

Exploring Networks

A series conceived for COMS4208, Emergent Practices in Communication

This public series was conceived as part of “Emergent Practices in Communication”, an advanced course hosted at the beautiful York University’s own Glendon Campus. Supported by a Academic Innovation Fund (AIF), this special series consists of 5 public engagements with pedagogical and experiential learning goals.

The main objective was to provide opportunities for students to not only achieve a better and more nuanced understanding of the complexities involved in interspecies communication in relation to our technological networks, but also to develop a better interdisciplinary and intersectional appreciation for responsible consumption and production, collaborative and collective work, communication with different forms of knowledge, and ultimately, a more profound sense of care.

An important hands on component of the course was to help build, care for, and document a site specific installation by Markham-based artist Xiaojing Yan. The launch of the installation, which constantly transformed and was be visible throughout the Fall 23’ term, launched on October 2, 2023 and was the first of four afternoon hybrid events featuring international artists and community organizers engaged in land based knowledge production and care, interspecies communication and community engagement.





Oct. 2, 5:00 PM,

Mycosymbiosis: an installation by Xiaojing Yan

Outside of Glendon Hall

Mycosymbiosis is a time-based and site-specific installation at Glendon. The installation was located on the balcony adjacent to Historic Glendon Manor's ballroom. On Monday, Oct 2, we met in front of the Manor (Glendon Hall) at 5 pm to launch the installation. A reception in the Ballroom followed.

The installation consists of a mobile gallery containing a variety of mushrooms which grow, decay and renew, weaving their intricate forms through its interstitial space and the responding to the surrounding natural environment.

In this installation, Yan weaves together ideas of identity as both complicated and complex, and a perspective on nature as transcending the boundaries of self and other, inside and outside, familiar and foreign. Yan inoculated the space adjacent to the external walls of the mobile gallery with three cultures of Oyster Mushrooms. A timelapse of their growth will be projected inside the gallery. The resulting living sculpture will continue to transform in the next weeks as temperatures and humidity fluctuate, welcoming a variety of symbiotic organisms that support, compete with, and feed off the mushrooms.

This installation represents the second phase of a long-term collaboration between Xiaojing Yan and the team behind Emergent – a Living Mobile Gallery: Roberta Buiani (Glendon/UofT), Lorella Di Cintio (TMU) and Kavi (Ilze Briede, YorkU), with scientific advising from James Scott (UofT). More information about the installation can be found here: <https://artscisalon.com/emergent-gallery/mycosymbiosis/>

Xiaojing Yan < <https://yanxiaojing.com/> > is a Chinese-Canadian artist whose work embraces her sense of having a hybrid identity. Settling permanently in the Toronto area, her work reflects her journey through these various cultures, arriving at her own personal vocabulary. Her unique point of view unites the past and the present, encompassing culture and nature, art and science.

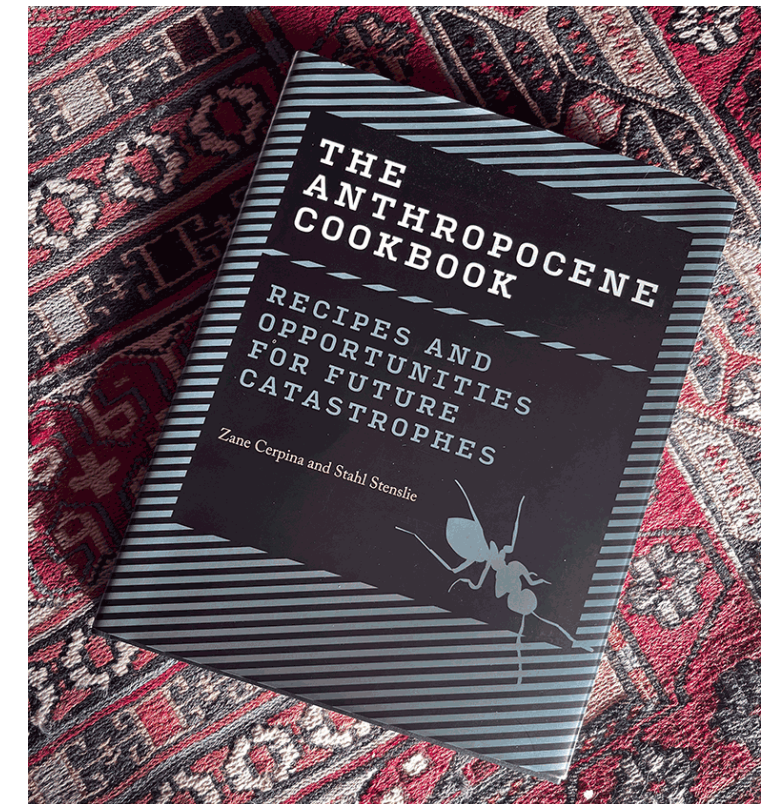
Her work has appeared in solo exhibitions at institutions including the Chinese American Arts Council in NYC, Richmond Art Gallery in Canada, Suzhou Museum in China, Hermès Maison in Shanghai, and Varley Art Gallery in Canada. Her projects have been featured in venues throughout Canada as well as China, France, USA and Greece. Yan is a recipient of numerous awards and grants including InStyle's Women InCreation Prize in Visual Arts (2021), Project Grants from the Ontario Arts Council (2022, 2020), Project Grants from the Canada Council (2022, 2021), the Annual Conference Support Grant from College of Art Association (2021), Chalmers Arts Fellowship from the Ontario Arts Council (2016), Young Alumni Achievement Award from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2014).

Oct. 16, 3:30 PM,

Zane Cerpina and Stahl Stenslie - The Anthropocene Cookbook

Zane Cerpina and Stahl Stenslie are the authors of The Anthropocene Cookbook. How to survive in the age of catastrophes <https://anthropocenecookbook.com/>

During this event, they presented the general concepts behind their book, focusing on aspects pertaining to sustainable consumption and waste. To match the topic of their talk, attendees will be presented with futuristic snacks and will be encouraged to discuss food alternatives and new networks of solidarity to fight “food desertification”.



**HARVESTING
FREEDOM**

October 30, 4:00 PM,

Behind food production. Community Activities and Presentation

Chris Ramsaroop (Justicia for Migrant Workers)

Sang Hun Injured Workers Action for Justice

followed by the testimony of **Alicia and Dwayne**, two injured workers and advocates

Claire M. Tallarico, Visual Artist and Cook

Chris Ramsaroop is an assistant professor working to complete his PhD at OISE/University of Toronto. His area of research examines the role of resistance by migrant farm workers in Canada. Chris is also an organizer with Justicia for Migrant Workers. He is also an instructor in the Caribbean Studies Program at the University of Toronto and a clinic instructor at the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law. Justicia for Migrant Workers is a grassroots activist collective that has been organizing with migrant workers for nearly 20 years.

Claire M Tallarico is a visual artist and cook. Her work explores the fertile common ground between communities and the sharing of art, food and dialogue. She considers new ways to document the intersection between creative practices, communities and food. A seasoned communications advisor to non-profits, primarily in the health sector, she has come to understand how these seemingly disparate aspects of her life and work come together as a force for good. <https://clairemtallarico.com/>

From Pilar's website



November 20, 4:30 PM – Techno Tamaledas

Praba Pilar

The Techno-Tamaladas draw on thousands of years of practice & knowledge cultivating corn/maíz across the Americas to sustain life. In recognizing the Indigenous technology of nixtamalization as a technology of life, we reimagine technological futurity.

Praba Pilar is a diasporic Colombian artist disrupting the contemporary ‘Cult of the Techno-Logic’ through performances, digital and electronic installations, participatory workshops, and experimental public talks. She has a PhD in Performance Studies, Directs the Teaching Institute of Art & Law, Co-Directs the Bioarts Ethical Advisory Komission, and is very active in the World Congress on New Reproductive Technology Arts. <https://www.prabapilar.com/>

November 13, 4:30 PM Ecologies of Urban Farming and Community Panel Discussion

Our Guests:

Meagan Dellavilla, Aanjiktigaan

Karen Houle, ART + SOIL + COLLECTIVE

Cheyenne Sundance, Sundance Harvest

Nicolas (Nico) Cabal, Glandon College Student and Glendon Community Garden Coordinator

