

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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In a Time of Turmoil, Senior Thesis Artists Center Resilience and Care



LANGUAGE OF OUR OWN
2025 SENIOR THESIS EXHIBITION
APRIL 6–27, 2025

OPENING RECEPTION: SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025 | 4:00-6:00 PM

Oakland, CA (March 13, 2025) – Mills College Art Museum is pleased to announce *Language of Our Own*, the 2025 Senior Thesis Exhibition, on view from April 6 – April 27, 2025. Featuring the work of

graduating studio art majors, the senior thesis exhibition provides a unique opportunity for these artists to present their work in a professional art museum.

This year's presenting artists are Frankie Keenan-Lee, Eli Meza, Reed Reed, and Sophie. Experimenting with a range of forms and media from painting and photography to sculpture and video, the artists *in Language of Our Own* create work to explore themes of trauma, resilience, care, and our complex relationships.

THE ARTISTS

Frankie Keenan-Lee's artwork uses symbolism alluding to body modification and transformation as a method of self-reclamation, representing the ways in which queer communities assert autonomy and personal narrative through their physical forms. The use of these themes in their work builds a personal language that references trauma, resilience, and learning from the past, inviting viewers to witness both the struggles and joys that come with shaping identity.

Utilizing an intersection of image, sound, and archive, **Eli Meza** unravels realms of grief and ritual. With a throughline of connectivity, ancestry, and root work, they explore the colorful yet muted worlds around and within us.

Through double exposure photography and ceramics, **Reed Reed** explores the complex relationship between humanity and nature. They create imagery that questions the traditional understanding of "portraits" or "landscapes" by merging the two into a seamless push and pull between the person and the land.

Sophie is an interdisciplinary artist whose work exists at the crossroads of care, lesbianism, disability, and radical joy. They work with clay, paper, wood, paint, ink, and fabric to create a place where everyone can rest, catch their breath, and enjoy the beauty around them. They believe in expansive love because it has saved them.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Opening Reception

Sunday, April 6, 2025

4:00-6:00pm, Art Museum

Congratulate the artists on the culmination of their undergraduate studies and the beginning of an exciting artistic practice.

Open Studios

Sunday, April 6, 2025

6pm-8pm, Aron Art Center B

Following the opening reception, get a behind-the-scenes look at the studios of graduating seniors Frankie Keenan-Lee, Eli Meza, Reed Reed, and Sophie. Learn about their artistic practices, ask questions, and experience more of their incredible work!

Visit mcam.oakland.northeastern.edu for details.

About Mills College Art Museum

Founded in 1925, the Mills College Art Museum (MCAM) is an innovative center of creativity that enriches the Northeastern University Global Network, and the Bay Area it calls home, through unique on-the-ground and digital experiences, leveraging technology to erase boundaries, and centering creative voices from across the globe.

Museum hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11:00am-4:00pm, Wednesday 11:00am-7:30pm
Admission is FREE and open to the public.
