

Oakville Galleries

Live Reading and Conversation with Laurie Kang and Jesse Chun

Introduction

Introduction by Theresa Wang, Assistant Curator

Welcome to a Live Reading and Conversation with Laurie Kang and Jesse Chun, where we will be reading and thinking about the brilliant Trinh T. Minh-ha. We are so immensely grateful for the overwhelming support and interest in this event, thank you for choosing to spend an hour of your afternoon with us today.

My name is Theresa Wang and I am the Assistant Curator here at Oakville Galleries. I'm speaking to you from my home in Toronto, which is also the home of the Anishinaabe, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Today, as we think about the writing of Trinh T. Minh-ha, which is decidedly post-colonial, I hope we can also reflect upon the tactics of border and boundary making, of territorialization that colonialism has enforced onto land. And I hope we can think of new strategies of displacement and deterritorialization and imagine new structures, while acknowledging and working with the original keepers of the land.

This event is a part of *Oakville Galleries Online: Salon*, which is a new online program where we revisit past exhibitions, programming, and our permanent collection to think about new ways to encounter contemporary art during these unusual and radical times.

We've had the pleasure of showing both Laurie and Jesse's works recently at Oakville Galleries. In Summer 2019, Jesse was featured in the group show *Material Tells* guest curated by Daisy Derosiers. In Fall 2019, Laurie presented her solo exhibition *Beolle* at our Gairloch Gardens site. Both exhibitions are documented and archived on our website, with photos, text, and accompanying materials. If you'd like to learn more about those exhibitions, please visit our website at oakvillegalleries.com.

The idea for this event came rather naturally because of the way Trinh T. Minh-ha's writing figures in closely for each of the three of us. For anyone today who is new to Trinh T. Minh-ha, how lucky you are! Firsts are magical things. To give a bit of introduction, Minh-ha is multifaceted: she is a filmmaker, writer, composer, theorist, professor, and more. Her cross-disciplinary practice speaks to how, in her work, she also refuses categorization and fixed discipline. She is best known for deconstructing claims to identity and inherited categories and looks to create new strategies for forming relations that are fluid and embody multitudes. When we were conceiving of this event, it felt intuitive to think about Minh-ha's writing. This current moment forces us to take pause, sit still for a moment, and reassess. While there may be deeper rifts between us because we cannot connect physically, we are also reminded of our boundedness within the woven fabric of interdependency. This is a time for self-reflectivity and reflexivity and to look for the value of undefined spaces.