

# WITHIN TENSIONS



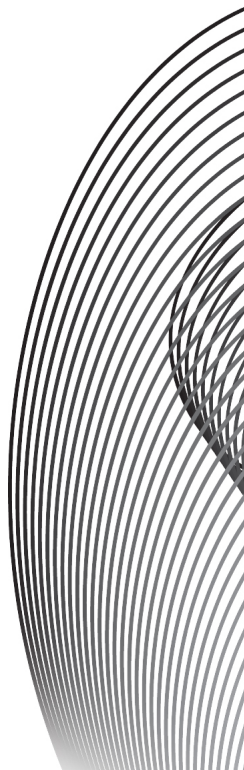
vol.20

SPACE



A wavy, translucent ribbon graphic that flows from the bottom left towards the top right. The ribbon has a fine, woven texture and is semi-transparent, allowing the text behind it to be visible. It has several undulating peaks and valleys, giving it a sense of movement and depth.

WITHINTENSIONS





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August 2021  
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SPACE



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We at Withintensions want to acknowledge that our work takes place on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), xwməθkwə́yəm (Musqueam), and Səlilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) peoples. We want to recognize that these lands belong to the Indigenous peoples who have lived here far before the arrival of settlers. We also want to push beyond land acknowledgements to further encourage acts of reconciliation. Recognition is great but it is nowhere near where we need to be. Reconciliation is comprehensive and takes more than an acknowledgment for occupying land. We always support marginalised peoples right to protest.



## So Close, Yet So Far (2021)

Aaron Lampitoc

I reach towards the beautiful sky, yet you are so far away.  
I reach out to those shining stars, yet they are so far  
away.

I reach for that magnificent moon, yet it is so far away.

I want to be with you again. Why are you so far away?  
I want to give you everything. Why are they so far away?  
I want to spend more time with you. Why is it so far  
away?

Where can I see you again?  
When can I see you again?  
How can I see you again?  
So close, yet so far...

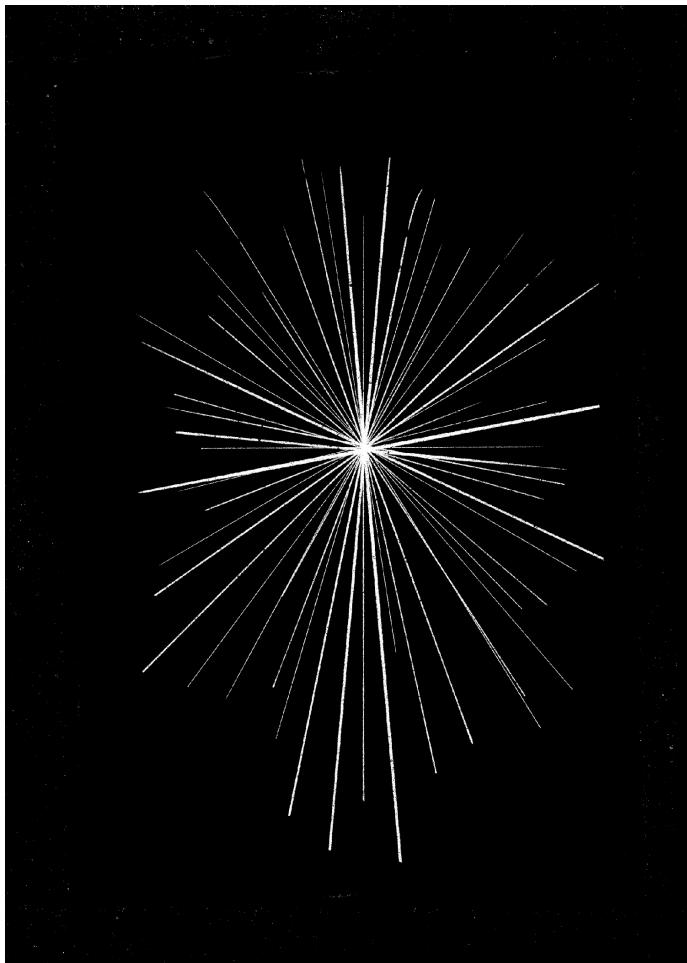




## Doomsday (2021)

Jay Olaniyan

Doomsday is a series of illustrations that embody the processes of destruction and rebirth that are required to fill an empty space. (Inner/ Outer) Space is a place associated with both a curious sense of exploration, as well as a fear of the unknown. These emotions often occur alongside each other within many spaces. During this period of social isolation, I came to better understand them as they related to my own inner space. In this sense, introspection can be scary because it confronts you with a hollow interior that is also filled with terrifying potential, reflecting an emotional state that is equally immersed in hope and hopelessness. With the world as it is, everything seems to indicate that the world as we know it must end. Doomsday serves as a witness to societal collapse alongside the hope for a new world that will take its place.







## **Terraforming Mars (2021)**

Phillip Brovedani

This graphic is about hopeful endeavours we could undertake in space. Visualising a cursory look at a romanticized future of humanities aspirations of our solar system. I love space exploration and think it's something that describes our ingenuity. There are whole planets that have never been seen with human eyes, yet with the real hindrance being our determination to reach them. This piece offers debatable potential but it's fun to imagine such an incredible future.

# TERRAFORMING MARS

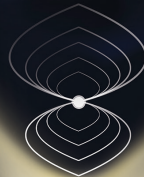
THE RED PLANET IS CONSIDERED THE BEST POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR HUMAN HABITATION OUTSIDE OF OUR OWN PLANET. AS IT IS CURRENTLY HOWEVER WOULD BE UNHABITABLE FOR HUMAN LIFE OUTSIDE OF HEAVY DOMES. RADICALLY ALTERING THE PLANET TO SUIT OUR NEEDS IN THE PROCESS OF TERRAFORMING COULD LEAD TO A GARDEN PLANET TO EXTEND THE REACH OF THE HUMAN RACE.

WARMING THE PLANET WILL MELT THE FROZEN WATER ALREADY ON THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET. MICROBIAL ORGANISMS AND CYANOBACTERIA WILL HELP CREATE OXYGEN.

STARTING THE PROCESS WILL REQUIRE THICKENING THE ALREADY EXISTING ATMOSPHERE AND WARMING THE PLANET AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

ONCE THE ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED VEGETATION WILL BE NECESSARY TO FACILITATE A CARBON CYCLE. THIS WILL EQUALIZE THE TEMPERATURES AND ALLOW A WATER CYCLE TO MAKE THE PLANET HABITABLE.

NOT ONLY WILL YOU HAVE TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE BUT WILL HAVE TO WORK TO KEEP IT. STRONG SOLAR WINDS WOULD QUICKLY ERASE ANY DEVELOPMENT UNLESS A POWERFUL DIPOLE MAGNET COULD BE PLACED AT THE POINT TO BLOCK THE RADIATION AND PROTECT THE PLANET.

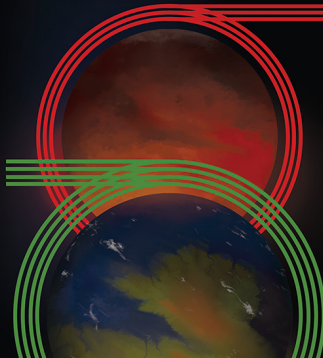


# TERRAFORMING MARS

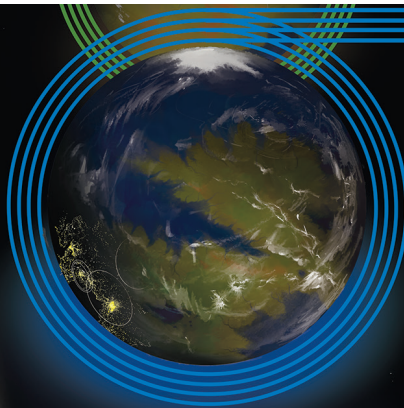
THE RED PLANET IS CONSIDERED THE BEST POSSIBLE LOCATION FOR HUMAN HABITATION OUTSIDE OF OUR OWN PLANET, AS IT IS CURRENTLY HOWEVER WOULD BE INHOSPITABLE FOR HUMAN LIFE OUTSIDE OF SEALED DOMES. RADICALLY ALTERING THE PLANET TO SUIT OUR NEEDS IN THE PROCESS OF TERRAFORMING COULD LEAD TO A GARDEN PLANET TO EXTEND THE REACH OF THE HUMAN RACE.

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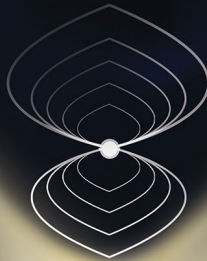






ONCE THE ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED VEGETATION WILL BE NECESSARY TO FACILITATE A CARBON CYCLE. THIS WILL EQUALIZE THE TEMPERATURES AND ALLOW A WATER CYCLE TO MAKE THE PLANET HABITABLE.

NOT ONLY WILL YOU HAVE TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE BUT WILL HAVE TO WORK TO KEEP IT. STRONG SOLAR WINDS WOULD QUICKLY ERASE ANY DEVELOPMENT UNLESS A POWERFUL DIPOLE MAGNET COULD BE PLACED AT ITS L1 POINT TO BLOCK THE RADIATION AND PROTECT THE PLANET.



## **I Still See Stars**

Francisco Berlanga

Sometimes I'll still look up, as if they were still there.

Just grazing my head I still feel their tails,  
illustrating the sky without discretion.

They captivate my space,  
they are spectres strung up before me.

Their points jut at me,  
extending and retracting,  
reaching.

Seven summits,  
each point adorned with veins of filigree,  
its body sweeps the air around me.

They say that their beauty is temptation,  
examples of the allure of sin.

But, I can't see that now.

The stars themselves are emancipated from their history,  
defiant in their authenticity.

They exist in a liminal space visible but somehow not  
there,  
they are relics,  
absent reminders of the past.

Streaming vibrant trails as they trace parabolas above  
our heads.

They dance erratically,  
off tempo from the music I can barely hear,  
evading me,  
taunting me.

If only for a moment I am captivated,  
held myself within the star's hollow shell,  
cradled in its fragile body.

They are strung up before me,  
built to be broken,  
broken to be taken.

Their bodies house remnants of what they were,  
stories,  
places,  
times,  
traditions,  
documented within their skin.

It seems at once they are whole but instantly they  
shatter,  
their belongings falling to the ground.

Scavenged by whoever has the quickest hand,  
I grab what I can,  
a piece,  
a clutch,  
a point.

Feeling as if it were still hanging there the star fades,  
it grows distant until I can barely see it,  
just a memory for now,  
just taking up space inside my head..

## Voyage (2021)

Acrylic on canvas

Amanda Suutari

An exploration of rebirth, death, and the evolution of consciousness in our vast, mysterious Kosmos.





# Liminal

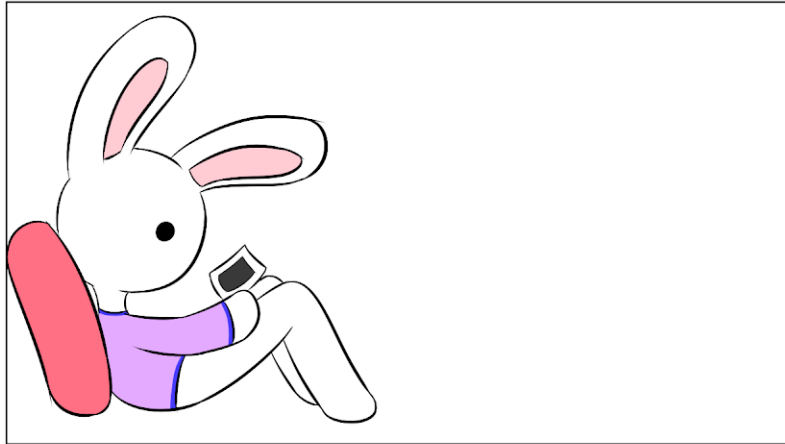
Natalie Chan

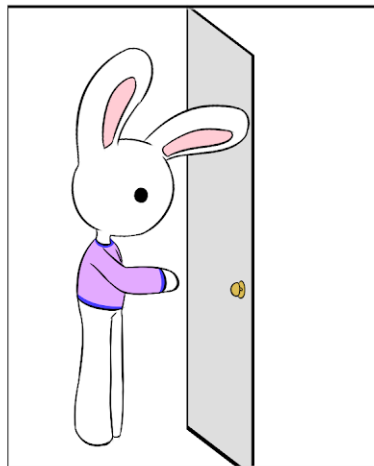
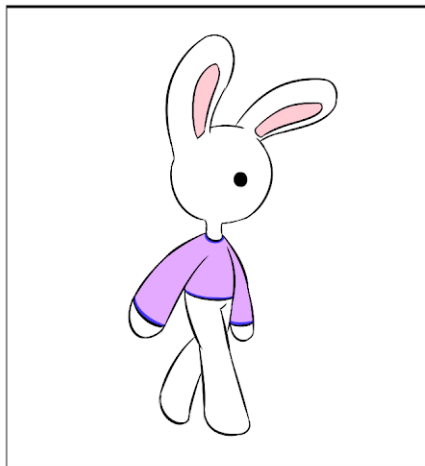
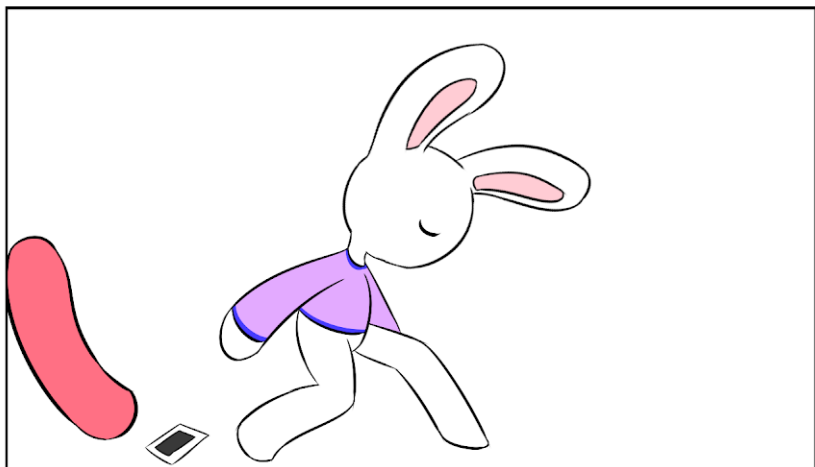
as time holds me today  
I am caught in suspension  
in revelation  
in sight of endless red threads  
stemming from the inside out

I'm not sure how long it's been,  
but as I trace their entangled forms  
sings a quiet ringing through my consciousness -  
it's a familiarity that colours the space  
a faint memory of song

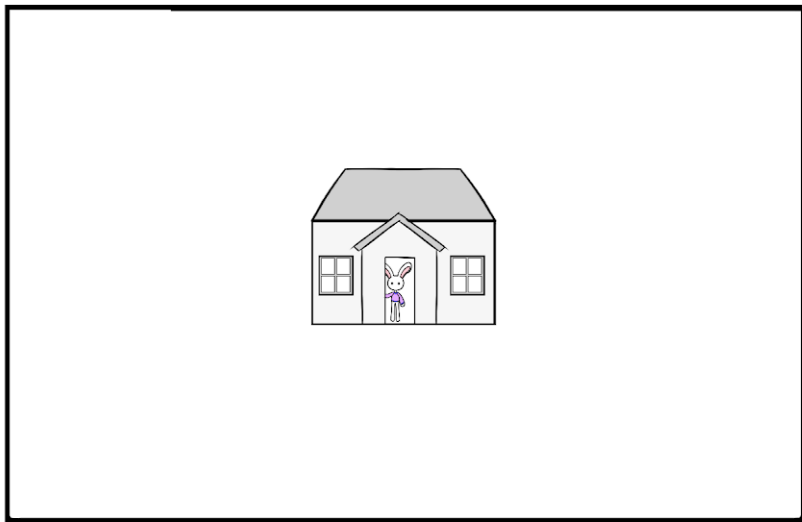
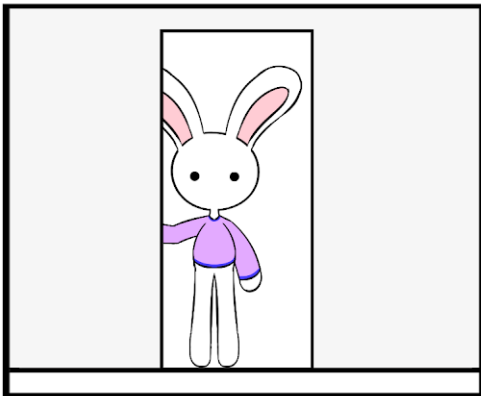
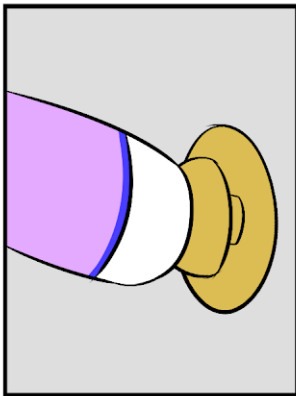
carried by long lost love,  
my estranged voice

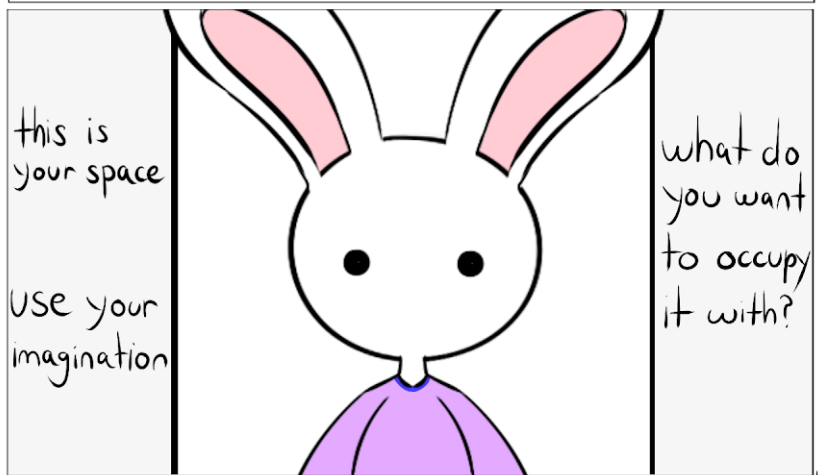
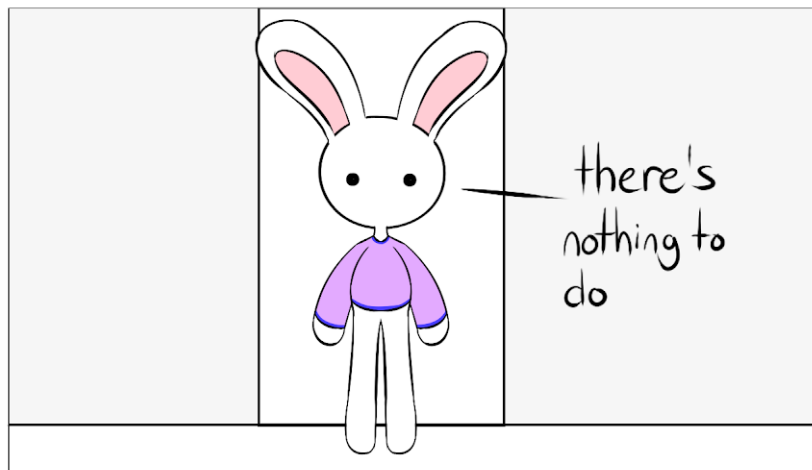
I've been here before,  
where waves of the past wash over me  
and the future flickers in my vision  
the pulse of the landscape punctuate my understanding  
I take a breath with the universe  
I listen now  
and unravel





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## Space

### Memoirs of a Moustache

The final frontier  
A place of desolate energy  
Awaiting to be explored  
We have sent people and animals to distant planets  
We have sent instruments into the farthest recess of our  
galaxy  
They have captured the colour of space  
They have relayed billions of readings and data  
Only to express the inexpressible  
Leaving space shrouded in its mystery

The ever expanding, time warping, ego shrinking, infinite  
solidarity of the universe



Are we alone out there?  
Can we inhabit what we still can't fully comprehend?  
What will space teach us of ourselves?  
SPACE.....

How it leaves the best minds reeling with questions  
Lost in its nebulas and stars  
Roaming from one moon to the next  
Watching the showers of rock, ice and metals  
Cascade all around us  
Keeping us staggering in reverence of the cosmos  
SPACE

## Universe in Motion(2021)

Infinite Faith Creations

This is inspired by the quote of a famous poet- Rumi: “Stop acting so small, you are an entire universe in motion.”

An entire universe, outer space lives inside of us and we as humans limit ourselves, space is the limit for one's who believe that the entire universe is within them.



Stop acting so small:  
You are the Universe in motion  
- Rumi (1207-73)

Francisco  
Berlanga



## Meet the Team

We write with intention & dwell within tensions. We are artists who have been left without an aim for how to continue engaging with art in the absence of institution. Our goal is to provide a place where we can write about new ideas, old ideas, and bad ideas. We are by no means professional writers, we inhabit a place between the seriousness of academic writing and the frivolity of passing thought. We will often succumb to clichés and trends as they pass us as we all often must.

We hope to present unique thoughts for you to consider. Our writing speaks for no one but ourselves. We do not reduce the similar experiences of others to what we have experienced. We invite you to critically engage with the content, to challenge and be challenged, to test the tensions in question.

Francisco Berlanga is a contemporary artist who studied at Simon Fraser University. He obtained his BFA in Visual Arts with a minor in Interactive Arts and Technology. His practice is based on questioning identity, particularly his connection with his own Mexican culture and how one can inhabit a culture while being partially absent from it. He engages in discourses with his own identity through the creation of traditional Mexican “manualidades” or crafts, his work makes connections between traditional Mexican aesthetics and contemporary visual language. His practice engages with concepts of inaccessibility and the role memory and language can play when someone is distanced from their own culture. He attempts to bridge the gaps between his personal and cultural identities by forcing connections between them and by trying to understand the limitations that these identities impose upon each other.



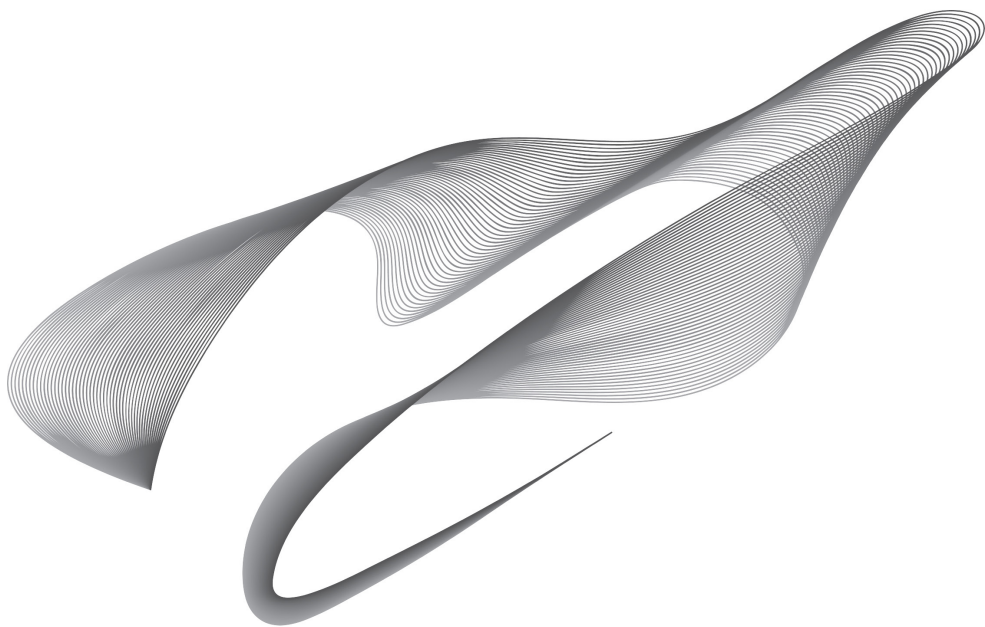
Natalie  
Chan

Natalie Chan is a contemporary artist based in Vancouver, Canada. She pursued her undergraduate studies at Simon Fraser University and obtained her BFA in Visual Arts. Her practice focuses on the emotional relationships that connect people & places, as well as the unpacking of inner turmoils & complexities of the human condition. Often engaged with topics of trauma, she aims to create and facilitate spaces of reflection, healing, and reconciliation, offering them as tangible possibilities in each encounter with her artwork. Her latest interests include learning how to tattoo, in understanding the intimate relation between artist and the livelihood of their canvas & significance in mark making as a form of storytelling.



Opal  
Mclean

Mclean is best described as the “selfish artist” meaning her practice entirely revolves around herself. Her work often relates back to a mental psyche that cannot be described by words alone. Instead, it can be described by an action. A reference to a state of being or a performance that lends to the way her brain functions. This manifestation and documentation of different processes becomes her tool to relate to the outside world. Her own existence comes into question in a way that so many experience in their own daily life. This experience becomes a social, cultural, and political connection to her projects. Her work becomes both alienating but connecting in a shared experience that translates through different media.



We put out new issues every month with a different topic.

We are always looking for submissions and opportunities to collaborate so check out our social medias.

on instagram:  
@withintensions

or email us at:  
within.tensions@gmail.com

If you want more information, feel free to contact us.

Our next issue will be on the topic of “Movement” and submissions are now open.

See you next month!

## Acknowledgements

Withintensions would not have been possible without the works of Francisco Berlanga, Phillip Brovedani, Natalie Chan, Infinite Faith Creations, Aaron Lampitoc, Memoirs of a Moustache, Victoria Mulja, Jay Olaniyan, and Amanda Suutari

We would also like to thank Francisco Berlanga for his design and social media contributions, Natalie Chan for her assistance in coordinating and Opal Mclean for her editorial work.

We are excited to share our future works with you and we hope to provide more opportunities for artists alike.



