

GAX 2019 Tiohtiá:ke

Asian Indigenous  
Relations In  
Contemporary Art

Conference Program

# Concordia University

1515 St-Catherine St  
W Montreal

- FOFA Gallery & York Auditorium, EV-1.615
- EV Junction, by EV-2.785
- Milieux Institute, EV 11th floor
- Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute  
for Studies in Canadian Art, EV-3.711

For full GAX 2019 conference  
abstracts and biographies, visit:  
[ethnoculturalarts.com/program](http://ethnoculturalarts.com/program)

# Thursday, June 13 / Day 1

→ Concordia York Auditorium,  
EV-1.615

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9:00am—9:30am

[Coffee Service](#) → EV-York Lobby

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9:30am—10:00am

[Territorial Acknowledgment](#) **Heather Igloliorte**, Special Advisor to the Provost on Advancing Indigenous Knowledges and Concordia University Research Chair in Indigenous Art History and Community Engagement.

[Morning Song](#) **Odaya**

[Convenors' Welcome](#) **Alice Ming Wai Jim**, Concordia University Research Chair in Ethnocultural Art Histories, & **Alexandra Chang**, Asian/Pacific/American Institute, New York University.

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10:00am—11:00am

[Asian Indigenous I — Curating Hospitality in the Great Ocean](#) **Léuli Eshrāghi**, Horizon/Indigenous Futures Postdoctoral Fellow, Concordia University, in conversation with **Francis Maravillas**, National Taipei University of Education.

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11:00am—12:00pm

[Asian Indigenous II — Alternative Contacts Storytelling](#)

**Malissa Phung**, Professor, Sheridan College, School of Communication and Literary Studies. [Unpacking the Parallel Layers of Sino-Indigenous Absence in \*The Last Spike\* and Jeff Thomas' \*Indians on Tour\* and \*First Spike Series\*](#)

**Victoria Nolte**, Doctoral Candidate, Carleton University. [Re-visioning History and Diasporic Interconnections in Asian Canadian Contemporary Art: Karen Tam's \*Flying Cormorant Studio \(For Lee Nam\)\*](#)

in conversation with **Marissa Largo**, Independent Scholar.

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12:00pm—1:30pm

[Lunch](#)

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1:30pm—2:45pm

[The Future is Indigenous Language: Image, Text & Speech](#) **Noelani Arista**, Associate Professor of Hawaiian and American History, University of Hawai'i-Mānoa. [The Mo'olelo in the Machine: Memory Loss and Data Retrieval Speech to text, text to digital, speech to digital.](#)

**Édith-Anne Pageot**, Professor of Art History, University of Quebec in Montreal. [“Why have there been no great “French-speaking” Indigenous artists in Canada?”](#)

in conversation with **Henry Tsang** Associate Professor, Emily Carr University of Art & Design.

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2:45pm—3:00pm

[Coffee Break](#)

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3:00pm—4:15pm

[Waterways: Asian Indigenous Relations in Contemporary Art](#) Artist Roundtable Discussion

(EAHR-IARG Exhibition Series, Summer 2019).

Artists **Kari Noe** and **Beatrice Glow** in conversation with **Austin Henderson**, MA Student, Art History, Concordia University. **Jason Sikoak**, Artist and BFA Student, Concordia University, in conversation with **Renata Critton-Papp**, BFA Student, Art History, Concordia University. With artists Léuli Eshrāghi, Stephanie Cheung, Dan Taulapapa McMullin, Jane C. Mi, and Henry Tsang in attendance.

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4:15pm—5:00pm

[Waterways: Asian Indigenous Relations in Contemporary Art](#) Tour of Exhibitions (FOFA Gallery, Department of Art History, EV Junction, and Webster Library Vitrine) in presence of artists and EAHR-IARG curators.

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4:15pm—5:15pm

[EAHR-Taklif Workshop](#) → Jarislowsky Institute, EV 3.711.

\*Maximum 20 participants; register at: [tiny.cc/GAXthirdspace](https://tiny.cc/GAXthirdspace)

[Creating \[r\] Space: Afghan & Iranian Creatives](#). Workshop

Facilitators: **Ferozan Nasiri**, MEd Student, Adult Education and Community Development, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education & **Mélina Hashemi**, MEd Student, Curriculum Studies and Teacher Development, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. EAHR Organizers: **Kanwal Syed**, PhD Candidate, Art History, Concordia University & **Nirna Esmailpour**, PhD Student, Art History, Concordia University.

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5:15pm—5:30pm

[Break](#)

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5:30pm—6:30pm

Opening Keynote: **Yuki Kihara**. Independent Artist.

[‘サモアについてのうた \(Samoa ni tsuite no uta\) A song about Sāmoa’](#) in conversation with **Jacqueline Lo**, Professor, Australian National University.

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6:30pm—9:00pm

[Opening Reception](#) → Milieux Institute, 11th floor, EV Building. Wine and food will be served.

[Book Launch: \*Samoan Queer Lives\*](#). Co-editors

**Dan Taulapapa McMullin** and **Yuki Kihara**, with local collaborators **Kama La Mackerel**, Independent Artist and **Ossie Michelin**, Independent Journalist.

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# Friday, June 14 / Day 2

→ Concordia York Auditorium,  
EV-1.615

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9:00am—9:30am

[Coffee Service](#) → EV-York Lobby.

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9:30am

[Welcome & Introduction: Day 2](#) **Alice Ming Wai Jim**,  
Concordia University Research Chair in Ethnocultural Art  
Histories, & **Alexandra Chang**, Asian/Pacific/  
American Institute, New York University.

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9:45am—10:45am

[Morning Keynote](#): **Skawennati**, Independent Artist and  
Co-Director of Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace  
(AbTeC). [Towards Thrivance](#)

in conversation with **Alice Ming Wai Jim**, Concordia University  
Research Chair in Ethnocultural Art Histories.

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10:45am—11:00am

[Coffee Break](#)

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11:00am—12:30pm

[Climate Change: Connecting Practices Roundtable  
Discussion](#) **Yuki Kihara**, Independent Artist. **Jane C. Mi**,  
Independent Artist and Ocean Engineer. **Stephanie  
Cheung**, PhD candidate, University of the Arts London.  
**Luchia Meihua Lee**, Independent Curator, in  
conversation with **Alexandra Chang**, Asian/Pacific/  
American Institute, New York University.

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12:30pm—1:30pm

[Lunch](#)

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1:30pm—2:30pm

[Afternoon Keynote](#) **Margo Machida**, Professor Emerita of  
Art History and Asian American Studies, University of  
Connecticut.

[Asian/Indigenous Conjunctions: Contemporary Asian  
American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Artists](#)

in conversation with **Anna Kazumi Stahl**, Director, New  
York University Buenos Aires.

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2:30pm—3:45pm

[The Ethics of Return](#)

**Việt Lê**, Assistant Professor in Visual Studies at California  
College of the Arts. [Shamanism, Contemporary Art &  
Return](#)

**Alisi Telengut**, Independent Artist. [The Fourfold \(work in  
progress\)](#)

**Yen-Chao Lin** 林延昭, Independent Artist. [The History of  
Taiwan and Makuta'ay](#)

**Tyler Russell**, Executive Director, The Rotary Centre for the  
Arts, and PhD student, Cultural Studies, Queen's  
University. [Recent Taiwanese Indigenous Art in Centre A's  
Engagement with Pacific Indigenous Practices](#)

in conversation with **Francesca Tarocco**, Associate Professor,  
NYU Shanghai, and University of Venice Ca' Foscari.

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3:45pm—4:00pm

[Coffee Break](#)

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4:00pm—5:15pm

[Curating Asian Indigenous Relations](#)

**Daina Warren**, Independent Artist and Director of Urban  
Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art. [An Overview of  
Indigenous Curatorial Practice](#)

**Joshua Tengan**, Independent Curator. [Toward a  
Kanaka Curatorial Framework](#)

in conversation with: **Cheryl Sim**, Managing Director and  
Curator at Phi Foundation for Contemporary Art.

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5:15pm—6:00pm

[Plenary / Closing Remarks](#)

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# June—September / Activities

## Tuesday, June 11

Pre Conference Panel Discussion

→ Artexte Library & Exhibition Centre,  
2 St-Catherine E, Room 301

2:00—3:30pm

A Conversation on Indigenous/Asian Art Archives

**Jessica Hebert**, Artexte Librarian. **Mikhel Proulx** & **Sara England**, Indigenous Digital Art Archive, Initiative for Indigenous Futures. **John Tain**, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong.

\*Free admission. Presentation will be in English. Open to the public. Registration required: [tiny.cc/Arttexte\\_GAX](https://tiny.cc/Arttexte_GAX)

## Monday, June 11 — Tuesday, June 12

GAX 2019 — Working Group Sessions Leading up to the two-day conference, the GAX 2019 exchange is holding two mornings of working group sessions on June 11 and 12. In addition to the public afternoon roundtable at Artexte on June 11, there are morning working sessions at Concordia and an afternoon session at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Working group sessions will be exchanging knowledge on four key research axes of the GAX 2019 theme “Asian Indigenous Relations in Contemporary Art”:

- “Asian Indigenous”
- Curating Hospitality & Alternate Contact Storytelling
- Performing Queer Asian Indigenous Relationalities
- Climate Change
- Living Archives and Museal Interventions

Thank you to our local partners Artexte Library and Exhibition Centre and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts for hosting our exchange participants.

## June 11 — September 11

*Waterways: Asian Indigenous Relations in Contemporary Art*  
Simultaneous Exhibition Series.  
[ethnoculturalarts.com/exhibitions](https://ethnoculturalarts.com/exhibitions)

→ FOFA Gallery (Courtyard)  
Webster Library Vitrine (LB2)  
Department of Art History Vitrine (EV-3.809)  
EV Junction (EV-2.789)

**Jane Chang Mi**, **Stephanie Cheung**, **Léuli Eshraghi**,  
**Beatrice Glow**, **Kari Noe**, **Dan Taulapapa McMullin**, **Jason Sikoak** & **Henry Tsang**.

As part of GAX 2019, *Waterways: Asian Indigenous Relations in Contemporary Art* is a series of exhibitions at Concordia University curated by the Ethnocultural Art Histories Research Group (EAHR) and the Indigenous Art Research Group (IARG) that brings together Indigenous, Asian Indigenous, and Asian diasporic artists to the island of Tiohtiá:ke (Montreal) to exchange knowledge on Asian Indigenous relations in contemporary art. Large bodies of water are often considered to be distancing forces between islands. This hegemonic and colonial view of the world confines islands to subordinate places. In contrast, *Waterways* takes a more holistic perspective informed by Tongan and Fijian writer and anthropologist Epeli Hau'ofa's groundbreaking essay, “Our Sea of Islands,” which acknowledges the continued significance of water as a connector across island populations. Globally, waterways have long stood as sites of knowledge, trade, navigation, and cross-cultural exchange between different populations. The artists speak to their relationships with water and islands through a range of interdisciplinary research-creation projects and approaches, including ethnography, engineering, oceanography, digital animation, and photography. Ultimately, *Waterways* seeks to foster a gathering space for knowledges, shared experiences, and ideas from around the world.

GAX 2019 PARTICIPANTS (Including Student and Working Group Participants) : Noelani Arista, Alexandra Chang, Stephanie Cheung, May Chew, Renata Critton-Papp, Amy Dickson, Sara Nicole England, Léuli Eshraghi, Nima Esmailpour, Michelle Gewurtz, Surabhi Ghosh, Beatrice Glow, Ayumi Goto, Itzayana Gutierrez, Jessica Hébert, Austin Henderson, Heather Igoliorte, Alice Ming Wai Jim, Yuki Kihara, Jason Edward Lewis, Kama La Mackerel, Marissa Largo, Viet Lê, Luchia Meihua Lee, Yen-Chao Lin 林延昭, Jacqueline Lo, Susan Pui San Lok, Michelle McGeough, Peter Morin, Dan Taulapapa McMullin, Margo Machida, Francis Maravillas, Jane C. Mi, Ossie Michelin, Kari Noe, Victoria Nolte, Edith-Anne Pageot, Malissa Phung, Mikhel Proulx, Ryan Rice, Tyler Russell, Rajni Shah, Jason Sikoak, Cheryl Sim, Skawennati, Anna Kazumi Stahl, Kanwal Syed, John Tain, Karen Tam, Swapnaa Tamhane, Francesca Tarocco, Alisi Telengut, Josh Tengan, Henry Tsang, Laura Vigo, Charissa Von Harringa, And Daina Warren; And Additional Student Team Of Research Assistants/Curators: Autumn Cadorette, Laurence Charleboix, Elizabeth Davis, Austin Henderson, Petra Höller, Hanss Lujan Torres, Chiara Montpetit, Alexandra Nordstrom, and Mikhel Proulx.

biographies available at: [ethnoculturalarts.com/participants](https://ethnoculturalarts.com/participants)



GAX 2019 was made possible with the generous support of Concordia University; Asian/Pacific/American Institute at New York University; NYU Global Research Initiatives, Office of the Provost; The Gail and Stephen A. Jarislowsky Institute for Studies in Canadian Art; Art Speaks; Queer Media Database Project Canada Quebec; Artexte Library and Exhibition Centre; Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and the Ottawa Art Gallery.

Thank you to the following at Concordia University: Office of the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies; Faculty of Fine Arts Associate Dean, Research; Department of Art History; Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture (CISSC); EAHR | Media Working Group; Ethnocultural Art Histories Research Group (EAHR); Indigenous Art Research Group (IARG); and Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology.