2021



## **Cover Illustration by Pardis Pahlavanlu**

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In working on this project, I wanted to honour the history of Mayworks, while looking ahead at labour in a post-COVID19 world. In this poster, two hands in the shape of old trees sprout new growths as birds return for the spring after a long winter. The deep roots firmly place these hands in space much like Mayworks' history in the city. My process in coming to this imagery started with referencing labour posters and social justice imagery and mixing it with the ornamental style of miniature paintings that my style typically references. Working through rough sketches, colour tests and feedback, I came to this final composition. I hope the image captivates viewers to participate in the festival and, more importantly, create!

## **About the illustrator**

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Pardis Pahlavanlu is an artist and illustrator living as a guest between Tkaronto (Toronto) and unceded Coast Salish territories (Vancouver). While her academic studies have revolved around systems of power in contemporary colonial states, her artistic work has centred on the healing that is necessary in these contexts. Using textured and bold imagery with a mixed media approach, she digs into the topics of mental health, exclusion/difference, and diaspora in hopes of finding new ways to imagine and reflect on her surroundings and experiences.

## **Design and Layout by Karen Cowl/Stripe Graphics Ltd.**

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Karen Cowl is a graphic designer with formal training in Communications & Design from the Ontario College of Art. She enjoys every step in the design process, often taking projects from initial layout concepts to final production for print or digital modes. Karen is very pleased to be working on this year's Mayworks Festival materials, from program and poster to elements for the online promotion of the festival.



# CONTENTS

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2 | About Mayworks

3 | Festival Welcome

4 | Acknowledgements

5 | Thank You

6 - 10 | Dialogues

11 - 13 | Music

14 - 19 | Film

20 - 28 | Visual Art & Encounters



## ABOUT MAYWORKS

The Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts is a community-based festival which annually presents new works by a diverse and broad range of artists, who are both workers and activists. The programming presents bold, insightful, responses to pressing issues at the intersection of art, social justice and labour.

Mayworks prioritizes the representation and participation of artists and audiences from communities facing systemic discrimination. We encourage works rooted in the reality of working people's lives that advance the struggle for improved working and living conditions.

Mayworks operates within an anti-oppression framework. We are actively engaged in a social dialogue that challenges the logics of capitalism, and seeks to reimagine and represent economic and environmental justice.

Mayworks is situated on the territories of the Wendat, the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and recognizes the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.



# FESTIVAL WELCOME

**W**elcome to the 36th Mayworks Festival of Working People and The Arts. This year we offer a virtual festival with a series of free online events for you to experience over the month of May from the 1st to the 31st.

The past year the pandemic has highlighted environmental concerns, issues of race, and labour rights. A diversity of artists working in a wide variety of mediums share their insights and reaffirm the possibilities of collective action during this year's festival. Important themes being investigated include: the working conditions and rights of 'essential workers' during the pandemic; the organizing efforts of factory workers at Amazon; the hidden connections between the extractive industries and our cultural institutions; the emotional toll of alienating working conditions; and the economic precarity of cultural work.

Our new website is the festival home. We invite you to visit frequently from May 1st to May 31st. You will discover Dialogues, Music, Films, Visual Art and other Encounters. We encourage you to participate in our many zoom discussions.

Please join us and celebrate the joys of solidarity.

## **Mayworks' Board and Staff**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**M**any artists in our 2021 Festival were scheduled to participate in last year's NGHTSHFTS program, curated by former Mayworks Executive Director Farah Miranda, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. We invited those artists to re-imagine their pieces for a virtual festival, and we are grateful for their artistic resilience and creative responses. We thank Farah Miranda and Erin Howley, former Mayworks Education and Public Programming Lead, for bringing these artists into the Mayworks community. We thank all the participating artists, as well as all of the Mayworks staff and board members who have made this year's festival possible.

## Board of Directors

**Cynthia Roberts**, Co-Chair and Chair of the Programming Committee

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**Helen Kennedy**, Sponsorship Committee and Awards Committee

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**Pamela Arancibia**, Programming Committee and Sponsorship Committee

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**Mitra Fakhrashrafi**, Curatorial Coordinator

**Juan M. González-Calcano**, Communications Lead

TORONTO & YORK REGION  
LABOUR  
COUNCIL



**Celebrating 150 Years of Mayworks'**  
**Founding Organization,**  
**the Toronto and York Region**  
**Labour Council**

# THANK YOU

We are grateful to and acknowledge the support of:



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## Essential Work, but Disposable Workers?



Long before the pandemic hit, essential workers and labour organisers were denouncing the inadequate, if not deplorable, working conditions in their sectors, stemming from a lack of funding, resources and planning, as well as social inequalities arising from systemic racism and gender disparities. A year into the COVID-19 public-health crisis, these problems have been worsened by a neoliberal response that prioritises private interests and profit over the health, safety and wellbeing of frontline workers. This panel brings together workers and organisers from the long-term care, education, temporary and migrant labour sectors to discuss the impact the pandemic has had on them.

### Panelists

Gail Bannister-Clarke (ETFO)  
 Samuel Kisitu (Jane Finch Resident & precarious worker)  
 Butterfly GoPaul (JFAAP & frontline community health worker)  
 Chris Ramsaroop (Justicia for Migrant Workers)  
 Candace Rennick (CUPE Ontario)

### Moderator

Dr. Naheed Dosani (PEACH)

**Saturday, May 1, 6:00-8:00PM**

 **Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**



## Money Moves: 超时工作, A Conversation

Workers are organizing to win better conditions for themselves and their colleagues, but this can only happen if workers feel they have community support. Given the upsurge in anti-Asian racism and the importance of grocery workers in the context of COVID-19, supporting this work is increasingly important. Edward Hon-Sing Wong, the Chair of the Chinese Canadian National Council - Toronto, describes *MoneyMoves: 超时工作* as one such show of support; solidarity expressed through a collaborative art performance. Taking up space in grocery stores without permission from the owners, the making of *MoneyMoves: 超时工作* was perhaps equally subversive.

Join the makers of the film as well as members of the Chinese Canadian National Council to discuss the filmmaking process and further ways we can support new migrant grocery store workers.



### Panelists

En Lai Mah, Creator/Choreographer/Performer  
 Yasmine Mathurin, Director  
 V. T. Nayani, Producer  
 Mr. Bao, Performer, Grocery Store Worker  
 Organizers with the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter

See [MoneyMoves: 超时工作 Film](#)

**Thursday, May 13, 7:30-9:00PM**

Check [mayworks.ca](https://www.mayworks.ca) for updates.

# Organize Amazon!

The realities are stark: Amazon founder Jeff Bezos added almost \$100 billion to his net worth during the pandemic, while nearly 20,000 employees tested positive for Covid-19.

Amazon's profits are made possible by the labour of poor and racialized warehouse workers, but also by the company's lucrative technology contracts with police and border agencies.

How can we intervene? This conversation brings advocates for Amazon employees into conversation with cultural workers to discuss organising strategies.



## Panelists

Hiba Ali, digital artist and scholar

Michael DeForge, comics artist and illustrator,  
Cartoonists Against Amazon

Arash K., former Amazon delivery worker, UFCW

Gagandeep Kaur, Organizer, Warehouse  
Workers Centre

## Moderator

Ryan Hayes, Mayworks board member

**Saturday, May 15, 1:00-2:30PM**



**Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**

## Looking back, looking forward

### Collective organizing in the arts & culture sector

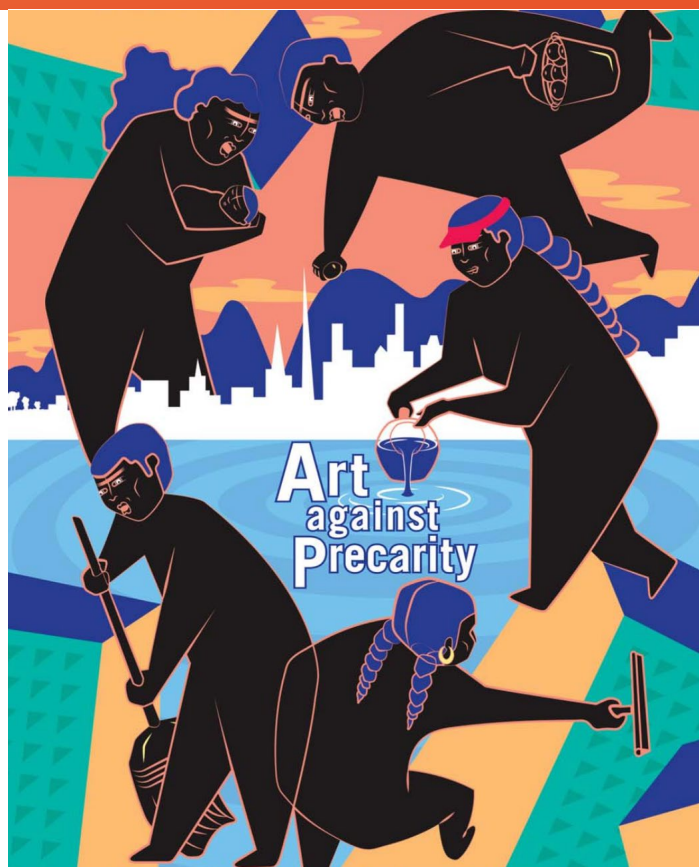
Long before the pandemic, systemic labour issues in the creative sectors were pushing artists and activists to collectively and collaboratively organize. Installers, artists, curators, arts administrators, and other cultural workers face work precarity in the form of underpaid, unpaid, unprotected, and insecure work. This is doubly true for Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, racialized and/or low-income workers seeking job security, safety and access. As these very issues are now being compounded by the pandemic, recognizing ‘artists-as-workers’ and ‘workers-as-artists’ is as important as ever. From advocacy to community building, this panel brings together cultural workers from Toronto, Vancouver and New York City experienced in collective organizing. The panelists will share challenges brought on by the pandemic, issues relevant to their members, and reflections on the future of labour justice. Learning from each other, panelists will exchange strategies on how to shift the balance of power in the arts.

### Panelists

Anique Jordan, Artist,  
curator & Black Wimmmin Artist founder  
Jason Samilski, CARFAC Ontario  
Jonny Sopotuik, ACWU President, VALU CO-OP  
Lise Soskolne, W.A.G.E.

### Moderator

Ayo Tsalithaba, Multidisciplinary artist



**Tuesday, May 25, 6:00-7:30PM**



**Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**



## unpruned tomato vines: A Conversation



In the summer of 2019, Tea Base transformed what was once a pile of bricks sitting in the Chinatown Centre mall courtyard into the Anti-Displacement Garden; a place that welcomed public use and community gathering. In historically immigrant and working class neighborhoods across North America, surveillance and gentrification are happening hand-in-hand and making our cities less livable. In the face of attempts to police and price-out Black, Indigenous, racialized communities, Tea Base experiments with actions that nurture solidarity and nourish community power. Join Tea Base organizers and artists Christie Carrière, Hannia Cheng, Jason Li and Florence Yee for exchanges on art-based collective action and reflections from the Coast-to-Coast Chinatowns Against Displacement Week of Action.

### Panelists

Hannia Cheng  
 Florence Yee  
 Christie Jia Wen Carrière  
 Jason Li

### Moderator

Mitra Fakhrahrافی

See [Visual Art & Encounters](#)  
[unpruned tomato vines](#)

**Friday, May 28, 6:30-8:00PM**

 **Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**



## Heebiejabi

**Nooria Alam aka Heebiejabi** is a Toronto-based Afghan DJ and organizer. She's been spinning tunes for progressive organizations across the city for the past three years and is passionate about using music as a tool to bring people together in the name of revolutionary love. Nooria will release a mix for Mayworks Festival inspired by and dedicated to creating more livable worlds. The mix will launch on **Saturday May 9th** and be available for the remainder of the festival.



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**Sunday, May 9 - Saturday, May 31**

Link available at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)  
on Sunday, May 9th.

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## Gosford Fire

### BY LYRICAL FLIPS AND BENY ESGUERRA

Produced by Wheel It Studios, the video features Lyrical Flips and Beny Esguerra in a song they co-wrote called “Gosford Fire”. The song was written after the terrible fire that engulfed the Driftwood community building (Jane Finch, North York) where one person died and hundreds were left homeless in November 2019.

Wheel It Studios is New Tradition Music’s 16-week hands-on mobile recording studio project engaging artists in two Jane-Finch community neighbourhoods that reduces the precariousness of artists having to travel from one neighbourhood to another and provides access to professional recording engineers, equipment and music industry related knowledge.

Join the musicians to learn more about Wheel It Studios and to participate in Q&A on **Thursday May 20th at 7:00PM**.

▶ **Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**

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**Monday, May 17 - Monday, May 31**

Link available at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)  
on Monday, May 17th.

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## Chœur Maha



# chœur maha

*Chœur Maha* is a bilingual, feminist choir based in Montreal. Established in 1991 by Kathy Kennedy, we promote social justice through music and provide choral education to a community of singers. Under the artistic direction of Megan Batty, we sing a varied repertoire including folk, pop, contemporary, and experimental music, and we privilege works by female and genderqueer/non-binary artists.

*Chœur Maha* is known for its high energy performances and a decidedly non-traditional take on choral music. The choir has been a pillar of support for women's choral music in Montreal, and has been involved in many multi-disciplinary projects. Some of our recent concerts centred around the themes of Resistance and Revolution,

and this year's repertoire explores the theme of Labour in all senses of the word.

*Chœur Maha* presents 5 audio-visual performances to be enjoyed throughout the closing week of Mayworks Festival.

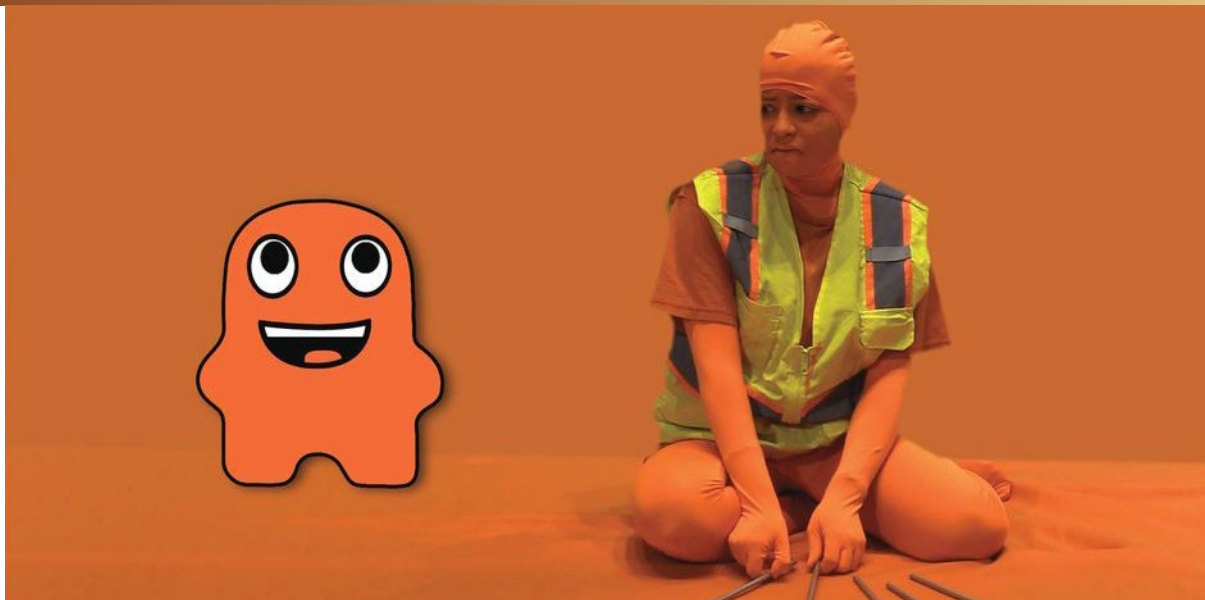
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**Tuesday, May 25 - Saturday, May 31**

Link available at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)  
on Tuesday, May 25th.

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## ***Abra***



**BY HIBA ALI**

**Runtime: 5 minutes**

Ali, in their video, *Abra* (2018), is in conversation with Amazon's customer-obsessed mascot, Peccy. Their discussion about working-class labor, surveillance, and bubbles (economic, social and soap filled), literally paints the video orange. They contend that orange is the contemporary color of labour and surveillance, it is racialized and classed.

Hiba Ali is a panelist at the *Organize Amazon!* dialogue happening on **Saturday, May 15th from 1:00-2:30PM.**

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**Saturday, May 1 - Monday, May 31**

Link available at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca) on Saturday, May 1st.

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# Money Moves 超时工作 - A Mayworks Premiere

**CREATED BY ARTIST EN LAI MAH**

**Runtime: 6.22 minutes**

A roving performance that considers the toll of wage theft on the body. *MoneyMoves: 超时工作* makes visible what is too often unnoticed: the labour of immigrant workers who put food on our tables. Mah collaborated with elderly grocery store workers to create a performance that is inspired by their work. The resulting performance tells the story of one worker in particular, 56-year old Mr. Bao, who is fighting for compensation after being injured on the job. Subverting the repetitive routines of gruelling work, the performance draws on movement and martial arts to resist feelings of immobility in the body. Filmed in grocery stores across the city, the performance calls grocery workers to find the physical and emotional strength required to stand up to their bosses.

Join the filmmakers and special guests for *Money Moves: A Conversation* on **Thursday, May 13th, 7:30-9:00PM.**

**CREATOR, CHOREOGRAPHER,  
PERFORMER:**

En Lai Mah

**DIRECTOR:**  
Yasmine Mathurin

**PRODUCER:**  
V.T. Nayani

**PERFORMER:**  
Mr. Bao



**Saturday, May 1 - Monday, May 31**

Link available at [mayworks.ca](http://mayworks.ca)  
on Saturday, May 1st.

Commissioned by Mayworks and presented  
in collaboration with the Chinese Workers  
Network and the Chinese Canadian National  
Council - Toronto Chapter.

## Sorry We Missed You



### Runtime: 100 minutes

Ricky and his family have been fighting an uphill struggle against debt since the 2008 financial crash. An opportunity to wrestle back some independence appears with a shiny new van and the chance to run a franchise as a self employed delivery driver. It's hard work, and his wife's job as a carer is no easier. The family unit is strong but when both are pulled in different directions everything comes to breaking point.

**DIRECTOR:** Ken Loach

**PRODUCER:** Rebecca O'Brien

### LEAD CAST:

Kris Hitchen  
Debbie Honeywood  
Rhys Stone  
Katie Proctor

**SCREENWRITER:** Paul Laverty

**CINEMATOGRAPHER:** Robbie Ryan

**Sunday, May 9 - Sunday, May 16**

Link available at [mayworks.ca](https://www.mayworks.ca) from  
Sunday, May 9th to Sunday, May 16th.

# 9to5: The Story of a Movement

## Runtime: 89 minutes

The 1970s saw an explosion of women's participation in the workforce. Many were low paid clerical workers who were typically considered the "office wives" of their male supervisors. A group of secretaries in Boston began organizing for better pay, more advancement opportunities and an end to sexual harassment. With their unconventional approach, a movement was started and 9to5 evolved into the largest membership organization of working women in the United States.

Featuring interviews with 9to5 founders as well as with Jane Fonda who starred in the hit movie based on the movement, this documentary film chronicles the previously untold story of the fight that changed the American workplace.

## DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY:

Julia Reichert and Steven Bogнар

## LEAD CAST:

Kim Cook  
Karen Nussbaum  
Ellen Cassidy  
Mary Jung  
Verna Barksdale  
Jane Fonda

## CINEMATOGRAPHY:

Steven Bogнар

## Presented with AMAPCEO

**AMAPCEO**  
ONTARIO'S PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES



Join the film's subjects Karen Nussbaum, Ellen Cassidy and Kim Cook for a moderated Q&A. Watch the film and come prepared with questions for this special opportunity to engage in conversation with the movement's organizers.

*9to5: The Story of a Movement* (2019)

Discussion: **Tuesday, May 4, 7:00-8:00pm**

 **Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**

*9to5: The Story of a Movement* (2019)

Screenings: **Sunday, May 2 & Tuesday, May 4**

 **Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**

## SICKENING



**BY ROYA DEL SOL**

**Runtime: 2.22 minutes**

*Sickening* is an experimental performance piece following ballroom performer & designer Ebony Knowles as she uses raw material and sheer determination to metamorphose from her natural state to otherworldly up-and-coming ballroom runway legend.

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**Monday, May 17 - Monday, May 31**

Link available at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)  
on Saturday, May 1st.

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# The Words We Can't Speak



## BY LINDSAY MCINTYRE Actor Table Read Workshop Facilitated by Ryan Cooper

*The Words We Can't Speak*, a screenplay in progress by writer and filmmaker Lindsay McIntyre, is based on the true happenings of the writer's grandmother in 1936 in what is now Nunavut.

A seasoned Inuk translator, who works for the Hudson Bay Company, bravely amputates a Qallunaat (white) woman's injured leg, but fails to prevent her death. She becomes unwelcome in the community. In search of acceptance and

a better life, she leaves the Arctic for the white man's world on a dangerous 1800-mile journey by dog sled with her young daughter and an over-confident RCMP Constable. Unprepared for their journey, they encounter life-threatening difficulties and a serious clash of cultures.

Professional actors will work on the script with Lindsay, focusing on character and dialogue. Festival audiences are invited to join for the last two hours to hear a read through of the complete work, followed by a Q&A with the writer.



WOMEN IN FILM  
AND TELEVISION  
VANCOUVER

Presented with Women in Film and Television  
Vancouver's *Tricksters and Writers* program.

Wednesday, May 26  
Reading and Q&A from 6:00-8:00PM

▶ Register at [mayworks.ca](https://www.mayworks.ca)

# unpruned tomato vines

A digital exhibition at Mayworks Festival  
in partnership with Tea Base

What was once rubble barricaded by fencing in Chinatown Centre has been transformed by Tea Base and *Friends of Chinatown Toronto* (FOCT) into a community garden. In unpruned tomato vines artists Christie Carrière, Hannia Cheng, and Florence Yee share stories from the *Chinatown Anti-Displacement Garden* and trace the role of collective action and communal imagining in challenging forced displacement. Both Christie Carrière's digital illustrations detailing the origin story of the garden and the premiere of Hannia Cheng's short film tracing the garden's growth will be available on VR Tea Base; an online community arts space created by Jason Li. Meanwhile, Florence Yee's hand copied posters about the futility of rest can be found on physical street corners of Tkaronto and at [mayworks.ca](http://mayworks.ca).

Join artists and Tea Base organizers Christie Carrière, Hannia Cheng, Jason Li and Florence Yee for unpruned tomato vines: A conversation on **Friday May 28th, 6:30-8:00PM**.

# unpruned tomato vines

## “SEEKING”

BY FLORENCE YEE

“SEEKING” is a series of playful advertisements in the physical and digital world that ask what individuals may be seeking from their communities. During a remote mentorship last summer with another emerging artist, Kiona Ligtvoet and I found a common interest in text and its ability to convey desires in a playful manner. Our project consisted of two independent series of posters that we would create and put into the physical world (on phone polls, park billboards, etc.), as well as adapted “real” ads on Kijiji. They would be short and succinct posters that allude to other discussions we’ve been having about seeking our community, seeking an old tradition, seeking a memory, seeking a feeling, seeking justice, etc. Without a means of response, they are left with their own agency in the matter, as to what should be done about this lack. My poster series is ongoing, evolving to respond to urgent issues, and exist as ephemera, on the margins of public space. As a project made during lockdown, the content is painfully aware of the seeming futility of reaching out and the hardship of maintaining connections. It highlights an impatient yearning at the intersection of loss and desire.



**Saturday, May 1 - Monday, May 31**

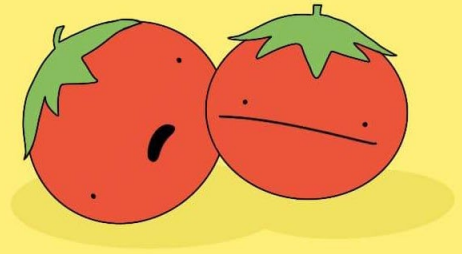
Link available at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)  
on Saturday, May 1st.

## unpruned tomato vines

### HISTORY OF THE CHINATOWN ANTI-DISPLACEMENT GARDEN

BY CHRISTIE JIA WEN CARRIÈRE

Tea Base and Friends of Chinatown Toronto (FOCT) have been maintaining the Chinatown Anti Displacement Garden since 2019. What was once a pile of dirt and rubble behind fences became a new garden and stage that welcomed the public to use it as a community gathering place. The building of the garden was part of a Coast 2 Coast Chinatown's international week of action. The purpose was to draw attention to the displacement and lack of affordable housing for residents and small businesses in Chinatowns across North America which are historically immigrant and working class neighbourhoods. We consider this act of taking care of space as one of the small pieces of resistance against local gentrification. The garden has also become a way for us to base build by getting to know all the various members of Chinatown and nourish community agency and power. Through a series of illustrations, Christie shares the story behind the garden, available through a link on VR Tea Base.



**Saturday, May 1 - Monday, May 31**

Link available at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)  
on Saturday, May 1st.



# unpruned tomato vines - A Mayworks Premiere



## CHINATOWN ANTI DISPLACEMENT GARDEN BY HANNIA CHENG

A short film documenting the love and care that goes into the *Chinatown Anti Displacement Garden* happenings this year. Take a peek into [Tea Base](#) and Friends of Chinatown Toronto's (FOCT) third year of placemaking in Chinatown Centre's courtyard, how we organize, what vegetables we decide to grow, and all the unexpected stories that unfold along the way.

**Tuesday, May 25 - Saturday, May 31**

Link available at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)  
on Tuesday, May 25th.

## Museum and Labour History



### WITH BROOKE DOWNEY

As an emerging museum professional, Brooke quickly became interested in labour issues facing the cultural sector. Based on her own experiences in the non-profit sector, as well as union movements happening in the U.S. and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, she was inspired to write a series of articles on museum labour with an intersectional lens. For

the 2021 Mayworks Festival, she will be taking this approach to the broader cultural sector and addressing labour issues which pervade for workers in the field. As problems cultural workers in Canada face are continuously obscured and ignored, the hope is for these articles to serve as a starting point for public conversations and actions that benefit all workers.

**Tuesday, May 4th: Moments from Canadian Cultural Labour Relations**

**Tuesday, May 11th: Labour of Love: Emotional Taxation on the Front-line**

**Tuesday, May 18th: Who Represents Us? Building Solidarity amongst Canadian Cultural Workers**

**Tuesday, May 25th: It's Only Temporary: Accountability in Precarious Work**

Every Tuesday throughout May, one essay will be launched at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca) and made available for the remainder of the festival.

# In the Water

## WITH MAGGIE FLYNN

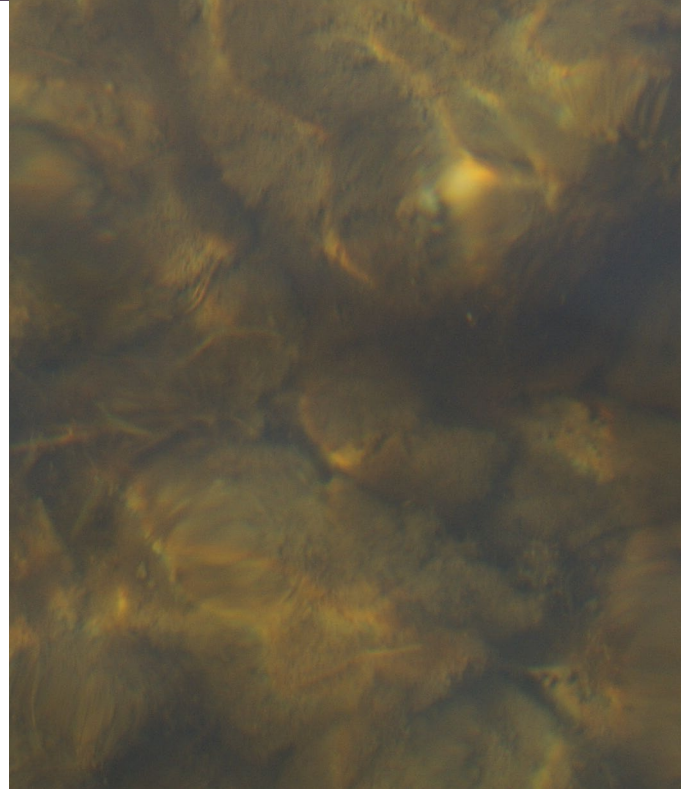
*In the Water* is a two part research and performance project that outlines interconnections between extractive industries and arts institutions in Canada. The space of performance offers a moment to consider the impact of extractive industries on our material world, our economy, and platforms for artistic expression in Canada.

*In the Water* Guided Collaborative Research Session Flynn will introduce key research tools to apply when seeking information on public or private institutions in Canada. To demonstrate some of the possibilities of these tools, Flynn will walk through her research process on questions related to extractive industries and the economic underpinnings of art institutions in Canada. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own research questions to investigate as part of this by-registration Zoom session.

**Wednesday, May 5, 7:00-8:00PM**



**Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**



## *In the Water* Performance

Where does the wealth that funds our art institutions trickle down from? Flynn will offer precise answers to this question via by-registration Zoom performance. Performance followed by an audience Q&A.

**Thursday, May 27, 7:00-8:00PM**



**Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**



# ***Latin@merica: Embedding Bodies and Localities***

**In partnership with Sur Gallery**

Through a series of installations at Sur Gallery and virtual interviews available on the Mayworks Festival website, *Latin@merica: Embedding Bodies and Localities* offers the possibility of rethinking how traditional place-based affiliations and notions of cultural identity end up reproduced, reaffirmed, or even transformed in the digital realm. The exhibition aims to highlight how technology has had an impact in the construction of Latin American identity and its networked localities. New forms of negotiation between the local and the global, between the virtual and the real are constantly being elaborated by the presented works, leading to new ways of understanding what it means to be Latinx and/or Latin American in a contemporary digital field.

Alexandra Gelis, Ana Maria Millán, Santiago Tavera and Laura Acosta interrogate some of the key place-based concerns of Latinx identity through their on-and offline cultural practice. Using new media technologies, these artists express alternative viewpoints about the places they represent allowing people to make important connections to their physical and offline locations. This tactical interplay between virtual and real space to construct new formulations of territorial identity and new cartographies of urban/rural space, give voice to oppositional discussions through new media technologies, alternative modes of expression and dissemination.

The artists in *Latin@merica* engage in re-appropriations and re-imaginings of globalizing technologies, providing space for the expression of resistance discourses and towards the recuperation of cultural memory.

**Curated by Claudia Arana**

**Join Mayworks and Sur Gallery for the *Latin@merica: Embedding Bodies and Localities*:  
Online Opening Reception: a live Zoom musical performance with  
Luis Navarro Del Angel on Thursday, May 6th, 6:00-8:00PM.**



**Register at [mayworks.ca](https://mayworks.ca)**



# Latin@merica: Embedding Bodies and Localities



## **CORREDOR: THE BIG PICTURE** **BY ALEXANDRA GELIS**

*Interactive video installation*

In *Corredor*, Gelis investigates the strategic use of the Paja Canalera or Elephant Grass (*Saccharum Spontaneum*) which is a tall grass imported from South Asia to Latin America in the early 1950s and can grow up to 3cm per day spreading its long roots several kilometres wide. This thorny, prickly and invasive imported plant was used by the US army to separate the Panama Canal Zone from the rest of the Panamanian population blocking the entrance to controlled areas. Her work invites the viewer to reflect on borders, bodies and locations and the virtual, physical, imagined or contested forces that control them.

## **THE NOVELS OF ELSGÜER** **(EPISODE 3): LIVE DESPECHO** **BY SANTIAGO TAVERA & LAURA ACOSTA**

*(VR) immersive and interactive installation*

For the duo artists Santiago Tavera and Laura Acosta, *The Novels of Elsgüer* is a collaborative project composed of 5 multimedia and immersive installations. Laura's fiber-based practice interacts with Santiago's digitally animated explorations. They develop immersive experiences through the interaction of new media components with mapping projections, virtual/augmented reality components and live performance. In *The Novels of Elsgüer (Episode 3): Live Despecho* the duo explores how concepts of dislocation, translation and migration affect bodies who are constantly crossing borders (both physical and virtual ones).

## **ELEVACIÓN**

**BY ANA MARIA MILLÁN**

*Animation, 4k Color Sound*

**Runtime: 00:10:12**

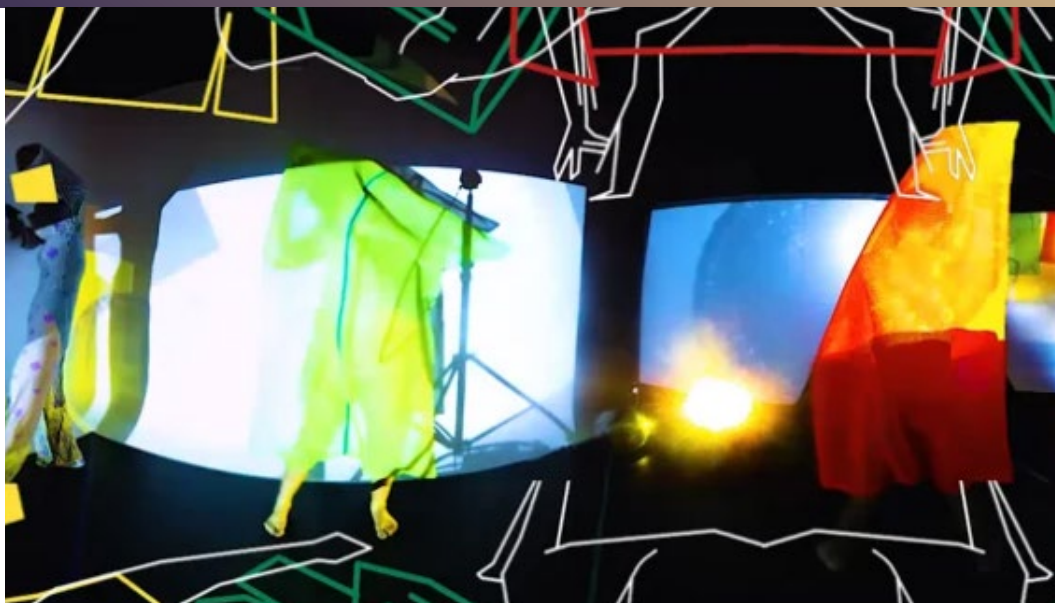
In *Elevación*, Ana Maria uses role-playing dynamics to develop an animated narrative in which she interprets and digitally re-enacts different characters, settings and viewpoints inspired by the Colombian comic: *"Marquetalia, raíces de la Resistencia"* (*Marquetalia, the Roots of the Resistance*) published in 2011. The comic, whose name comes from the rural birthplace of Colombia's FARC guerrillas, describes the beginnings of the guerrilla movement and the ongoing Colombian armed conflict since the early 1960s. This document becomes a script for role-players to develop their own visions not only in relation to the comic perse but to the constant struggle for power and land ownership, to the violence as a tactical state and resistance discourse from the right, centre and left parties whose ambivalent perspectives have defined the recent history of Colombia.

A part of Mayworks Festival from  
**Saturday, May 1 - Saturday, May 29**

Visit the physical exhibition at Sur Gallery  
39 Queens Quay E #100  
Toronto, ON M5E 0A5

Visit the online exhibition at  
**[www.surgalleryvirtual.ca](http://www.surgalleryvirtual.ca)**

## Latin@merica: Embedding Bodies and Localities



In separate discussions with Eva Salinas, artists Alexandra Gelis, Ana Maria Millán, Santiago Tavera and Laura Acosta discuss their current work and their relationship to the identities of Latinx, artist and worker, especially in a time of uncertainty and precarity. These short video interviews provide an intimate, behind-the-scenes look at the exhibit and the creators of the respective works.

*Eva Salinas is an editor, communications specialist and journalism instructor. She is the former editor of foreign affairs site OpenCanada.org, editor of The Santiago Times in Chile, a trainer for Journalists for Human Rights in Ghana and has written for the Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, Financial Post, The Times and others. She is also the author of Latin Americans Thought of It, an educational book for children, published by Annick Press.*

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**Saturday May 1: Eva Salinas in conversation with Alexandra Gelis**

**Saturday May 9: Eva Salinas in conversation with Ana Maria Millán**

**Saturday May 17: Eva Salinas in conversation with Santiago Tavera & Laura Acosta**

One interview will be launched each week at [mayworks.ca](http://mayworks.ca) and made available for the remainder of the festival.

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## **Mayworks Festival Launch Music and Video**

Available May 1st at [mayworks.ca](http://mayworks.ca)

### **Musicians:**

**Naomi McCarroll-Butler** (she/her // ze/zir) is a saxophonist, clarinetist, synthesizer lover and instrument maker from Toronto, Ontario.

**Evan Ng** (he/him) is a Toronto-based drummer and a bedroom studio music producer (by the name of Foli) from Vancouver, BC.

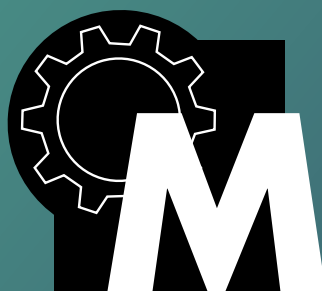
**Jen Lo** (she/her) is a Toronto based pianist and composer from Macau.

**Leighton Harrell** (he/him) is a bassist and composer from Toronto by way of Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Julien Bradley-Combs** (he/him) is a guitarist, composer and music lover from Toronto, Ontario.

### **Video Editor:**

**Rami Accoumeh**



**MAYWORKS**  
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