

Memory—Material

Organized with
June Canedo de Souza

With contributions from
CIELO

Adam Piron

Zena Zendejas

Tsige Tafesse

Fox Maxy

Sonia Guiñansaca

Darol Olu Kae

Natalia Pereira

Yatta Zoker

Sheila Govindarajan

June 9–12, 2022

The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA

SCHEDULE

ONGOING

June Canedo de Souza, *My Longings Were Also Not Limited To*

Darol Olu Kae, *Infinite Rehearsal*

Natalia Pereira, *The Altar*

Adam Piron, *Sha'var*

Fox Maxy, *F1ghting Looks Different 2 Me Now*

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

3pm Reading: Tsige Tafesse, Love Letter Library

5pm Screening & Talk: Adam Piron & Fox Maxy

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

11am Workshop: zena zendejas, *threading memories*

3pm Reading: Tsige Tafesse, Love Letter Library

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

12pm Workshop: CIELO, *Alebrije Workshop*

2–6pm Poncho's *tlayudas*

3pm Reading: Tsige Tafesse, Love Letter Library

5pm Performance: Yatta Zoker, *the space between my heart and mind is where I've always lived*

6:30pm Performance: Live rehearsal by the Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

2pm Reading: Tsige Tafesse, Love Letter Library

4pm Panel: Sonia Guiñansaca, *Nostalgia & Home*
With Alexa Vasquez, Alan Pelaez Lopez,
and Francisco Aviles Pino

5.30pm Performance: Sheila Govindarajan, *Kaleidoscope*

Spacial Design by Megan Kiantos



Image credit: June Canedo de Souza

June Canedo de Souza, *My Longings Were Also Not Limited To*, 2022, installation, presented as a painting of a living room

The installation considers how Canedo de Souza's understanding of home (both an idealized concept and physical reality) has been shaped, having moved nearly every year since her birth. The living room, constructed of several paintings, ceramic sculptures, photographs, inherited vhs footage, wooden tiles, and found fabrics is a domestic space that visitors are encouraged to step onto in order to experience.

CIELO, *Alebrije Workshop*

The alebrije is a Mexican craft created by Pedro Linares in Mexico City using the cartonería technique. In Oaxaca, Mexico, the alebrije are wooden figures that represent real or imaginary animals. Often painted in bright colors, people say that having an alebrije in the house brings good luck.

This workshop invites participants to create their own alebrije using paints and their imagination and creativity. Each participant will receive a small, unfinished, hand carved animal kit, including paints, to follow along with instructor Martha Santiago who has over 20 years of experience painting alebrijes.

Sheila Govindarajan, *Kaleidoscope*

Sheila Govindarajan's interactive installation *Kaleidoscope* invites visitors to enter into an escape room for a sensorial journey. Childhood memories intermingle with the need to find self without tribe. This room gives permission for the imagination to wander and explore all the elements with safety and joy.



Sonia Guiñansaca, *Nostalgia & Home*

With Alexa Vasquez, Alan Pelaez Lopez, and Francisco Aviles Pino

Sonia Guiñansaca brings together a panel conversation with undocumented and formerly undocumented Queer Trans Non-Binary artists on migration, artistry, and chosen family. The conversation is followed by a special reading from the artists. *Attendees are encouraged to bring a copy of a photo they would like to contribute to Guiñansaca's migrant family album archival art project.

Fox Maxy, *F1ghting Looks Different 2 Me Now*

Fox Maxy presents her new film, *F1ghting Looks Different 2 Me Now*. In her own words, "I moved home, some people are happy and some people are pissed. But this film is me speaking for me and that's it."

Darol Olu Kae, *Infinite Rehearsal*

Darol Olu Kae's *Infinite Rehearsal* is a set installation that reconstructs and reimagines the present-day rehearsal space of the legendary Pan Afrikan Peoples Arkestra. Through a number of staged and spontaneous rehearsal sessions, *Infinite Rehearsal* synthesizes the notion of home as a poetics of making.

Natalia Pereira, *The Altar*

Uma foto: a living memory of a place that holds the scent, paladar, love, hope, and healing—where all over the world secrets are held and wishes are shared.

Material: nature is a treasure that was created for our full existence—in all senses and sensibilities—agua doce e salgada, sal, fruits, vegetables, fire, wood, charcoal...

Adam Piron, *Sha'var*

Sha'var, Adam Piron's new short film, is an imperfect and incomplete ode to the imagined memories, life, and resurrection of El Aliso, the sycamore tree that once stood at the center Yaangna: the Gabrieleño village that Los Angeles grew from.



Tsige Tafesse, Love Letter Library

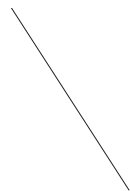
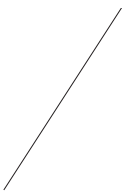
A ritual installation activating the archive of love in the time of diaspora & grief. It will feature texts from Black booksellers/publishers from around the world alongside intimate sounds & sights that have kept Us alive. Circling the base of a tree under a canopy of sewn together care. Tsige Tafesse will share a durational performance punctuated by a daily reading with song. Write a love letter today.

zena zendejas, *threading memories*

Join artist educator zena zendejas for a fabric book making workshop where visitors will explore the role of memories and domestic craft in healing.

Yatta Zoker, *the space between my heart and mind is where I've always lived*

Yatta Zoker presents a performance of Krio hymnals, songs from *Spirit Said Yes!* (2017), and prose on suburban African grief.



BIOS

June Canedo de Souza makes photographs, sculptures, paintings, films, and uses her body to perform when necessary. She is intrigued by materials that give intimate value to inhabited spaces, specifically textiles, biographical objects, and objects that have been imagined feminine. Having moved nearly every year since her birth, June's practice is conceptualized around memories of former dwelling-places and of place experience. She is fond of flowers, seeds, rivers, and the red dirt from Minas Gerais where she and her family migrated from. Her favorite scent is of plywood because it reminds her of her father's construction clothes. Most recently she has been incorporating glass and clay into her practice, two natural materials that are generally associated with home structures. Having witnessed her mother clean other people's homes for most of her life, her practice also concerns domestic labour specifically as it pertains to undocumented workers. She is interested in asking questions about the ways in which migration affects the mental health of people who migrate, the interrelations between objects, space, and time, and the ways in which objects themselves migrate.

Adam Piron (Kiowa/Mohawk) is a filmmaker and curator based in Southern California. His film work focuses on collaborative reflections of Indigenous communities navigating time, image, and control as meditations on the generative possibilities of Indigenous perspective. Piron's work has played in MoMA Doc Fortnight, True/False Film Festival, the New Yorker's Documentary series, and ESPN's 30 for 30 series. He is also a co-founder of COUSIN, a collective supporting Indigenous artists expanding the form of film. Piron currently serves as Director of Sundance Institute's Indigenous Program and was formerly the Film Curator for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).



Darol Olu Kae is an artist and filmmaker from and based in Los Angeles. Kae's artistic practice disrupts conventional narrative structures of storytelling through its dynamic treatment of sound and image. His collaborative, research-based practice grounds itself in the precarious, yet generative power of the black experience in America. He was awarded the Pardino d'oro for Best International Short Film in 2020 at the Locarno Film Festival for *i ran from it and was still in it*. In 2021, *i ran from it...* earned Special Jury Recognition for Poetry at the SXSW Film Festival. Kae is currently in pre-production for his next short-form project, *Keeping Time*, and developing his debut narrative feature, *Without a Song*.

Fox Maxy (Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians and Payómkawichum) is a filmmaker and artist in San Diego. Her company, Civic Films, makes documentaries, horror films, artist profiles, and music videos. Her work has screened at MoMA's Doc Fortnight, BAM CinemaFest, LACMA, Rotterdam (IFFR), AFI Docs, ImagineNative Film Festival, BlackStar Film Festival and Camden (Cliff) among others. In 2022, Fox was named as Sundance Institute's Merata Mita Fellow, in honor of Merata Mita (Ngāi Te Rangī/Ngāti Pīkiao), one of the first Maori women to write and direct a feature film. Fox is currently working on her first feature film, *Watertight*.

Megan Kiantos is a set designer and artist based in New York City, who works predominantly through the mediums of photography and motion.

zena zendejas (they/them) is a craftsman and storyteller from Huntington Park, CA, residing in Bushwick, NY. Their path has been one rooted in care, from environmental justice advocacy to decolonial art education, and now as a student of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Oral tradition holds significance in their craft and professional practices, from narrating a story through embroidery, to facilitating community-building experiences at the Brooklyn Museum.

Natalia Pereira, originally from Vianópolis, Brazil, is an acclaimed artist, author, and chef. Pereira’s works are a physical expression of emotion and passion with all roads leading back to, and telling stories of, the beauty in every medium that exists in this world—particularly those that lay long forgotten by others. Pereira’s childhood is the driving force behind her creations, many of which are forged from elements of nature. In 2021, Pereira held a solo exhibition, *Papelaria*, in Los Angeles and Santarcangelo Di Romagna, Italy. Pereira’s book, *Abundancia: My Life in Recipes*, 2021 includes recipes, autobiography, poetry, photography, and sculptural work. Known for the past 15 years as the head chef of her restaurant WOODSPOON, in downtown Los Angeles, Pereira has garnered international recognition, with accolades including a “Bib Gourmand” from the Michelin Guide, multiple honors on the L.A. times “101 Best Restaurants” list, and, as of this writing, Pereira is a semi-finalist for the 2022 James Beard Foundation Award “Best Chef in California.” Perreira lives and works in Los Angeles.

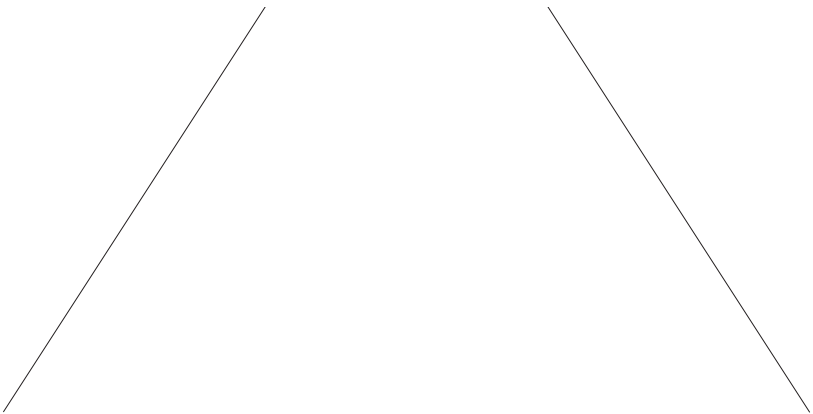
Tsige Tafesse is living an artful life, staying curious, deepening her research & prayer as to be more connected to the histofuture—hopeful & hacking. Tsige plays with archives, people, video, and performance. She is a graduate of the directing program at The New School for Drama in NYC. She has collaborated with and has been a guest speaker at New Museum, Brooklyn Museum, TED, Seattle Art Museum, Queens Museum, Allied Media Conference, MoMA, The Studio Museum of Harlem, Vera List Center, Princeton University, Creative Time, NYU, The Africa Center, MoMA PS1, Rubin Museum, and others. She’s currently a fellow with the inaugural Ford Foundation Art & Technology 2021–22 cohort and formerly a resident of Eyebeam Art&Tech, Brooklyn Community Foundation. She hopes you are doing well and encourages you to rest, pray, and be gentle with yourself in this time of transition & turning.

Sonia Guiñansaca (Kichwa-Kañari) is a poet, culture strategist, and artist advocate. Born in Ecuador and at the age of five migrated to the United States to reunite with their parents in NY. Guiñansaca helped build some of the largest undocumented organizations in the U.S and co-founded some of the first artistic projects for and by undocumented writers. Guiñansaca has been featured on PEN American, Interview Magazine, Teen Vogue, NBC, and PBS. Their honors include those from Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation, British Council, and Creative Time. They self-published their debut chapbook, *Nostalgia and Borders* (2016). They are the co-editor of the anthology *Somewhere We Are Human: Authentic Voices on Migration, Survival, and New Beginnings* (HarperCollins, June 2022).

Odilia Romero is the co-founder/executive director of Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo (CIELO); she is also an independent interpreter of Zapotec, Spanish, and English for indigenous communities in Los Angeles and throughout California. She has two decades of experience organizing indigenous migrant communities. Her organizing knowledge and experience are highly regarded, with multiple academic publications, awards, and lectures in universities across the United States. Romero has published on the challenges of organizing in indigenous communities, developing women's leadership, and preparing a new generation of youth. Her work has been featured in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Democracy Now*, and Day Emmy award-winning series *Pan Y Circo* "Nadie es ilegal migrantes de ida y Vuelta" with Diego Luna.

Sheila Govindarajan is a multi-disciplinary artist and is a practicing Ayurvedic healer of over 10 years. Her music reflects the multiplicity of the worlds she is part of. Growing up in a South Indian family, her expressions are informed by the ancestral wisdom of the herbs and a holistic healing practice. Reflective of her dynamic urban upbringing, she sings in multiple languages. She is born and lives in LA.

Yatta Zoker (YATTA) is an artist, musician, writer, and educator from Houston, Texas. Over the years, they have shared the stage with musicians like Cardi B and The Sun Ra Arkestra, creating multimedia performances that tour astrally, nationally, and globally. Yatta has performed at MoMA PS1, MoMA, The Getty, NTS x The Tate virtual festival, and The Shed. Their work has been highlighted in magazines like The Quietus, Nylon, and The Wire. As an educator, Yatta has facilitated workshops and panels at The Brooklyn Museum, Vassar College, and Cornell University. They are a 2022 MFA Candidate at Bard College and teaching artist living in Altadena, CA.



MOCA's environmental programming series highlights the museum's work around climate, conservation, and environmental justice. Guided by the work of the MOCA Environmental Council, the first council of its kind at a major arts organization in the United States, this series presents artists, activists, and scholars committed to critical ecological issues in Los Angeles and globally.

The 2022 series is made possible by Nora McNeely Hurley and Manitou Fund.

Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs is organized by Alex Sloane, Associate Curator of Performance and Programs, with Amber Dettmers, Production Manager, and Brian Dang, Programming Coordinator.

Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs is founded by Wonmi & Kihong Kwon and Family.